

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Socialist garment workers meet to discuss perspectives

— PAGE 8

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Defend immigrant rights!

Build October 12 march on Washington!

It is high time for the labor movement to demand equal rights for all immigrants — now. Working people should condemn the latest attacks on the toiling majority that the U.S. Congress and Clinton administration

EDITORIAL

are carrying through the immigration bill. One of the best ways to respond is to build the biggest possible turnout for the October 12 march on Washington.

The immigration law passed by the U.S. House of Representatives September 25 is an affront to human solidarity. It means more
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House passes anti-immigrant legislation

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Two bills attacking the rights of immigrants sailed through the U.S. House of Representatives September 25. The main piece of legislation would increase the number of border cops, speed deportations of undocumented workers, and sharply limit public benefits to legal immigrants. A separate bill would allow states to prohibit undocumented immigrant children from attending public schools. Both were agreed



Immigrant rights rally in New York City, April 6, 1996, builds march on Washington.

to the day before by a bipartisan House-Senate negotiating committee, set up to reconcile differences between different immigration bills passed by the House and Senate last spring.

The bill on education was originally an amendment to the main piece of legislation, one that Republican presidential candidate Robert Dole had pushed to include. Dole argued the measure was important to the "wonderful California quality of life that is

being threatened by the flood of illegal immigration." Congressional Republicans agreed to separate it out, however, and exempt undocumented immigrant children if they are enrolled as of next July. Clinton has said he would veto any immigration bill that included the education provision. The compromised versions of both bills will now go to the Senate for a vote.

The sweep of the main immigration bill now on the floor is very broad. Its provisions include:

- Doubling the number of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Border Patrol cops to 10,000 over the next five years.
- Strengthening the powers of INS cops, while shielding the agency from people filing anti-brutality lawsuits.
- Deporting immigrants with legal documents if they receive welfare, health, or child-care benefits for 12 months or more during their first seven years in the United States.
- Refusing publicly financed health care to legal immigrants infected with the AIDS virus.
- Deporting immigrants seeking asylum in the United States who arrive without proper travel documents, with little or no review.

Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy criticized the bill passed by the House for being too hard on legal immigrants and not tough enough on undocumented workers. He
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London cops execute Irish man in cold blood

BY TONY HUNT

LONDON— Police here cold-bloodedly murdered a young Irish worker September 23. The cops admitted late the next day that Diarmuid O'Neill, 27, had been unarmed. O'Neill was hit in the stomach by 10 bullets at a boarding house in west London during a 4:30 a.m. raid by cops armed with machine guns.

This was one of several raids that morning. The cops said their goal was to prevent further military operations by the Irish Republican Army (IRA). No arms were found in O'Neill's room. Police say they seized explosives and guns from a warehouse in another location.

Several big-business newspapers gloated over O'Neill's execution, with color photographs showing the trail of blood left after cops dragged the fatally wounded man down steps and into the street. "Don't shed too many tears" was how the *Daily Mirror*, which supports the Labour Party, began its
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TWA bomb theory is blown apart by facts

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK

NEW YORK — Nine weeks after Trans World Airlines Flight 800 exploded in mid-air near Long Island's coast and plunged into the Atlantic killing all 230 people aboard, new revelations virtually put to rest the government/TWA hoax that a bomb was the cause of the crash.

The final blow to the bomb theory came September 21, when a well kept secret saw the light of day. Most big-business papers reported on that date that the Flight 800 Boeing 747 jet had been used to train a bomb-sniffing dog five weeks before it exploded. The Federal Aviation Administration organized the test on June 10 at TWA's hub in St. Louis. In the exercise, packages containing explosives were placed in the passenger cabin of the plane. These explo-
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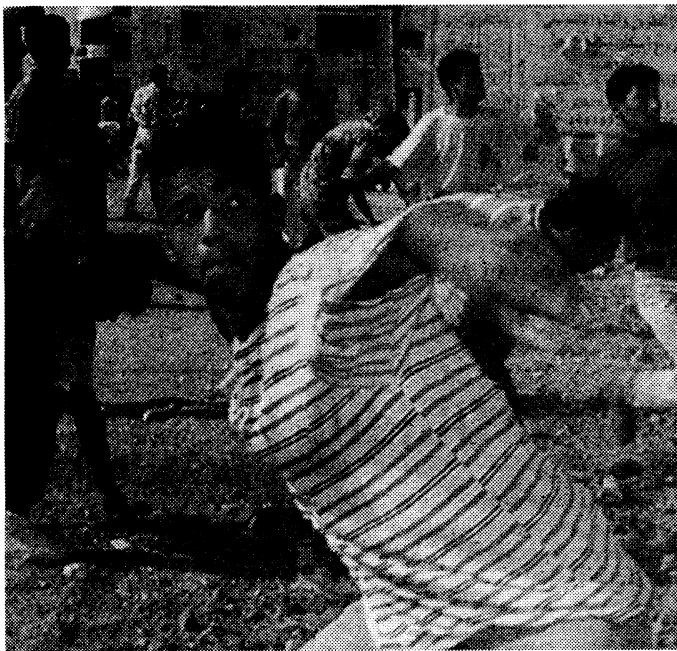
Tel Aviv kills 7; Palestinian forces respond with gunfire

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Palestinian security forces fought running gun battles with Israeli troops for several hours September 25 in Ramallah, Bethlehem, and elsewhere in the West Bank. They were responding to a frontal assault by Tel Aviv's occupying army on thousands of Palestinian demonstrators. Israeli soldiers fired thousands of rounds of ammunition at protesters, killing at least seven Palestinians and wounding over 300.

The scale of the confrontation, which involved uniformed policemen of the Palestinian authority in the West Bank, was unprecedented since the signing of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) accord in 1993. This is the first time since Tel Aviv occupied this Palestinian territory that it has had to battle a Palestinian fighting force that the Israeli regime has recognized, and to which it has ceded some governing authority. In the wake of the bloody assault several Palestinian organizations called new strikes and demonstrations.

"The Palestinians are showing the whole world that they are against [Israeli prime minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's policies of



Palestinian youth throw rocks at occupying Israeli army in Ramallah, West Bank, as self-determination battle heats up.

stopping the peace process," Khaled Barghouti, a student at Bir Zeit university near Ramallah, told the press. "We're against the Israeli government that wants to kill our dream, the Palestinian dream. We want our country and our freedom."

The new protests against the Israeli occupation erupted on the morning of September 25. The day before, the new Israeli Likud government mounted a surprise predawn operation to finish a disputed tunnel along the edge of Jerusalem's Temple Mount. That
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EQUAL RIGHTS FOR IMMIGRANTS!

March on Washington for immigrant rights
October 12, 1996

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Tel Aviv expands settlements

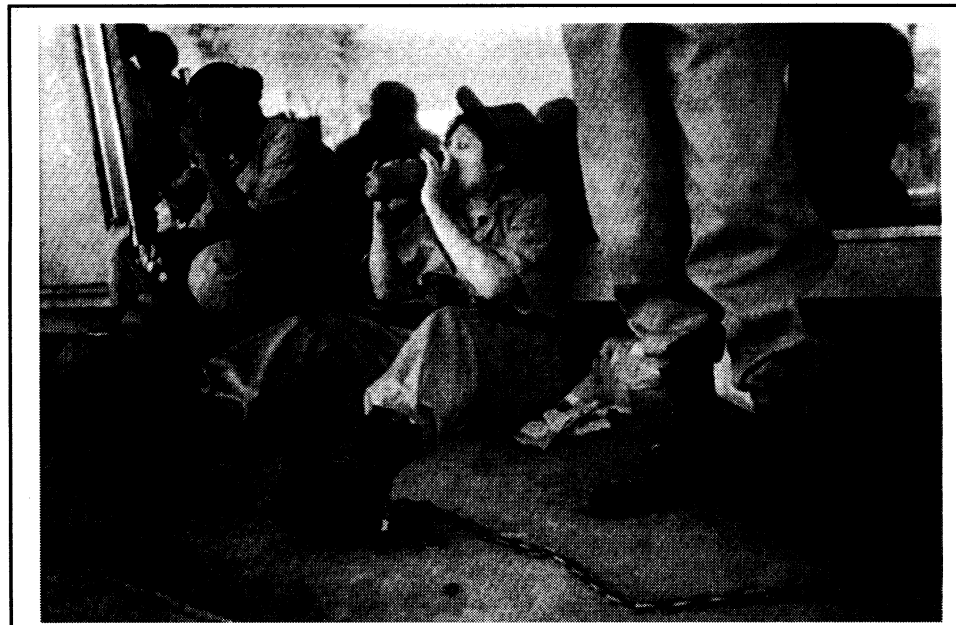
In mid-September, Israeli authorities approved plans to build nearly 4,000 homes in Zionist settlements in the West Bank, expanding existing settlements. According to Palestinians, the land allotted for the new buildings was confiscated from the neighboring Arab villages of Naalin and Deir Qadis. On August 11, prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who took office June 18, had announced a decision to lift a four-year freeze on Israeli settlements on occupied Arab land. Other Israeli settlements, announced August 27 by the Zionist regime, would bring 15,000 new settlers to the Kiryat Seifer colony in the West Bank. There are 145,000 settlers living in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza now, among 2 million Palestinians. Dennis Ross, the Clinton administration's envoy in the talks between Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat, said in Gaza September 18 that settlement building was a problem. "We continue to see it as the kind of activity that complicates the negotiation process," he told reporters.

16,000 workers strike in Russia

More than 16,000 power plant workers in the far-eastern part of Russia went on strike September 16. Unionists walked out over back wages owed to them since April. Other state employees, including workers at a nuclear submarine repair factory, bus drivers, doctors, and teachers have threatened to join the strike. Yevgeny Nazdratenko, governor of the Primorsky region where the power plant is located, and government officials in Moscow are blaming each other for the economic woes in the area. According to London's *Financial Times*, the strikers have called on the Kremlin to dismiss Nazdratenko, who was elected by a large margin in 1995. A referendum on Nazdratenko's administration is planned for late September.

German bosses may cut sick pay

Engineering bosses in Germany threatened September 18 to cut sick pay entitlements after parliament approved an austerity program. On September 13, the Bundestag (lower house of parliament) ap-



The first female chain gang in the United States went to work picking weeds in downtown Phoenix, Arizona, September 19. A total of 15 women were bound by chains at the ankle, separated into groups of five, and disbursed to work.

proved a new law that would reduce workers' sick pay from 100 percent of wages to 80 percent, raise the retirement age for women, and make it easier for small businesses to lay off workers. The vote in the Bundestag was well above the 337 needed to reverse the defeat of the austerity package by the Bundesrat (upper house), the second chamber representing the states. Several unions said they would strike in defense of the present sick pay rules. Ursula Engelen-Kefer, vice-president of the Germany Trade Union Federation, threatened court action if employers break existing contracts. Sick pay rules in Germany are among the best in the world. The working class won these entitlements as a result of industrial battles by the union movement in the late 1950s.

Seoul claims 'infiltration'

Thousands of South Korean troops were combing rugged hillsides for a fourth day September 21 looking for North Korean soldiers who allegedly infiltrated the south after abandoning a submarine September 18. According to the *New York Times*, South

Korean soldiers killed 7 of the North Korean troops, found 11 others dead, and captured one. The prisoner has been "uncooperative" in continuous interrogations, South Korean authorities said, who claim another 7 soldiers from the north remain at large.

South Korean officials claim the "infiltrators" were disguised in South Korean military uniforms and carried the same kind of American M-16 submachine guns that are used by South Korean troops. Washington currently has 100,000 U.S. troops stationed in Asia, with about one-third of them stationed in South Korea. U.S. secretary of defense William Perry admitted last year to planning military strikes against North Korea in 1994.

Rebels in Mexico gain popularity

According to an article in the September 20 *New York Times*, the new rebel organization Popular Revolutionary Army has carried out a successful recruiting drive in the southern part of Mexico. In interviews with officials, priests, schoolteachers, health workers, and others — recruitment seems possible in other areas as well. "Revolutionary ideas sprout like seeds in fertile ground," Rev. Wilfredo Mairén told the *Times*. Government statistics show that 22 million of Mexico's 94 million people live in extreme poverty. During the 19-month economic depression that has engulfed Mexico since the plunge of the peso, 2 million workers have been laid off and wages have been cut nearly in half. Four out of ten Mexicans still live in the countryside, but agriculture produces only 10 percent of the country's wealth. "On the peasant side, we're seeing a brutal impoverishment," said Hubert Cartón de Grammont, a sociologist. Anti-government attitudes are prevalent in the southern and central part of Mexico, according to a recent poll.

Cease-fire in Guatemala

The Guatemalan government and rebel groups signed a peace accord in Mexico City September 19, that calls for a cease fire and a reduction in the size of the army and its budget. The country's military has conducted a 35-year war against the rebels, in which more than 100,000 people have been killed. As many as two-thirds of the Guatemalan population is of Mayan Indian descent and have historically supported the guerrilla movement. The armed forces want an amnesty for past crimes, but the rebels reiterated they will not accept such demands. The conflict has its roots in a 1954 military coup, sponsored by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which overthrew the elected government of Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán. Arbenz had been elected in 1950 and was trying to carry out a land redistribution program. Dwight Eisenhower, U.S. president at the time, and the United Fruit Company with huge investments in Guatemala, vehemently opposed the land reform.

Ottawa to fund Cuban airport

The government of Canada has agreed to finance construction of a third terminal at Havana's international airport. Cuba's Civil Aviation Institute awarded the \$25.5 million project to the Ontario-based Intelcan Technosystems. The deal is a slap in the face of Washington's economic embargo against Cuba. The U.S. sanctions, tightened this summer by the so-called Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996, or Helms-Burton law, impose penalties on foreign companies that invest in Cuban property confiscated by working people from U.S. companies after the 1959 revolution. Meanwhile, the Canadian government tabled legislation in mid-September that would clear the way for Canadian companies to act against U.S. court claims under the Helms-Burton law.

VMI forced to go co-ed

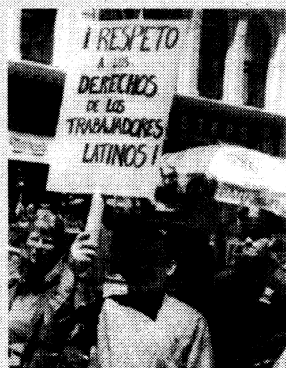
The Virginia Military Institute decided September 21 to admit women beginning in the fall of 1997 — ending the college's 157-year-old male-only tradition. In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that VMI must allow female students to attend if the school is to continue receiving funds from the state. The Board of Visitors, VMI's governing body, heard arguments from the college's alumni to make the school private rather than comply with the court's ruling. The final vote was 9-8 for complying with the Supreme Court ruling. VMI would have had to raise not only the funds to purchase the campus — owned by the state — but also the \$10 million in annual operating funds needed to replace state funding. About 80 women have requested information on entering VMI since the Supreme Court decision. The Citadel in South Carolina, which had been the only other all-male military school in the country, accepted female students this fall after the high court ruled against VMI.

— MEGAN ARNEY

THE MILITANT

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Bosnia vote takes place under NATO boot

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

U.S. secretary of state Warren Christopher touted the recent elections in Bosnia — organized and supervised by the 60,000-strong NATO occupying army — as “a major victory for the democratic process.” But a more ominous picture is being painted by others in the capitalist news media. “The prospects for creating a new state out of the ruins,” writes Bruce Clark and Laura Silber in London’s *Financial Times*, “have hardly been improved.”

The head of the newly elected three-member presidency, Alija Izetbegovic, a Muslim, “is said by close advisers to be ready for a new war” if freedom of movement is not established for Muslims throughout Bosnia, asserted the *Times* article in the daily’s September 21 issue.

“U. S. pressure was the main factor in ensuring the first part of Bosnia’s complex electoral process went ahead on September 14,” the article stated, adding that “a huge military effort” will be needed to carry out the municipal elections that were postponed until November.

The *New York Times* reported the “complete but still unofficial” results of the elections with Izetbegovic getting 724,199 votes. Momcilo Krajisnik, the speaker of the Bosnian Serb parliament won 690,373 votes. And Kresimir Zubak, the president of the so-called Muslim-Croat federation, took 294,300 of the ballots cast. NATO armored personnel carriers escorted people to many areas to vote and were stationed around voting booths.

The elections were organized as part of implementing the Dayton agreement. The accord, which was patched together by Washington last December and rammed down the throats of the signers from Yugoslavia, mandates that Izetbegovic, the candidate who received the most votes, will assume the chair of Bosnia’s three-member presidency.

The other two presidents-elect, Zubak and Krajisnik, met in Pale September 19 “in what foreshadows an ultranationalist alliance against Bosnia’s Muslims,” said an article in the September 20 *Washington Post*. At a news conference held that day in Pale, Krajisnik, a chauvinist Serb leader, opposed any notion that would “integrate” the Republika Srpska, the Bosnian Serb entity, with the remainder of the republic. “Our people wished for a union with Serbia and that wish remains,” he stated.

Opponents of Krajisnik’s Serbian Democratic Party (SDS), however, “have done surprisingly well in Bosnia’s elections,” according to the *New York Times*. “It’s about time that the beasts who made us kill our own people learned that we did not like it,” said a young veteran of the Bosnian Serb army. Recently, thousands of these ex-soldiers and others have been streaming at showings of *Pretty Village*, *Pretty Flame*, a film that portrays atrocities committed by pro-Belgrade Serb forces in Bosnia. The

movie is being shown in Banja Luka, in territory under the control of the Serbian Democratic Party.

Krajisnik and Zubak have conferred several times in the past year. Zubak, a representative of the Croatian Democratic Union, vowed during his campaign to unite the Croats in Bosnia with the regime in Zagreb.

Throughout the war, Bosnian Croat officials, with approval of Zagreb, provided fuel and weapons to chauvinist Serb forces against the Bosnian army. Belgrade sent military supplies to Croatian forces in Bosnia in their efforts to carve out more territory in Bosnia. According to the *Washington Post*, “relations soured” between Belgrade and Zagreb “when the Croatian army swept through Serb-held territory in Croatia last year and plunged deep into western Bosnia as well.”

NATO secretary-general Javier Solana announced September 19 that the U.S.-led occupation force will stay in Yugoslavia beyond December 20, the date the Dayton accord requires withdrawal. “I believe the international community, including NATO, must remain engaged in Bosnia beyond this first year,” he said. The *Times* reported September 11 that NATO officials had begun drafting plans to prolong the stay of the

60,000 troops, which includes some 20,000 U.S. GIs.

In other developments, Richard Goldstone, the chief prosecutor of the so-called “International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia” left the position September 18, citing the failure of the NATO force to arrest chauvinist Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic. The imperialist-crafted tribunal indicted Mladic and Karadzic for war crimes.

Meanwhile, the government of Germany announced September 19 that it will begin



Hundreds of thousands of people in Bosnia went to vote September 14, in elections organized and carried out under boot of NATO troops.

deporting 320,000 Bosnian refugees October 1. There are also another 120,000 refugees from Yugoslavia in Germany who are mostly of Albanian origin.

Peasant protests spread in Colombia

BY MARK FRIEDMAN

BOGOTÁ, Colombia — Seven thousand peasants marched at the end of August in Norte de Santander, Colombia, raising demands for electrification of their areas, construction of paved roads to get their goods to the market, and building of schools.

At the same time, tens of thousands of coca growers have been protesting the fumigation of their crops by the government and students have demonstrated in support of the peasant struggle. The protests have been taking place for two months in several regions while the government has responded with brutal killings of peasant activists.

Many small producers have been forced into coca production as a highly lucrative cash crop. Low market prices of basic agricultural food stuffs and lack of government assistance for fertilizer, seeds, and other inputs to produce grains and food have forced peasants into the coca market. Thousands of peasants growing food crops have also been part of the protests.

According to the *New York Times*, since mid-July about 130,000 people have been involved in demonstrations around the country. As a result, the peasants have won some concessions, including promises of credits and price supports by the government.

The Colombian government is wracked with scandals. Vice-president Humberto de la Calle resigned September 10, saying

President Ernesto Samper’s alleged ties to the drug industry had undermined the government’s credibility. He called on Samper to resign as well. Ten politicians and some of Samper’s campaign officers have been jailed on drug-related charges. Last June, Colombia’s Congress cleared the president of charges of taking drug money during his campaign.

Governmental crisis

Samper has been under heavy pressure from Washington to carry out the “war on drugs” against Colombian peasants. In March, the Clinton administration “de-certified” Colombia as a nation cooperating in the fight against drugs, and threatened economic sanctions. In July, Samper’s U.S. visa was canceled by Washington.

Workers here told *Militant* reporters that the Colombian government has used military helicopters, ammunition, and funding from Washington against the labor and peasant movement, as well as the guerrilla struggle.

During the first week of September the guerrillas of the FARC (Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia) carried out actions in 15 counties, cutting the country in two. According to *El Universo*, FARC also cut electric power and kidnapped 67 members of Colombia’s army, after attacking a Putumayo military base, killing 27 and wounding 20 others. For three weeks in September, FARC blocked a major highway in the banana-growing region of Ubaba and Medellín, 300 miles north of Bogotá.

At the same time transport workers carried out a strike in the region. Middle men took advantage of the crisis and raised the prices of basic foodstuffs between 20 and 40 percent.

The press and television reported that a Red Cross ambulance had been used to transport arms to fight the guerrillas. After this, and because of regular coverage of the guerrillas, the National Television Commission ordered the ending of transmission of unofficial information. Television news directors immediately protested these limitations on freedom of expression.

In mid-July a national forum, which included Amnesty International, was held on human rights.

The forum released information that 250,000 people have been assassinated in Colombia during the past ten years. This has included homicides, massacres, kidnappings and thousands of disappearances. One of the many cases highlighted was that of political and community activist Wilson Cáceres González, candidate for mayor of Sabana de Torres.

Paramilitary groups, such as the right-wing Autodefensas Campesinas de Colombia (Peasant Self-defense of Colombia), were said to be responsible for his disappearance, according to *SINTRA*, the newspaper of the National Union of Airline Workers of Avianca.

He vanished after his name was published in a list by this group. Many leaders and activists of group Unidad Popular (Peoples’ Unity), have also disappeared or been assassinated.

On August 28 a television station aired a reporter’s video of military personnel beating a group of peasants. The government is questioning 15 military men in this incident and has promised to open up regional human rights offices.

Airline workers fight back

SINTRA also reports that since 1986 thousands of people have been assassinated. And since the formation of the CUT (United Workers Federation), more than 2,500 activists have been assassinated.

As the government drives to carry through privatizations and layoffs, *SINTRA* reports, the bosses have attacked workers’ rights and closed or privatized many businesses. For example, the recently passed Law 50 prohibits national strikes and workers’ rights to negotiate in health, telephone, and airline industries.

Airline labor negotiations have been going on since May. The company, Avianca, is pushing — with government backing — to make the majority of airline workers temporary and working for minimum wage. Temporary workers, now numbering 500, are not allowed to join the union. Avianca wants to buy out 8,000 workers and replace them with employees receiving lower wages under six-month to one-year personal contracts. Company letters threatening injured workers and higher seniority workers have been used as intimidation.

The airline workers unions, representing pilots, ramp workers, and flight attendants, have joined together to combat these attacks.

Union leaders Fabio Mármol and César Alvarez said in an interview that airline workers are fighting for the re-hiring of the fired workers; a 30 percent wage increase and a cost-of-living clause in the face of 20 percent annual inflation; for increased benefits and workers compensation; and for a starting wage of twice the minimum wage.

To win these demands the unions — totaling about 3,500 Avianca workers — have launched a public campaign that includes leafleting Avianca passengers to solicit their support, and a series of demonstrations at the airport and all Avianca offices in the major cities.

The unions have appealed for support to labor organizations in Latin America, the United States, and other countries.

Messages demanding that Avianca stop its union-busting efforts can be sent to: Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores Avianca, Carrera 15 no. 39A-11, Apartado Aéreo 4489, Dirección Telefónica, Bogotá, Colombia.

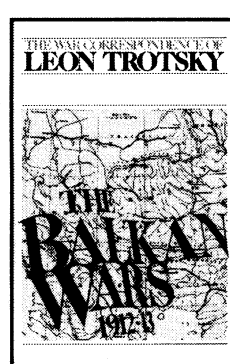
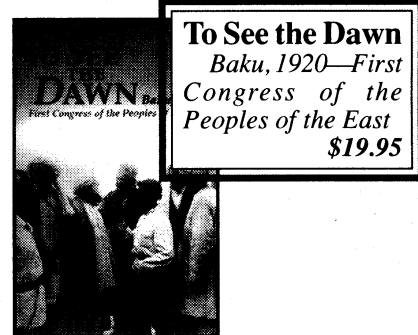
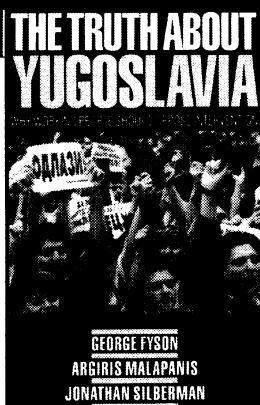
Mark Friedman is a member of the International Association of Machinists in Los Angeles, California.

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'Farmers have a lot in common with labor'

BY ANDY BUCHANAN

BOSTON — Speaking at a public meeting for Socialist Workers vice presidential candidate Laura Garza in Burlington, Vermont, dairy farmer Sherry Kawecki said, "I support the socialist campaign because we need an alternative. Farmers have a lot in common with labor. We're fighting the same big corporations. Huge agribusiness controls the market and can set the prices farmers have to sell for. It's the government that allows this to happen, and farmers aren't supposed to think, to challenge that system."

Kawecki raises a herd of 40 cows near Alburg, in northern Vermont. She first met socialist campaigners a year ago at a rally in support of striking railroad workers, in St. Albans, Vermont. Kawecki is an elector for the socialist candidates in that state. She explained to the audience at the September 19 meeting, "No one speaks for family farmers and we are being pushed off our land day by day. Being an elector was something I could do to help."

Twenty people, many of them students, turned out to hear Garza. The meeting was held on the campus of the University of Vermont in Burlington, and was sponsored by a student newspaper, the *Gadfly*. The paper's editor, Scott Muddleton, chaired the meeting. Some of the participants had met the socialist campaign through activities called to protest the bombing of Iraq.

Responding to a question on the difference between the Socialist Workers campaign and the perspectives offered by the Green Party and the Labor Party, Garza said, "These groups both put forward the idea that capitalism can be remade to be more humane, and they both put forward a perspective that is a death trap for the working class — American nationalism. They demand that American corporations not invest in other countries so that 'American jobs' are preserved. This is gives wind to the chauvinism promoted by ultrarightists like Patrick Buchanan. Our campaign puts forward a program to defend all workers."

Garza's visit to Vermont kicked off a

From the pages of *The Birmingham News* September 21, 1996

Socialist Workers Party backed candidate visits

By Mary Orndorff
News staff writer

The presidential candidate backed by the Socialist Workers Party is in Birmingham this weekend, meeting with strikers, workers and students to promote his platform against capitalism.

"What working people face in Alabama is the same as across the country — declining standards of living, declining working conditions, and they're being forced into situations ... where they have to go on strike to maintain their standards of living and maintain their union," said 48-year-old James Harris, an employee at an Atlanta meatpacking company.

Harris and his vice presidential running mate, Laura Garza, earned 5,000 voter signatures and will be listed as independents on Alabama's Nov. 5 ballot. He has worked for the

Cuban revolution, rights for blacks and immigrants, and opposes the U.S. use of force against Iraq.

Friday, he visited the United Auto Workers' picket line at Pemco Aeroplex at Birmingham's airport, and spoke to a small group at UAB.

"The other candidates are of the ruling class," Harris said about Bob Dole, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot. "Workers and farmers produce all of the wealth in the world ... and we say they should have more control over it."

He said he doesn't expect to win, but he does expect to further the struggle for things like a 30-hour work week, a higher minimum wage, and a massive jobs program.

UAB students Brian and Carrie Jones, who said they had been hoping for an independent run by conservative Patrick Buchanan, attended Harris' speech but said they were disappointed in the candidate and the turnout.



James Harris
Socialist Workers Party candidate is on ballot in Alabama as an independent

"We wanted to hear something different," she said.

John Hawkins, a Detroit native and coal miner who lives in Birmingham, is now the Socialist Workers Party write-in candidate in the race to replace U.S. Sen. Howell Heflin.

three-day campaign swing through New England. Before going to Burlington, Garza filed over 2,400 signatures, collected by campaign supporters, at the Secretary of State's office in Montpelier, Vermont.

Following her visit to Vermont, Garza spent a day campaigning in Rhode Island, where the state Board of Elections is trying to keep the SWP candidates off the ballot. In Providence, Rhode Island, Garza helped to distribute a leaflet protesting the undemocratic attack on ballot access, and was interviewed by WBRU, the Brown University radio station.

Garza wrapped up her New England tour with a rally in Boston. Thirty-five people attended the meeting, including several young people attending their first campaign event. Asked by a young Latina about her policy on education, Garza pointed to the

model of Cuba. "That's what we're for — guaranteed free education through university. The resources exist to do this, but what is happening is that the rulers aim to take back rights and benefits working people have won."

Bruce Burleson, political activist in Boston, told the meeting, "I was pretty impressed to get a call right after the first bombing of Iraq from a member of the Young Socialists telling me about the picket line."

BY KAY SEDAM

MIAMI — Banners read "Stop U.S. Bombing of Iraq" and "U.S. Out of the Middle East and Haiti." It was amid them that Socialist Workers candidate James Harris told an audience at the Pathfinder Bookstore here September 14, how capitalism works.

He described a recent medical discovery linking a potential breast cancer cure to a gene. The researcher, however, insists on having his discovery patented before releasing it so only he can profit from it. "You open the newspaper everyday and find this kind of revelation," said Harris.

The presidential candidate explained that increased economic competition between

imperialist powers like Washington, Tokyo, Bonn, London, and Paris, as well as "third world" countries, is the source of wars. It was the cause of both world wars, the 1991 Persian Gulf war, and Clinton's recent attacks on Iraq.

"But the U.S. government runs into problems trying to do whatever they want in the world. The most recent example is the attacks on Iraq. More people today realize that the reason for the attack has nothing to do with saving the Kurdish people," Harris said. "They want to keep out Germany, France, and other countries out who would also like to control this area." This is the central reason many governments refused to join a new U.S.-led coalition to fight against Iraq.

Harris added, "What the socialist campaign says to working people and their allies is that we have no stake in imperialist wars, the welfare bill, the 'antiterrorist' bill, or cut backs in democratic rights. There are two parties who are trying to carry out all of these attacks on working people, both are trying to devour working people."

The socialist candidate went on to say, "What we have before us is more struggles, decades of struggle, conflicts, social explosions. Out of this will come a new world for working people if we are disciplined now to be a part of these battles." He encouraged everyone to be a part of these fights and join the Young Socialists and Socialist Workers Party.

Harris also spoke at a meeting sponsored by the Young Socialist Club at Florida International University, and then to a student speak-out of about 30 students sponsored by the Black Student Union at FIU. A student from Cyprus agreed with the socialist candidate's analysis of Iraq. Because, he said, he had seen first-hand in Cyprus what capitalism and imperialism can do — including the Turkish government's harassment of Kurds for years.

Harris also spoke to 50 members of Veye-Yo, a Haitian rights group, about the recent U.S. military intervention in Haiti and Iraq. One person commented that Washington "has supported terrorism in Haiti for 35 years.... They pay the terrorists around the world to destroy socialist movements. I wish you well and strength."

Harris agreed, "The United States is the chief terrorist regime in the world today."

The socialist candidate's news conference was covered by the CBS Spanish TV affiliate and an AP reporter.

Socialists protest Rhode Island ballot exclusion

BOSTON — At the Boston campaign rally, Andrea Morell, an organizer of the Socialist Workers Campaign in New England, said "As well as celebrating getting the socialist candidates on the ballot in Vermont, this meeting launches another round of the fight to reverse the decision of the Board of Elections in Rhode Island to exclude the socialists from the ballot."

Morell explained that "despite filing the signatures of 1,942 Rhode Islanders who support the inclusion of the socialist candidates on the ballot, the Board of Elections denied Harris and Garza ballot status, claiming insufficient 'valid signatures.'" Some 192 signatures of students at Brown University in Providence were invalidated on the grounds of "no address" because they listed their school post office boxes as their address. Campaign supporters requests for additional time to check the petitions were denied, and at a hearing September 16 the Board rejected the socialists' appeal.

"We are launching a protest campaign

to reverse this undemocratic decision and to demand that our candidates be included on the ballot," Morell said. "Our aim is to reverse the exclusion or to drive up the political price to the Board for having excluded us." Since then, campaign supporters have visited the Brown campus and contacted student organizations, a Student Council member, and written a letter to the editor the of *Brown Daily Herald*. A fact sheet has been prepared and distributed to campus organizations and other activists requesting protest messages to the Secretary of State. Attorneys have been contacted pursuant to possible legal action.

"Winning ballot status is an important democratic right," Morell concluded. "It widens political space for communists and for all working-class and political activists. Running in elections and achieving ballot status makes it possible for communists to reach a broader audience and to be listened to by workers and young fighters more seriously than if we did not participate." — A.B.

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
CompuServe: 104124,1405

Socialism is 'worldwide venture'

Below are excerpts of an article from the *Daily Cougar* on the campaign of Lief Gutthudschmitt, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 29th Congressional District in Texas. The *Daily Cougar* is "the official campus newspaper of the University of Houston since 1934." This article appeared in the September 10 issue, under the headline "A quick lesson in socialism — Student runs for office, doesn't expect to win."

BY TODD PRINGLE

Not every politician runs to win. University of Houston student and 29th congressional district candidate Lief Gutthudschmitt does not even want to do so. Wishing people to remember him simply as "Lief," he is this year's election dark horse.

Lief is a socialist. While 29th District candidates Gene Green, the Democratic congressional incumbent, and his Republican challenger Jack Rodriguez will enjoy minimal media coverage at best, Lief's name won't appear on the Nov. 5 ballot, his face will never grace a television screen, and he'd be cheating fortune if he's mentioned once by even a minor mainstream newspaper...

Lief came to Houston with his family in 1984 after leaving rebellion-torn El Salvador, his birthplace, at age 13. But escaping the fight only made his family aware of a very different type of strife, he said: the competition for low-skilled jobs, shrinking benefits and other woes associated with companies more concerned with profits than workers.

"The working class makes our society run, but workers are seen only as machines and tools by their bosses," Lief said.

"(Socialism calls for) creating a society which is organized to meet the needs of the people instead of one group's profit," he added.

Responding to that proposal in a phone interview, Republican candidate Rodriguez wondered, "how can any worker make money if their (employer) doesn't make a profit?"...

Protests, demonstrations and worker strikes are favored socialist actions in the fight for guaranteed universal health care, zero unemployment, housing and an adequate living wage, Lief said.

But even liberal systems that offer social benefits like Lief's proposals, such as Canada, Germany and France, aren't what Lief and the Socialist Workers Party have in mind, he said. Capitalism is to blame for the problems in those nations, he said.

"Problems still occur (in those countries) because profits are not being made by those countries, like the protests in France show," Lief said. "(These countries) cannot always afford to provide guaranteed services without cutting them and raising taxes."

What's needed, he said, is a government that guarantees all people the right to employment and a minimum wage equal to union standard — about \$12 to \$13 per hour. But to ensure that enough work is available to go around, the week's work load would also be cut in half, without a cut in pay....

When asked how many votes he thinks he will receive at the Nov. 5 election, Lief seemed optimistically pessimistic: He won't win, he said, but his message should raise a few heads. "(Socialism cannot be achieved) in just one country. It must be a worldwide venture that the world's workers have nothing to lose but their chains."

SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

Sales of 'Action program' in French take off

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

MONTREAL — *Un programme économique pour faire face à la crise économique qui vient* (An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis), Pathfinder's latest French-language publication, rolled off the presses September 9. This attractive pamphlet, already published in English and Spanish by Pathfinder, sports a color photo on the cover taken during a recent union mobilization in France demanding a shorter work week as a way to create jobs and combat unemployment.

Written in 1988 following the October 1987 stock market crash, the *Action Program* presents a fighting perspective that can help working people internationally to unite in a common struggle against the worsening effects of the crisis of world capitalism. A 30-hour work week is one of the three main demands put forward in the pamphlet, along with affirmative action measures and cancellation of the third world debt.

With the help of an international team of volunteers, Pathfinder supporters in Paris sold almost 30 copies of the French-language edition in the first ten days since publication, including 17 at the *Fête de l'Humanité*, a political and cultural fair annually sponsored by the French Communist Party. A woman who bought the booklet returned next day to tell volunteers staffing the Pathfinder table at the fair that she had already read it and "found it very interesting."

Three workers at the GEC Alsthom factory at St-Ouen, near Paris, also purchased copies from a distributor who works in the plant.

An activist for the unemployed visiting the GEC Alsthom factory with a delegation of jobless workers demanding work was given a leaflet advertising a meeting on the pamphlet. He attended the event held in Paris on Friday, September 20. Elisabeth Sanguinetti of a newly-formed Young Socialists chapter in Paris spoke, as did the booklet's editor, Michel Prairie. A similar

meeting addressed by Prairie attracted some 25 workers and youth the following night in London, England.

In Montreal, distributors of Pathfinder report over 20 copies sold to date. A member of the Canadian Automobile Workers union, Cuba solidarity activists, and a striking hotel worker on her picket line are among those who have bought the pamphlet. Three unionists attending the annual general meeting of the International Center of Working-Class Solidarity (CISO) also purchased copies. One of them had participated in the Women's March for Bread and Roses in Quebec City last June, which mobilized thousands in defense of women's rights. She was drawn to a photo of the event in the pamphlet and to the sections discussing the need for affirmative action.

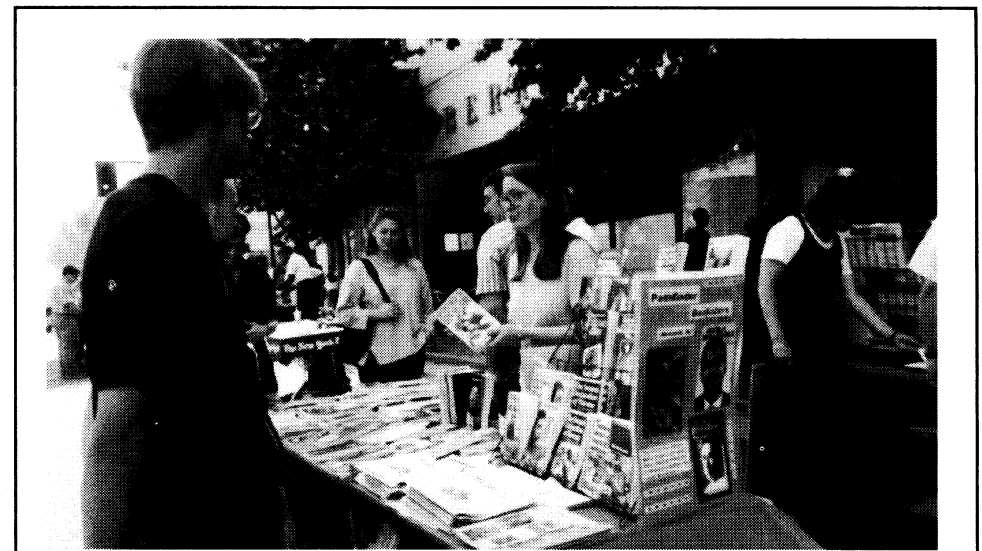
'Changing Face' in French

An international team of some two dozen volunteer workers and students — spread over two continents and four countries — will be busy over the coming months, as an expansion of French-language titles is planned.

A reprint of the fifth issue of the magazine of Marxist politics and theory, *Nouvelle Internationale*, that includes the article "Imperialism's March Towards Fascism and War," is in the works. All 700 copies of the first run, printed in the spring of 1995, have sold out. The Pathfinder Bookstore in Montreal has one left on its shelves, having sold four since the beginning of September.

Preparation has begun of a French-language publication of *Trade Unions: Their Past, Present and Future*, a collection of articles by Karl Marx, Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky, Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes, and SWP leader Farrell Dobbs. These articles focus on the fight to transform the trade unions into weapons of revolutionary struggle.

Volunteers in different cities have enthusiastically begun a more long-term project;



Militant/Martha Ressler

On September 22 the Pathfinder bookstore in Newark, New Jersey, moved into a new, storefront location after 23 years on the second floor. The day before the grand opening socialists and other bookshop volunteers sold 50 books and pamphlets, including 36 titles at a New Brunswick street fair (above).

translating into French Pathfinder's *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes. This book explains how a communist party of industrial workers can, and is being built in today's world.

Supporters of Pathfinder's French-language publications program in Canada are organizing to raise CAN\$15,000 (US\$10,800) by November 10, in addition to participating to the \$125,000 international Pathfinder fund drive (see page 6). The fund in Canada will help sustain a full-time volunteer who is coordinating the international team working on the various projects of the publishing program in French.

BY MARCELLA FITZGERALD

PARIS, France — The Pathfinder table at the Book Village of the French Communist Party's *Fête de l'Humanité* (Humanité fair) attracted much political discussion. In all, 133 books and pamphlets were sold worth \$1,500. These include 17 copies of the newly published French-language edition of the *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*. Denise Méndez bought a copy the first day, read it over-

night, and came back on Sunday to discuss it further.

The annual fair attracted more than 200,000 people.

Books on the Cuban revolution were also on demand. There is currently a debate here, centered on the attempt by figures in the French Socialist Party and the Communist Party to divide Ernesto Che Guevara from the Cuban revolution today, and in particular from the leadership team of Fidel Castro. The titles sold included 11 copies of the French-language edition of *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Guevara; 11 copies of the French-language edition of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* by Cuban economist Carlos Tablada; and 4 copies of *Nouvelle Internationale* no. 5, which includes the article "Defending Cuba Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution" by Mary-Alice Waters. Fair participants also snapped 7 copies in French of *The Second Declaration of Havana*, the manifesto of the Cuban revolution.

One young staffer at the France-Cuba stand who came from Orleans wanted to know more about Pathfinder after 9 Pathfinder books on Cuba quickly sold out from their stand.

Four members of the Young Socialists helped staff the Pathfinder booth and also participated in some of the debates held at the fair. They were able to meet other young people interested in the revolutionary perspective laid out by many communist leaders whose works Pathfinder publishes.

A young Yugoslav was interested to join others in classes to study some of these books, and offered to give a class on the fight in Bosnia. Another student, who is just moving to Paris and wants to get more active in politics, left her name and address.

Among those who bought the 16 copies of the *New International* magazine in various languages were two young Basques. They returned to the table next day to bring information on their struggle for self-determination and to exchange experiences with the Young Socialists.

Basic Marxist texts by communist leaders Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and V.I. Lenin were also popular, particularly among young people. One group of young Algerians bought a copy of each Lenin text available in French in order to help prepare classes for their group.

House passes anti-immigrant bills

Continued from front page

pledged to sponsor an alternative bill "that does the job right, that genuinely cracks down on illegal immigration and that eliminates the worst features of the current bill." His plan would "increase workplace enforcement and protect American jobs and American workers," Kennedy said at a September 25 news conference. "It will require the administration to conduct a range of pilot programs to develop better methods to deny jobs to illegal immigrants and help employers obey the law."

In fact the current bill does include establishing pilot projects involving a computerized network that allows bosses to tap into a national database to obtain confidential information on the legal and financial status of people looking for work. The program has already been initiated in states with large numbers of immigrants, which would in effect create a national ID system.

The "employee verification plan" started in California involves two cities and 234 companies, employing 80,000 workers. The country's four largest packinghouse com-

panies signed onto the program in late April.

Part of the stepped-up attacks on immigrant rights have been a series of immigration raids at workplaces throughout the country. Some 124 poultry workers were arrested August 28 in raids at two processing plants in Maryland, for instance. Hundreds of workers have been grabbed at Iowa packinghouses. In New York City's garment industry immigration officials seized more than 1,200 people in 86 factories in the eight months leading up to June of this year.

The new welfare law and "antiterrorism" legislation signed by Clinton have also escalated the assault on immigrant rights. The antiterrorism law requires immigrants arriving without documents to have their asylum claims heard by a single INS officer instead of at a hearing with legal representation before a judge, as under the previous law. In addition, any undocumented immigrant already in the United States may be summarily deported without judicial review — a provision also included in the immigration bill.

As result of the Welfare Reform Act — which marks a direct assault on the Social Security Act of 1935 and was signed on August 22 by Clinton — an estimated 1 million immigrants with legal papers will be cut off from the food stamp program. Overall the law will affect 13 million workers and farmers receiving welfare benefits and the 25 million receiving food stamps. Hundreds of thousands of workers will be excluded from Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income regardless of the wages they earn.

"You think, well, people will always have to eat," Ruben Cavazos, Jr., manager of a grocery store in the border town of McAllen, Texas, told the *New York Times*. "That seems like a basic thing. But what if they simply have no way to pay for their food." Cavazos said more than half his customers buy their

groceries with food stamps.

The *Times* reported that in the last week of September some states began the first cuts mandated by Clinton's welfare law, including dropping immigrants with legal documents from the food stamp program. New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and California are among the states that require new rules for food stamp applicants that had to be implemented by September 21 to avoid federal penalties.

One stipulation of the welfare measure allows public workers to report undocumented workers to immigration authorities. The welfare law overturns a New York City regulation that barred city employees from turning in undocumented immigrants who seek social services.

Dolly Hassan, an immigration attorney with the Citizens Advice Bureau, said many immigrants have become intimidated from going to the hospital for a medical emergency or enrolling their children in school.

Clinton's new law "in effect denies people the right to an education," she told the *Carib News*, a Black newsweekly in New York.

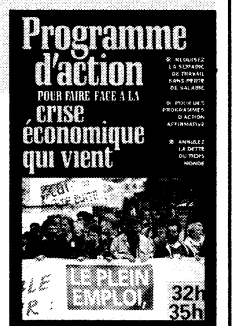
Federal and state anti-immigrant legislation, including California's Proposition 187, has sparked a surge of applications for U.S. citizenship. By September 30, nearly 1.1 million immigrants will have become citizens this year, shattering the record of 445,853 naturalizations set last year. Immigration officials say there are about 10 million non-citizens legally living in the U.S. now.

from Pathfinder

Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis

A Program for International Working-Class Struggle Today.

How a fight for jobs and affirmative action, and to combat imperialism's pillage of the Third World, is crucial to uniting working people internationally. Available in French, Spanish, Icelandic, Swedish and English. \$3.00



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. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 to cover shipping and handling.

Clinton signs war budget

Clinton signed a \$256.6 billion spending bill September 23 that allocates \$3.4 billion for Aegis radar equipped destroyers, \$2 billion to continue developing the Air Force F-22 air superiority jet fighter, and \$2.2 billion for production models of an Navy FA-18 warplane.

"This bill makes good on our pledge to keep our armed forces the best trained, best equipped fighting force on earth," Clinton crowed. "It gives us the technological edge to prevail on the battlefield of tomorrow." — M.W.

Socialist campaign aids building of YS chapters

BY JOSHUA CARROLL

ATLANTA, Georgia — "Having James Harris here in Atlanta really helped us in building the Young Socialists," said Clint Ivie, the newly elected coordinator of the revolutionary youth organization's chapter in Atlanta. Harris is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president of the United States. Up until a week before Harris's campaign visit, there had only been two members of the Young Socialists in Georgia — one in Atlanta and one in Athens. "But in the week before Harris arrived," Ivie continued, "we recruited two new members in Atlanta and finally formed a chapter."

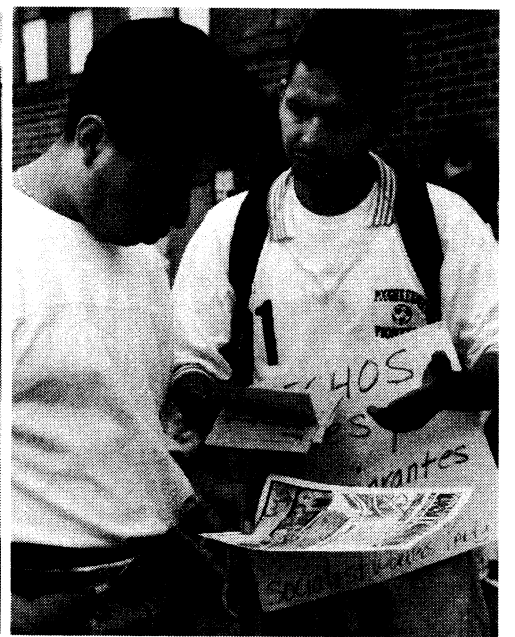
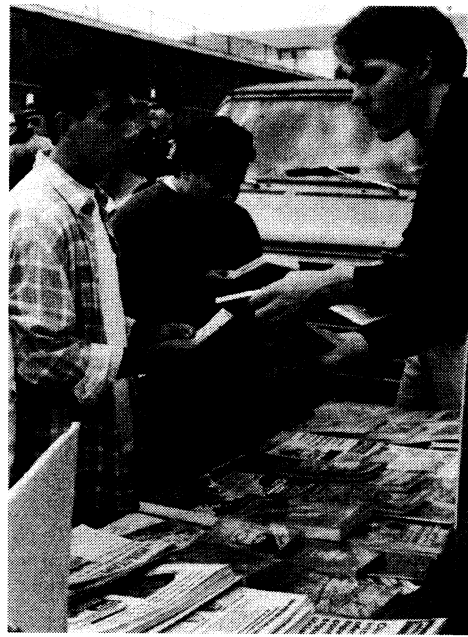
A chapter consists of three members of the Young Socialists (YS). The YS had its first chapter meeting on Sunday, September 15. They discussed how best to utilize the time that the presidential candidate would be in Georgia to build and consolidate their chapter. "We organized ourselves to carry out a week of political activity along with the campaign, and also to recruit to the Young Socialists," said Daniel Rhodes, one of the two new members of the young socialists in Atlanta.

That afternoon, Rhodes along with Harris addressed a gathering of supporters of the socialist campaign at a rally at the Pathfinder bookstore in Atlanta. He explained that more and more we see young people wanting to fight back against the horrors of the capitalist system. "These revolutionary-minded youth," he continued, "should join us in the Young Socialists."

Rhodes joined the YS after participating in labor struggles with striking hotel workers in San Francisco. "After that experience, I called up a bunch of labor unions, but none of them had a place for me as an active student." He then looked up the Socialist Workers Party in the Yellow Pages. He was referred to the Young Socialists. Rhodes explained, "I was looking for politics — that's exactly what I was doing."

"But the reason I actually joined the YS is because of their activism. Unlike many other organizations I have run into, the YS does things — we meet people and we talk politics with them," he said.

Over the course of the campaign week, Young Socialists accompanied Harris to meet with workers at Wilen, a mop factory in Atlanta. On Tuesday evening, they or-



Militant/Hilda Cuzco

YSer Jason Coughlin (left), selling revolutionary literature at N.Y. Mexican Independence Day parade, where he and other young activists built October 12 march (right).

ganized a meeting with Harris for young people interested in the campaign. One person who attended bought a *Militant*, and a copy of *New International 10*, with the article "Imperialism's March Towards Fascism and War." Two nights later, the Young Socialists organized a class on the *Communist Manifesto*.

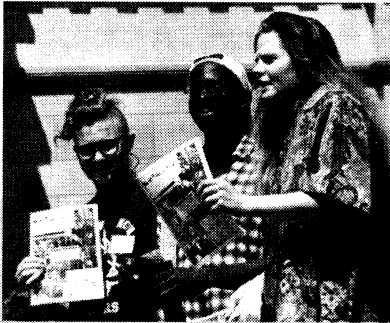
Finally, on September 18, the last day of Harris's tour, the Young Socialists staffed a campaign table all day at the University of Georgia in Athens. They gave out campaign literature as well as a flyer announcing a youth meeting they organized for that evening at Jittery Joe's Coffee House, where Laura Garza, Socialist Workers vice presidential candidate, had spoken only a few weeks before. Matthew, a first-year student who stopped by the table to talk about politics for over an hour, asked how he could become more involved

in the fight for socialism. He read a copy of the newly published YS pamphlet, and then came to the evening meeting with Harris.

Over 20 young people showed up to hear the socialist candidate explain why working people and revolutionary-minded youth need to break with the two parties of big business, and how only a socialist program of struggle can advance the interests of workers and farmers. Karolina Bjornheden, a member of the

Now available: YS pamphlet!

Political Principles, Campaigns and Rules of Organization



1-9 copies, \$4 each; 10 or more copies, \$3 each. Checks made payable to Young Socialists, P.O. Box 14392, St. Paul, MN 55114.

Fund makes reprint program viable

BY JANE HARRIS

NEWARK, New Jersey — "One thing we have emphasized," explained Osborne Hart, who organizes the Pathfinder fund drive in San Francisco, "is the need to make payments steadily. Of those who have made a pledge to the drive, over half have already made a payment." Jim Gotesky, who also helps with the campaign in the Bay Area,

added, "No stone has been left unturned, collection cans for the fund are being placed on Pathfinder literature tables and in the Pathfinder Bookstore."

So it's not an accident that Pathfinder supporters in San Francisco are on top of the chart this week, well ahead of schedule. A good example to emulate.

The purpose of the \$125,000 Pathfinder fund drive, which has completed the third week of a 10-week-long effort, is to raise the money to keep the 300 plus Pathfinder books and pamphlets at the fingertips of working-class fighters who need them.

In 1994, a new and expanded edition of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics; Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* was put out by Pathfinder with an attractive new cover.

This title is a handbook for workers coming into the factories, mines, and mills, as they react to the uncertain life, ceaseless turmoil, and brutality of capitalism in the closing years of the twentieth century. *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* shows how millions of workers, as political resistance grows, will revolutionize themselves, their unions, and all of society.

It is now being reprinted since the first run is sold out. The book is currently being translated into French.

Pathfinder is also reprinting two important Education for Socialist Bulletins so that enough quantities are available at the national Black political convention to be held in St. Louis September 27-29. The meeting has been called by the National African American Leadership Summit and the Million Man March Inc.

The bulletins are *Independent Black*

Political Action 1954-1978: The Struggle To Break with the Democratic and Republican Parties and *The National Black Independent Political Party: An Important Step Forward for Working People*.

Along with the bulletin *Aspects of Socialist Election Policy*, and the books *Changing Face* and *Politics of Chicano Liberation*, these two bulletins trace the real historical record of the working-class struggle for political action independent of the capitalist class and its parties. They offer rich lessons for today.

Accelerating collection of pledges for the fund drive will make the reprint program of these and other titles viable.

Key to the success of the fund is reaching out to fellow unionists on the job, at plant gates, and political activities and organizing meetings where the fund and its goals can be discussed.

Communist workers in Sydney, Australia, just called such an event for October 5. Reports on plans for these meetings and what took place at them are needed for this column along with photographs.

Jane Harris is a member of the United Transportation Union.

27 new members in the YS

From July 10 till September 25

City	# of new members
Athens, GA	1
Atlanta	2
Boston	1
Chicago	2
Cleveland	2
Denver	2
Houston	1
Los Angeles	3
Morgantown	1
Newark	1
New York	3
Salt Lake City	1
San Diego	1
San Francisco	3
Twin Cities	1
Washington D.C.	2
TOTAL	27

Young Socialists in Athens, chaired the meeting. She explained how young people can become involved in working-class struggles by joining the YS.

At the meeting, Steven, a student at the University of Georgia who had already had a subscription to the *Militant*, renewed his subscription and bought the YS pamphlet. After the meeting, both Matthew and Steven asked to join the Young Socialists.

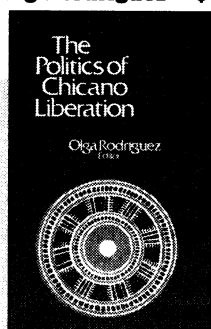
Two days later, Matthew traveled to Atlanta to participate in a full day of campaigning for the socialist alternative. In the upcoming week, he and other Young Socialists plan to build the October 12 march in Washington, D.C., for immigrant rights. Bjornheden, who also intends to actively build this march, explained, "I know that there will be a lot of support on this campus. Many young people are disgusted by what they see as their future, and they are looking for ways to fight back."

Pathfinder Fund

CITY	GOAL	PAID	% of GOAL
San Francisco	\$10,000	\$3,127	31%
Miami	\$2,800	\$850	30%
Washington DC	\$3,500	\$1,000	29%
Detroit	\$6,000	\$1,695	28%
Brooklyn	\$6,500	\$1,455	22%
Salt Lake City	\$3,600	\$800	22%
Manhattan	\$8,000	\$985	12%
Chicago	\$7,500	\$750	10%
Los Angeles	\$12,000	\$1,013	8%
Pittsburgh	\$6,000	\$425	7%
Morgantown	\$1,500	\$100	7%
Boston	\$6,000	\$250	4%
Newark	\$8,500	\$345	4%
Cleveland	\$3,100	\$110	4%
Seattle	\$9,000	\$290	3%
Philadelphia	\$5,000	\$125	3%
Greensboro	\$2,400	\$25	1%
Des Moines	\$2,350	\$20	1%
Peoria	\$2,750	\$20	1%
Twin Cities	\$7,000	\$50	1%
Atlanta	\$2,700	\$0	0%
Birmingham	\$4,500	\$0	0%
Houston	\$3,000	\$0	0%
U.S. TOTAL	\$123,700	\$13,435	11%
Australia	\$750		
Canada		\$30	
France		\$511	
New Zealand	\$4,220	\$1,385	
Sweden	\$400		
United Kingdom			
INTERNATIONAL			
TOTAL	\$129,070	\$15,361	12%
SHOULD BE	\$125,000	\$37,500	30%

from Pathfinder

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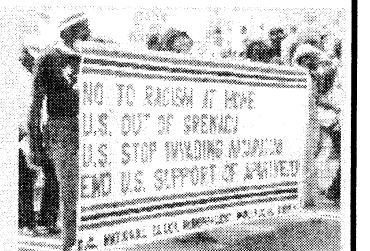
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Affirmative action battle heats up through California

BY JON HILLSON

NORTHRIDGE, California—A growing public debate on the future of affirmative action in California is raising the political temperature in the Los Angeles area, as days tick off towards the November 5 vote on Proposition 209.

The amendment to the state constitution would outlaw any affirmative action program based on "race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin" in California's "public employment, public education, or public contracting."

The architects of this sweeping measure, including Governor Peter Wilson and University of California Regent Ward Connerly, have cynically entitled the ballot measure the California Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI). Connerly, who heads the "Yes on 209" campaign, is Black.

The proposition does not refer to "affirmative action" but uses the term "preferential treatment." For window dressing, it contains a clause against "discrimination" for "civil rights."

Debate between David Duke, Joe Hicks

In recent days there have been a spate of meetings, speak-outs, and forums on Prop. 209 in the Black, Latino, and Asian communities throughout Southern California, amidst increased media coverage. The lightning rod is a September 25 debate at the University of California at Northridge (CSUN) between Joe Hicks, a long-time Los Angeles civil rights leader, and David Duke, former Ku Klux Klan leader and Louisiana Republican politician.

Angered by Duke's identification with 209, Wilson has tried, unsuccessfully, to get the CSUN student government, which is hosting the debate, to disinvite Duke. "We asked Wilson, Connerly, and all sorts of other people to participate to present all sides," said Vladimir Cerna, CSUN student body president. "But they turned us down, first for a panel, and then a debate. Jesse Jackson, Colin Powell, and others said no, too. David Duke, who has been opposed to affirmative action for years, said yes."

Connerly stated that the Duke invitation was an act of "political trickery," and that having him be the speaker against affirmative action would "dishonor the integrity of the [Proposition 209] debate."

In the midst of this controversy, CSU chancellor Barry Munitz instructed the system's 23 campus presidents to "stay in line," and refrain from making a collective statement opposing 209, in defiance of the "neutral" stance taken by the state board of trustees.

While supporting "free speech" at the Northridge campus, the *Los Angeles Times* lamented Duke's presence, noting that there "are better choices than a thinly veiled racist are available" to press the case "to outlaw affirmative action." The *Times* did not offer the names of any more thickly veiled bigots as alternatives.

Wilson, Connerly, and others dislike

Pentagon trained officers for bribery, torture

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Training manuals produced by the Pentagon and used by the U.S. Army's special school for Latin American military and police officers have recommended bribery, blackmail, and torture against rebels. This was revealed in documents made public by the Pentagon September 20.

The manuals — written in Spanish with titles such as "Interrogation" and "Revolutionary War and Communist Ideology" — advocated methods the Pentagon claims violated U.S. government policy.

These methods include "motivation by fear, payment of bounties for enemy dead, false imprisonment, execution, and the use of truth serum," according to a government report on the manuals prepared in 1992 but kept secret until recently.

The booklet titled "Handling of Sources," refers to "information obtained involuntarily

Duke's involvement, said Cerna, a 22-year old immigrant from El Salvador, because they present Proposition 209, "as a 'civil rights' thing. But that's a misnomer. They say 209 is a California issue, but 209 is important to what's happening across the country. Affirmative action is a national debate."

"If 209 is passed, it will eliminate outreach and recruitment programs here for Blacks, Latinos, poor Asians, programs that offset the difference, that create balance," Cerna said, "and it will open the door to doing the same thing in private education, industry, and hiring."

"What are the arguments against affirmative action? What are Duke's arguments? How are they answered definitively? Why should students take this issue seriously? That's what this debate is all about," he said.

Cerna, like many of the Latino and Chicano students here, participated in the fight against Proposition 187, the sweeping anti-immigrant ballot measure passed in 1994.

"Economic insecurity," Cerna said, is used by politicians to fuel antagonism to immigrants and affirmative action. The attacks on both, he said, "are different bullets fired from the same gun."

Cerna continues to take heat from anti-immigrant organizations. He was recently targeted by Voices of Citizens Together, a pro-187 group, as a leader of "the infiltration of Cal State Northridge by Chicano and Latino radicals and Communists."

This race- and red-baiting effort has had little impact at Northridge, where all 650 tickets for the Hicks-Duke face-off were snapped up by students in three hours on September 16. Many here are urging the event be televised on campus.

Students refuse to cancel debate

On September 17 the student senate, backed by the applause of the overwhelming majority of 100 students present, most of them Black, Chicano, and Latin American, rejected a request from a local state senator to substitute herself for Duke, during a sometimes tense, two-hour meeting.

They likewise rebuffed demands to cancel the event from the Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action by Any Means Necessary (BAMN), a small ultra-left outfit from the San Francisco Bay Area.

Several BAMN members staged a brief

CIA sold drugs to L.A. Black community

BY JON HILLSON AND ELI GREEN

LOS ANGELES—Revelations of U.S. government complicity in the shipment of gigantic amounts of cocaine powder for production of crack that was sold in the South-Central section of this city have sent shock waves throughout southern California's Black communities, and beyond.

This bombshell was at the heart of a three-part series written by Gary Webb, a reporter

Young activists march and organize picket lines for affirmative action at Republican National Convention in San Diego, California, August 11-12.

Militant/(inset) Lyn Duff; (below) Jean Armbruster



disruption of the meeting before being quieted by CSUN activists.

Leaders of the Chicano, Central American, and Black student organizations, along with a Latina activist in the campus women's center defended the debate. "You underestimate our intelligence," one Black Student Union member told the Bay Area ultra-leftists, "if you think David Duke is the issue, or that he threatens us. This is a debate, it will take place, and we are not worried about Mr. Duke."

"Duke represents what they [leaders of 209] really think," a Chicano student noted. "Do you think we aren't going to take him on? Do you think we're naive?"

During this open forum, Vanessa Knapton, a Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, addressed the students. "I work on the railroad, and I'm in a union," she said. "I'm one of the few women, and every day I defend affirmative action on the job."

"We have to discuss and debate the issue to explain what's at stake, why affirmative action is a fight in the interests of working people. It's Wilson who fears real debate. I salute you for standing up to him," Knapton said to applause.

Confusion, tension, and resentment surfaced at a September 15 debate, attended by 130 people, sponsored by the Japanese-American Citizens League (JACL) in Gardena.

A Korean-American panelist who backs 209 introduced two Asian-American students he claimed were rejected by Stanford, and several Ivy League schools, while their

less qualified Latina "girlfriends" had been accepted.

This assertion led to heated disputes during and after the event among participants. The audience, many of whom were youth, showed by applause their opposition to 209. The JACL, an opponent of 209, has set future debates in Pasadena and Irvine.

Small protests against 209

In late August, hundreds of Asians, from Little Tokyo, Little Saigon, and Chinatown, along with groups of Lao, Tibetan, Filipino, Burmese, and other immigrants rallied at Los Angeles City Hall to protest cutbacks in entitlements and to defend affirmative action. Hundreds waved banners and placards opposing 209.

On September 7, over 200 Chicanos and Latinos gathered for a Latin American Summit on Affirmative Action, the majority of them young. Many signed up for door-to-door campaigning in area neighborhoods to explain the stakes in the Latino community for defeating 209.

In late September, Jesse Jackson, National Organization for Women president Patricia Ireland, and others are planning a state-wide bus trip to campaign against the proposition.

Community forums hosted by the Compton NAACP chapter, a rally at Compton Community College, and another at the predominantly Black Pierce College are also scheduled.

A poll published in the *Los Angeles Times* September 19 indicated 60 percent of potential voters support 209, with 25 per cent against, and the remainder undecided.

for the *San Jose Mercury News*.

A year-long investigation, he writes, removes any doubt that paid CIA operatives in the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan mercenary army, referred to as the *contras*, flew thousands of kilos (1 kilo=2.2 pounds) into California in the 1980s. Their aim was to buy arms, and line their own pockets, with knowledge of superiors in the CIA, and the tacit approval of an array of local, state, and federal cop agencies.

At a September 10 news conference and meeting attended by 200 indignant community residents, Democratic representative Maxine Waters, whose district includes South Central, called for a congressional hearing and a federal investigation.

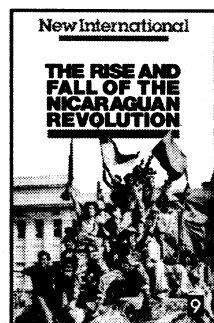
Waters subsequently announced a "town meeting" on September 28, co-sponsored by

Continued on Page 9

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Socialist garment, textile workers meet

BY NAOMI CRAINE

ATLANTA — How can communist workers in the garment and textile industries advance the understanding among their co-workers of the anti-working-class character of the capitalist two-party system, win union fighters to the perspective of independent working-class political action, and build the socialist movement? These were among the questions addressed during a meeting of socialists who are members of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) held here September 21-22.

Over the two days, unionists discussed developments in the presidential election campaigns, assessed their work over the previous half-year, and set goals selling Pathfinder books to their co-workers and other socialist activities. The discussion among the UNITE members, who hailed from Atlanta, Cleveland, Greensboro, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and Philadelphia, was made concrete by the list of some 130 books and pamphlets they had sold to co-workers since February.

An important part of the weekend's events was a public Militant Labor Forum on the meaning of the 1996 elections for working people. It was presented by Paul Mailhot, a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee. "U.S. president William Jefferson Clinton has begun to put together a broad assault on the rights and living conditions of working people that will exemplify the next presidential administration, whoever wins the election," Mailhot said in his talk.

'Marriage Act' is a dividing line

"The Defense of Marriage Act will be a dividing line in many discussions, defining you as one who stands with the oppressed," Mailhot said, noting that many workers are outraged by this legislation. In the wee hours of that morning, Clinton had signed the anti-working-class measure, which sailed through Congress with an overwhelming bipartisan majority after the president promised his approval. The act bans federal recognition of gay marriages.

White House press secretary Michael McCurry said that Clinton was forgoing the usual pomp and ceremony in signing the bill because "the president believes the sooner he gets this over with the better."

What Clinton wanted to quietly "get over with," Mailhot said, was enacting a law that "in effect says 'gay people aren't equal human beings.'" He cited three aspects of the legislation: it denies federal benefits such as health care and Social Security to surviving spouses of a layer of the population who is gay; the government reaches in and tells people who they can and can't marry; and the law undercuts an aspect of the "full faith and credit" clause in the U.S. Constitution, which requires state governments to recognize acts, such as marriage, performed in other states.

"Clinton is the president who set about developing a bipartisan package of laws that would cut into the rights of working people," Mailhot explained. The Defense of Marriage Act is one piece of this package, together with recent legislation on welfare, health care, immigration, and other questions. "There's an aspect to all of these laws undercutting the social wage, chipping away at gains working people have fought for and won through past decades of struggle." This process will continue under the next administration, Democratic or Republican, Mailhot added, because it's what the U.S. ruling class — the capitalist owners of banking and industry — need and want them to carry out.

One example the SWP leader pointed to is the attacks on the working class through so-called welfare reform. In New York City, for instance, William James, president of Transit Workers Union Local 100, announced September 18 that union officials had reached a tentative deal with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) under which 500 union members would be replaced by welfare recipients. These workers will be paid minimum wage to clean subways and buses for 26 hours a week, leaving them with the equivalent of a wel-

fare check. Supposedly, the remaining union MTA jobs would be guaranteed.

This proposal stirred some controversy, including criticism from the Republican mayor of New York, Rudolph Giuliani, because for the first time it openly acknowledged the direct replacement of public workers receiving union-scale wages and benefits with so-called "workfare participants." There are currently 35,000 workers in similar programs throughout New York City, under agreements quietly worked out between Giuliani and officials of the main city workers union, District Council 37. Meanwhile the city's unionized workforce has fallen by 20,000 since 1994.

Fraud of 'workfare'

The publicity around the MTA deal put pressure on other city union officials, who had been going along with the workfare schemes, to call for slowing down the government plans. "What happened here was the removal of the fig leaf," said Arthur Cheliotis, president of Communications Workers of America Local 1180, which represents 7,000 city workers. "Until now, there was a ruse that workfare was a training program. But now we see workfare for what it really is. It's indentured servitude."

Stanley Hill, the executive director of District Council 37, called for a moratorium on expanding the workfare program September 22. Giuliani replied, "We're going to continue with our workfare program as we've been operating it, which means it grows virtually every month by 4,000 to 5,000." The mayor said the unions "understand...we negotiate with them and work with them."

"Workfare" plans will be expanded nationally under the welfare law Clinton signed last month. Mailhot noted that the New York City measures are aimed at weakening the unions, and the union officials who go along with the scheme "are undercutting the unity that workers must fight to build with those who are out of work."

An Atlanta worker at the forum agreed. "There's discussion among city workers in Atlanta because they're setting up a capitalist businessman here to collect the garbage using welfare recipients," he said.

As they press ahead with these attacks, the capitalist rulers don't feel the pressure of any labor resistance at this time, Mailhot noted. The tentative contract between Ford and the United Auto Workers officialdom is a good example of the capitulation of the union tops in face of the bosses' offensive today, Mailhot stated. The agreement allows the second-largest U.S. auto company to pay workers in new parts plants substantially less than the contract rate for other Ford workers, in exchange for a promise to maintain 95 percent of current employment levels. This job guarantee "is one of the biggest lies in the world today," Mailhot said. "In the 1980s auto companies signed similar contracts, with similar escape clauses that allowed them to carry out massive layoffs when the market went down."

"Very few workers buy the idea that 95 percent of our jobs will be safe," commented one Ford worker at the forum. "All the older workers know that's not what happened before, and they're telling the others."

The trade union officialdom, which for decades has pointed workers toward the Democratic Party as their supposed friends in government, has less clout than ever. "This year there was a convention to organize a supposed Labor Party," Mailhot said. The founding convention of the Labor Party, held last June in Cleveland, decided not to run candidates at this time and voted down a proposed ban on endorsing candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties.

The so-called Labor Party launched in Cleveland "is a product of the frustration of a layer of trade union officials over their lack of leverage in the Democratic Party," Mailhot stated. "Most of the trade union bureaucracy is so buried in the Democratic Party they aren't even posturing for an independent identity. But others try to strike out and threaten to form a third party in an attempt to win some influence within the capitalist two-party system."

"This 'Labor Party' offers no alternative



Militant/Linda Joyce

UNITE rally demanding a contract for Kmart workers in Atlanta, Georgia, March 23. Socialists have joined labor struggles like this and stepped up propaganda work.

to capitalist politics, however. It's only on the basis of a rising struggle of labor that there will be the possibility to form a genuine labor party," Mailhot said, "one that can chart an independent course for the working class."

At their two-day meeting, the UNITE members discussed how to use the Socialist Workers election campaign to bring these broad political questions to their co-workers and others, and to involve fellow unionists in struggles.

Like workers in many other industries, garment and textile workers face widespread layoffs and attacks on working conditions today, Arlene Rubinstein, a UNITE member in Atlanta, reported at the meeting of socialist workers. Employment in the apparel industry fell by nearly 100,000 — more than 10 percent — in 1995, and another 42,000 were laid off in fabric manufacturing. A February *New York Times* article stated, "For all the financial turmoil in textile workers' lives these days, the industry itself remains a huge and profitable sector of the American economy.... The increase over the last two decades has been more than 33 percent."

Campaigning for socialism

The meeting assessed the effects of the formation of UNITE through a merger of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union last year. At the time, socialists in the union called for a vote against the merger, arguing that it did nothing to strengthen the ranks of the union, a position the Atlanta meeting reaffirmed had been correct.

The socialist workers noted there is some modest but important resistance to worsening job conditions. Workers at the Kmart warehouse in Greensboro, North Carolina, for instance, just won their first union contract after a three-and-a-half-year struggle. And in several cities many garment workers turned out for activities to support their fellow unionists from the Peerless garment plant in Montreal, where 19 workers were fired for their participation in a union organizing drive.

The socialist garment workers grappled with how to strengthen their political activity on the job by consolidating their forces in the larger plants, where there are more opportunities to work with young rebels and other workers who are attracted to communist politics. They noted that where communists are working together in the same plant, such as in Atlanta and Greensboro, they had made the greatest advances in selling Pathfinder books. The meeting reaffirmed the SWP's commitment to expanding the number of socialist garment workers in the centers of the industry, particularly New York and Los Angeles.

Among the books sold on the job over the last eight months, titles on the Cuban revolution were some of the most popular. The UNITE members took a special report and discussion on how to deepen work in defense of the Cuban revolution among their co-workers.

One priority the UNITE members set was building the October 12 immigrant rights march in Washington, D.C., among garment and textile workers. Defending immigrant rights is a key question in these industries, which employ workers from all over the world. "In my plant the boss told 50 workers one day not to come back without better

papers," said Gale Shangold, a garment worker from Los Angeles.

Wendy Lyons, a presser in New York, said UNITE is organizing three busses from that city to take unionists to the demonstration in Washington.

Over the last three weeks, Washington's bombing of Iraq and military build-up in the Middle East were a big topic at work. The unionists reported selling five copies of "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq" in *New Internationalist* no. 7 since Clinton's September 2-3 missile attack on that country.

Anna Schell from Brooklyn said she also sold a copy of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!*, which contains speeches by Cuban leaders Fidel Castro and Ricardo Alarcón during the 1990 build-up to the Gulf War. "I had worked before with the woman who bought the book, in a different garment shop during the Gulf War," Schell said. "At that time many workers were wearing yellow ribbons to show 'support for the troops.'"

Socialist workers at a carpet mill in Eden, North Carolina, described how one of their co-workers joined them on a picket line against the bombing of Iraq that was held in Greensboro. He was quoted in the local newspaper, and took the clipping into work to talk to others about protesting the U.S. war moves.

L. Paltrineri from Greensboro described the range of other books that socialist workers had sold over the last few months. "One worker read *Teamster Rebellion*, and told me, 'This is great, this is our roots. What do you have for me to read next?' Now he's a member of the Pathfinder Readers Club. Another woman who's been part of a fight against a racist school board bought a book by Malcolm X, which she quoted from at a school board meeting."

The UNITE members took a goal of selling 32 Pathfinder books a month on the job. While this will be an increase from previous sales, they were confident the goal can be met and is the best way of finding the young rebels and other struggle-minded workers who can be recruited to Young Socialists and the Socialist Workers Party.

They also discussed how to finance the organization of their political work and increase pledges to the \$125,000 Pathfinder Fund, and elected a steering committee to guide their work until their next meeting.

House votes to uphold bar on abortion procedure

BY NAOMI CRAINE

The U.S. House of Representatives voted September 20 to overturn a presidential veto of a bill banning a type of late-term abortions. The veto override passed 285 to 137 — four votes more than the two-thirds majority needed. The big-business press is predicting the Senate will uphold the veto.

The ban on intact dilation and extraction, an infrequent procedure that opponents of abortion rights have dubbed "partial birth abortion," was passed by Congress last spring and vetoed by President William Clinton in April.

Ralph Reed of the Christian Coalition hailed the House vote as "the first time since *Roe v. Wade* [the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion] that Congress is poised to outlaw an abortion procedure."

Toronto conference: 'solidarity with Cuba'

BY MARY ELLEN MANLEY

TORONTO — The first of several Canada-Cuba solidarity conferences will kick off here on Friday, September 27, at Metro Hall, with a special welcome to the nine Cuban delegates attending the three-day event. The conference provides an opportunity to have a discussion with Cuban leaders about the struggle of the Cuban people to defend their sovereignty and social system against the efforts by Washington, Ottawa, and other imperialist powers to undermine the socialist revolution.

The slogans of the conference are a mixture of defending Cuba's sovereignty and Canadian nationalism. "Solidarity with Cuba! End the Blockade! Oppose Helms-Burton! Defend Cuba's Right to Self-Determination! Defend Canadian Sovereignty!" are the slogans advanced by the main organizers: the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association and the Canada-Cuba Friendship Committee.

A conference steering committee is organizing the event in collaboration with the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP). The leaflet advertising the conference states that "Canadians representing political, religious, business, labor, social, student, and women's groups," will "launch a united campaign for aid to Cuba, and in support of Cuba's and Canada's Sovereignty."

Visiting guests will include Marta Cabrisas Alfonso, member of Cuba's National Assembly and of the National Secretariat of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers; and Rolando González Tellez, first vice president of the Institute of Friendship Amongst the Peoples (ICAP). Speakers also include Oscar Treto Cárdenas, member of the National Bureau of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) of Cuba; and Rita Maria Pereira, of the National Executive of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC). Nancy Morejón Hernández, a well-known Cuban writer and Afro-Cuban specialist, will also participate in the conference.

This Ontario-wide conference in Toronto will be followed by similar solidarity conferences in Winnipeg and Halifax. At the opening plenary session in Toronto, the Cuban delegation will present an update on the situation in Cuba. Cuban leaders will review the effects of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996 (Helms-Burton law) on the country's economy thus far. The recently passed U.S. legislation escalated Washington's economic war on the

Cuban people by penalizing companies outside the United States that trade with Cuba.

Many topics related to Cuba will be discussed throughout the weekend. Workshops are planned on culture, health, education, and the media in Cuba, as well as trade and investment laws.

The workshop "Women in Cuba," chaired by a representative from the National Action Committee on the Status of Women in

Canada, will feature Pereira from the FMC. At the workshop "Youth in Cuba," participants will hear from a leader of the UJC, who will talk about the World Festival of Students and Youth that will take place in Cuba July 28-August 5, 1997.

Billy Modise, High Commissioner for South Africa, is scheduled to speak on Cuba's role in helping to defeat the apartheid system in South Africa through its par-

ticipation in the military struggle in Angola.

Several members of the recently returned *Amigos de Cuba* volunteer work brigade will present a workshop on work brigades, describing their experiences and laying out plans for next year's trip.

A "Spirits of Havana" concert is planned for the evening of September 28, featuring well-known jazz artist Jane Bunnett and 13 Cuban musicians.

Cuban society impresses Philly youth

BY NANCY COLE

PHILADELPHIA — Four youth who participated in the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange related the impact the two-week trip had on their perceptions of life in capitalist America at a meeting of 45 here September 10.

Matthew Smucker, 18, said someone had told him that a lot of what you learn in Cuba won't really become apparent until later. "That happened this past week," he told the meeting, "when I was detained by police for trying to help a homeless man get a train ticket. The policeman said to me, 'Why don't you go to a socialist country!' 'Been there, done that!' I replied, as I realized that you wouldn't see this in Cuba — a man abused and subjected to racist language just because he wanted to spend some time in the train station, having gotten together enough money to buy a ticket."

Twenty-two-year-old John Ottomanelli described his background as a sociology major who got into "urban planning" and worked for a year as a community organizer in the North Philadelphia neighborhood of Kensington. "Nobody I spoke to in Cuba knew what I was talking about when I tried to explain the concept of 'sociology,'" he said. "Finally, someone told me that there is no separate field of sociology in Cuba, but it is incorporated into what everyone learns about their duty to society, whether you're an artist, a doctor, or a construction worker."

"They have the CDRs [Committees in Defense of the Revolution] and other mass organizations where the people are really involved in local government. Here in the United States community organizations are constantly competing with each other for funding before they can actually begin the struggle to make change. No one in Cuba

could understand this." "This was one of the best experiences of my life," Ottomanelli said in conclusion.

Fermin Morales, a 27-year-old electrician from North Philadelphia's Puerto Rican community, said a conversation he had with a Cuban sailor in the merchant marine on a bus in Havana made the biggest impression on him. The sailor had been all over Latin America and he pointed to Cuba with pride as an example for the world. "'Yes,' I told him, 'you are an example to Latin America.'"

"Not just Latin America," the merchant marine replied. "But to the United States as well. Because we take care of our people."

The United States is a rich country, Morales told the meeting. "But I think Cuba is rich. It provides the basic necessities for all its people. I would love to have a system like that in Puerto Rico."

Anyone interested in revolutionary change and how workers and farmers reorganize society and transform themselves in the process, once they take state power, "really has to take a look at Cuba," said Philadelphia Young Socialist member Becca Arenson.

She was among the participants in the youth exchange trip. "Can you imagine," she asked, "being at work and your boss or union delegate telling you to stop working because you're all going to have a meeting to dis-



Philadelphia youth speak about their trip to Cuba

Militant/Nancy Cole

cuss whether or not the government should pass a new tax law? In Cuba, they are — just normal everyday people in the factories and the rural areas."

The program, held at the American Friends Service Committee national offices, included remarks from Mario Hardy, a Cuban citizen who lives in Philadelphia and works with others to defend death-row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal and the MOVE group, and Jennie Nilson, a local activist who spent six weeks this summer studying Spanish at the University of Havana.

Orlaida Cabrera and José Estevez representing the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), who happened to be in the area, also attended and spoke.

Nilson told the group that she had been in Cuba twice last year on trips similar to the youth exchange. During her six weeks this year, she said, she witnessed the day-to-day effects of Washington's brutal economic war on Cuba.

When she saw the so-called camels last year — two buses welded together and hauled by a semi — she was impressed by the inventiveness of the Cuban people who have tried to get around the lack of spare parts. "Yet this ingenious invention is not a very romantic reality for the Cubans." People still have to wait a long time in lines and then get crowded onto busses that can hardly fit another person, she said.

This was the third report-back meeting members of the youth delegation have organized, having spoken to a larger than usual Cuban Support Coalition meeting in August and a Militant Labor Forum attended by 35 people several weeks later. A front-page interview with the youth appeared in *Al Día*, a Spanish-language regional weekly. A series of three articles by participants has also begun appearing in *El Hispano*, a bilingual paper circulated throughout the region.

CIA sold drugs to L.A. Black community

Continued from Page 7

the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and KGLH, the city's main Black community-oriented radio station that has featured daily commentary by angered residents on the issue.

A similar CBC-sponsored meeting in Washington, D.C., recently drew 1,500 people.

On September 17, the Los Angeles County board of Supervisors voted unanimously to ask President William Clinton for an independent investigation of CIA involvement in the drug trade.

"It is time to demand that the long-standing suspicions of a connection between the drug trade in the inner city on the one hand, and the Central Intelligence Agency and the U.S. government, on the other hand, be investigated," the resolution stated. Last month, the Los Angeles City Council urged U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno to investigate the controversy.

Reno recently announced that "there is no evidence that supports the [*San Jose Mercury News*] allegations." Her written message, read by Waters at the September 10 meeting, that "the CIA has initiated an internal investigation," was met with jeers.

While the *Los Angeles Times* has been loathe to cover the growing scandal, the entire "Dark Alliance" series was reprinted by the *New Times*, and excerpted by the *L.A. Weekly*, two mass circulation news and entertainment journals. The Managua, Nicaragua, daily *La Prensa* published the series as well. In the articles, Webb traces the contra-CIA-cocaine links to U.S. aggression

against the Nicaraguan government of Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in the 1980s.

The contra war was organized by Washington in its effort to overthrow the workers and farmers government that came to power in 1979 with the triumph of a popular revolution, led by the FSLN.

The CIA scraped the remnants of the murderous National Guard of deposed Nicaraguan tyrant Anastasio Somoza into the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN).

Webb's explosive series details the connection between former Somoza aide Oscar Blandón, who was also an FDN fundraiser and coke pusher, and Ivan Norwin Meneses, another contra adviser and drug dealer. Blandón, who lives between Managua and San Diego, testified in federal court earlier this year that he began selling cocaine to fund the contras in 1982, and that FDN military chief, CIA employee Enrique Bermudez, was aware of the deals.

Under pressure from a developing movement in defense of Nicaragua's revolutionary government in the United States and around the world, the U.S. Congress voted to ban aid to the contras in 1982.

The CIA "invented the 'contra' and converted it into the principal instrument of its dirty war against a Central American country," the Los Angeles Spanish-language daily *La Opinión* stated in an editorial. It noted that the "commerce between political objectives and cheap cocaine occurred, paradoxically, in the years when the First Lady, Nancy Reagan, began pushing to fellow citizens her slogan of 'No to drugs.'"

The "bottom of the mess," *La Opinión* stated, "has yet to be reached."

Webb painstakingly documents the flood of cheap cocaine from Colombia to Nicaragua—with the support of the U.S.-supplied El Salvadoran air force, then engaged in a civil war against insurgent workers and farmers—then to northern California, and finally to the Black neighborhoods of Los Angeles, through gang street dealers.

When Congress voted to lift the ban on aid to the contras in 1986, Blandón and Meneses simply kept dealing coke, as capitalist entrepreneurs, operating a business for profit outside the formal, legal framework of, but ruled by the laws of the market sys-

Continued on Page 11

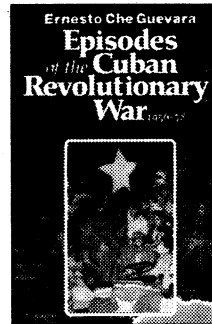
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Ernesto Che Guevara

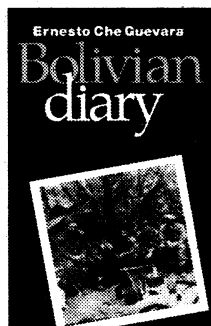
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Strawberry pickers demand contract

BY NORTON SANDLER

WATSONVILLE, California—Carrying bright red United Farm Workers (UFW) flags, thousands marched through this predominantly Mexican and Chicano city September 15. They were demanding a union contract and improved wages and working conditions for farm workers who pick strawberries.

Contingents of agricultural workers in their early 20s and teens were noticeable in the crowd. Other workers marched with their entire families. The march also commemorated Mexican Independence day. Dozens of Mexican flags were scattered throughout the crowd. The seriousness and discipline of the participants was evident as UFW marshals, many of them young kept the crowd moving at a brisk pace, three to a row. The union said 7,000 people joined the march. Watsonville cops claimed that 4,500 marchers participated.

Scores also watched from street corners or hung out the windows of their houses and apartments as the two-hour long march wound through the streets of Watsonville's barrio chanting, "Sí se puede!" (Yes we can do it), "Viva la Raza," and "Chávez sí, Wilson no," (union founder Cesar [Chávez] yes, [California Governor Peter] Wilson no).

Participants gathered in a vacant lot for a rally following the demonstration. Featured speakers included UFW president Arturo Rodríguez, union secretary-treasurer Dolores Huerta, and California AFL-CIO executive secretary-treasurer Art Pulaski. Rodríguez was recently elected to a four-year term as union president. He had held the post temporarily following the death of his father-in-law Cesar Chávez in 1993.

Several strawberry workers addressed the crowd. "We're not asking for anything the

growers can't give us," farm worker David Madrí explained. "We only want what we and our families deserve and what is right and just. We are human beings," he said.

Miguel, a strawberry field picker who did not give his last name, described to *Militant* reporters the challenges facing the union in trying to organize the 15,000 strawberry workers who pick the state's \$650 million annual crop. "They [the bosses] try to disorganize us, they pick favorites, they give different pay to those they like, to get them to oppose the union," he said. "They make threats to union workers that we will be fired or deported. We need to be united."

"It's important to win this," said Gerardo, a 20-year UFW veteran currently working in the mushroom fields. "These workers can't support their families on this pay and the working conditions are terrible. You have to bend down all day. Only the young can do this."

"It's back-breaking," added Juan, also a union member. He explained that each in-



Militant/Larry Long
UFW rally of 7,000 farm workers in Watsonville, California, September 15, demanding a union contract, better wages, and improved working conditions.

dividual strawberry has to be picked by hand from the two foot tall plants and that the berries are fragile. Estimates of the total number of farm workers in California today run as high as 1 million.

At its peak in 1970 the UFW had 80,000 members. Its membership now is in the range of 25,000, up 5,000 from a few years ago. In May, the union signed a contract

Continued on Page 15

The FBI's war on Native Americans

The FBI Files, 103 pages; 8 1/2 x 11 format; compiled by the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Lawrence, Kansas; \$5.00.

BY BILL KALMAN

DES MOINES, Iowa — On June 26, 1975, the US government's war against the American Indian Movement (AIM) came to a head. Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), backed up by state troopers, sheriff's deputies, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) police, and local vigilantes advanced onto Indian land near Oglala, South Dakota. Using the pretext of looking for a man whom they accused of theft and assault,

sas, Peltier is an internationally-known figure who remains unbroken and outspoken in defense of Native American rights.

The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (LPDC) has recently published *The FBI Files*, a booklet featuring some of the government files on Peltier and AIM that were secured through the Freedom of Information Act.

Although the FBI is still withholding over 6,000 pages of related documents, the files that were released clearly reveal the dirty war that federal cops conducted against Native Americans who dared to fight for justice and dignity.

After the 72-day occupation of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, in February 1973 — also site of another infamous government massacre of Native Americans in 1890 — the FBI's campaign against AIM went into high gear. A May 1973 FBI memo to field offices advises, "Where evidence of extremist activity or involvement by a [AIM] chapter is determined or suspected, institute full and continuing investigation thereof to determine its activities, leaders, membership, and finances."

FBI disruption program against AIM

This kind of directive was part of the FBI's COINTELRO (Counter Intelligence Program), which a successful lawsuit filed by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance helped expose. The lawsuit revealed the full scope of the FBI's disruption activities directed against Black nationalists, student anti-Vietnam war groups, and socialists. COINTELPRO actually grew out of the government attempts to disrupt the labor movement prior to World War II.

But the FBI did more than simply spy on AIM. The cop agency organized violent attacks against the organization. The government trained and financed a terrorist paramilitary outfit that functioned on Indian lands. Appropriately called GOON (Guardians of the Oglala Nation), this gang of thugs operated as the private police of Tribal Chairperson Dick Wilson.

The FBI Files documents the murders of more than 60 AIM members, supporters, and family members by GOON between April 1973 and July 1976 in Pine Ridge. Many more were beaten, wounded, or simply disappeared.

GOON leader Duane Brewer bragged about his connections during Peltier's trial: "We had a lot of visitors, you know, that would say, 'I want to meet with three or four of your people for a short meeting,'" he said. "And you'd go to their room with this big suitcase and [they would] show you a bunch of weapons, grenades, plastic explosives, deadcord blasting caps, whatever."

Besides using GOON against AIM activists, the U.S. government maintained a virtual army of FBI agents, federal marshals, and BIA cops around the Pine Ridge reservation beginning in early 1975.

An FBI position paper written two months before the shoot out was entitled "The Use of Special Agents of the FBI in a Paramilitary Law Enforcement Operation in the Indian Country." This memo to the Attorney

General's office complained that the "FBI encountered extreme problems... in adapting to a paramilitary role. The FBI... had to be equipped with military equipment, including Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs), M-16s, automatic infantry weapons, chemical weapons, steel helmets, gas masks, body armor, illuminated flares, military clothing and rations."

Why FBI assumed paramilitary role

The memo explains why it was necessary for the FBI to assume a paramilitary role. "On a number of occasions, the Acting Director and officials of the FBI requested the [Gerald Ford] Administration and the Department [of Justice] to consider the use of troops at Wounded Knee... the government concluded that such use would be undesirable because... the use of Army troops against these Indians might be misinterpreted by the press and some citizens."

Three days after the 1975 FBI attack at Pine Ridge, a memo instructed special agents in South Dakota to "resolve any inconsistencies" in their stories, so setting in motion a government cover up. Though the FBI at one point thought as many as 47 people were involved in the shootings, they quickly began to focus on one. "The one individual that appears to have been identified by more witnesses than any other is FBI fugitive Leonard Peltier."

In fact, in August 1976, the government dropped its case against another AIM activist indicted along with Peltier, "so that the full prosecutive weight of the federal government could be directed against Leonard Peltier," the government documents state.

The FBI Files also reveals how the secret police analyzed earlier trials that resulted in acquittals for two AIM activists charged in the agents' deaths to figure how to successfully win a conviction at Peltier's second trial. Part of the FBI's tactics included intimidating and coercing two men, Norman Brown and Wish Draper, into falsely testifying against Peltier.

Though the government was successful in finally getting Peltier convicted, with every passing year his trial sentence and 20-year incarceration have become more revealed for what they are: a frame-up orchestrated by the federal government and its secret police.

The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee is organizing an executive clemency campaign to press President William Clinton to pardon Peltier.

The FBI Files, along with books like Peter Mathiessen's *In the Spirit of Crazy Horse* distributed by Penguin Press, and *COINTELPRO: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom* published by Pathfinder Press, show the lengths the capitalist class will go to in order to protect their profit system. In the end, the employing class and its government stand exposed as the violent criminals they are.

To find out more about the LPDC campaign to free Peltier, and to order *The FBI Files*, contact the group at P.O. Box 583, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Tel: (913) 842-5774. E-mail: LPDC@idir.net

Growers demolish housing for farm workers

As the economic crisis in Mexico has deepened, more and more toilers come across the border seeking work. The growers in California have responded to an increased labor pool by trying to cut their housing and transportation costs. Particularly acute is the housing shortage for farm workers.

In the Salinas Valley alone, farm-worker housing fell 60 percent in the last two decades.

Travis Pitt, deputy director of the state Department of Housing and Community Development claims that each year there are "fewer and fewer migrant camps and more workers living in garages, under bridges, in chicken huts..."

Grower Manuel Cunha told the newspaper *Fresno Bee* that the demolition of housing by the employers stems from their having "had it with burdensome regulations, costs, and repairs of worker destruction."

As a result more of the smaller Central Valley towns and even larger cities like Fresno have become home to farm workers. "They live along canals, under trees, in garages," the Mayor of Parlier told the newspaper.

— N.S.

BOOK REVIEW

the cops descended on the small town in the Pine Ridge Indian reservation and opened fire. At the peak of the assault more than 250 armed attackers surrounded the Oglala compound.

During the shoot-out, Joseph Stuntz, a young Native man was killed. No one was ever charged in his death. But the FBI organized the biggest manhunt in its history to find the "killers" of two of its agents who died of gunshots on the site.

Eventually, four men were indicted for the agents' deaths. Of the four, one was released due to lack of evidence, and two were tried and acquitted for acting in self-defense. The fourth, Leonard Peltier, was improperly extradited from Canada, indicted, and brought to trial. Peltier was found not guilty of the deaths by an all-white jury in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in the summer of 1976.

The government, however, was determined to smash the AIM leadership. It succeeded in forcing a second trial in Fargo, North Dakota, less than a year later. On April 18, 1977, Peltier was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder and sentenced to two consecutive life terms.

Today, although he remains incarcerated in the federal prison in Leavenworth, Kan-

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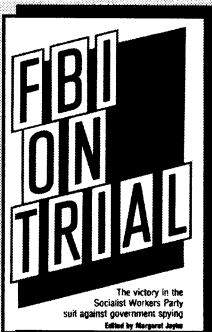
FBI ON TRIAL

The Victory in the Socialist Workers Party Suit Against Government Spying
Edited by Margaret Jayko

The victory in the case fought from 1973 to 1987 "increases the space for politics, expands the de facto use of the Bill of Rights, increases the confidence of working people that you can be political and hold the deepest convictions against the government and it's your right to do so and act upon them" — from the introduction. \$17.95

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Bronx cop goes on trial for killing of youth

BY AMY HUSK
AND PACO SÁNCHEZ

BRONX, New York — On September 11, the trial of police officer Francis Livoti opened here. The Bronx cop is charged with “criminally negligent homicide” in the chokehold death of 29-year-old Anthony Baez. The charges were brought and are being prosecuted by the Bronx District Attorney.

Baez was playing football with his three brothers in front of the family’s home in the Bronx at 1:30 in the morning on December 22, 1994, when their football bounced off one of the two police cars parked on the deserted street. Livoti ordered the brothers to stop playing and then put David Baez under arrest. When Anthony protested and demanded to know what the charges were, Livoti arrested him.

In the course of the arrest, the police officer choked Anthony Baez to death.

All the cops who have testified deny that Livoti used the illegal chokehold and claim that Baez died of an asthma attack. This lie was exposed in the first days of the trial. Several medical experts described Baez’s asthma condition, as well as the severe damage and internal bleeding around his neck found during the autopsy.

The witnesses included the doctor who tried to revive him in the emergency room, the forensic pathologist who performed the autopsy, a specialist in asthma, and a specialist in chokeholds and deaths under police custody. Their testimony pointed to a unanimous and unambiguous conclusion: Anthony Baez died of asphyxiation, not asthma.

The 46th police precinct that Livoti belongs to has a reputation for brutality, including murders by cops. One of the people attending the trial is Margarita Rosario. Her son, Anthony Rosario, and nephew, Hilton Vega, were shot 22 times in the back and sides by cops from the 46th precinct in January 1995. The cops have not yet been brought to trial in that case. In another incident reported in the September 20 *New York Daily News*, 41-year-old Jorge Tirse was beaten to death at the 46th precinct after being arrested for driving with a suspended license.

Livoti himself has a long history of brutality complaints, including a 1989 incident where he choked a young Black man and beat him with a flashlight. In 1990 he punched Manuel Bordoy several times, breaking his jaw. Assault charges were filed against Livoti in 1993 after he choked a 16-year-old who had been arrested for driving his go-cart on the street.

While all these incidents have been reported in the press, the judge in the case denied a motion by the prosecution to present them as evidence.

Every day the Baez family has been joined in the courtroom by activists against police brutality, family members of other victims, and other youth and workers. “Coming here is very important,” said Margarita Rosario. “We can learn from this trial and be better prepared to fight later.”

Doris Peebles, who works at the court-

house, went inside the courtroom the first day. “I came because I thought this was resolved and it’s not,” she said. “He [Livoti] shouldn’t walk. We have to keep fighting the system.”

Cops and supporters of Livoti have also filled their half of the courtroom everyday, as well as leaders of the Patrolman’s Benevolent Association, which provided the lawyer, Marshall Trager, to defend Livoti.

Livoti has chosen to waive his right to a jury trial. The *New York Post* defended the cop’s choice in a September 16 editorial, saying that in the Bronx “the population has difficulty showing more support for the police than it does for its large criminal population.” The *Post* editors also complained that Livoti would not get “a fair hearing” from a jury in the Bronx “because of the intensity of the anti-police bias infecting members of the jury pool.”

As the trial was going on another young man was killed by New York cops, this time in Harlem. In the early morning hours of September 19, 20-year-old Joseph Stevens was shot in the neck by a cop in plain clothes on 127th street. At a news conference later that day, department chief Louis Anemone defended the killing, saying he wished there were more cops on the force like the one who shot Stevens.

“All united is the only way to fight police brutality, not the family alone,” said



Militant/ Margrethe Siem

New York march, November, 1995 demands justice for Anthony Baez.

Patricia Baez, sister of Anthony Baez. The family has been working with Richie Perez of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights to mobilize support in the courtroom. They have been issuing daily bulletins summarizing the day’s testimony and encour-

aging groups to “adopt a day in court.” The Congress can be reached at (212) 614-5355 or in the internet rperez@boricuanet.org

Amy Husk is a member of United Transportation Union Local 1445 in New Jersey.

Chrysler workers in Canada ratify contract

BY GARY WATSON

TORONTO — The 12,600 members of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) have ratified a new three-year contract with Chrysler Canada Ltd. The vote was 85 percent in favor of the deal agreed between CAW tops and the company.

The tentative agreement was reached September 17, less than two hours before a scheduled strike at three assembly plants and two parts facilities.

Chrysler spokesperson Othmar Stein said he was “very pleased” with the accord.

“The Canadian Auto Workers ... have done little to stop the industry’s drive to outsource work and rationalize production,” said an article in the September 19 *Globe and Mail*. The company maintains the right to ignore promises of job security in the event of a recession or slump in auto sales.

The agreement calls for wage increases of 2 percent per year with an additional 20 cents per hour for those in skilled trades. The cost-of-living allowance was improved slightly as were company contributions to the income-support program for laid-off workers. CAW members will receive an extra 10 days paid absence over 3 years.

In the talks union officials sought guar-

antees against contracting out of union work, or outsourcing. Auto companies have eliminated thousands of union-organized jobs over the past decade by re-engineering factory production and purchasing more parts and services from outside suppliers, where often non-union workers receive lower pay rates and benefits.

Chrysler currently outsources about 66 percent, the most of the Big Three (Chrysler, Ford and General Motors) auto companies. According to an industry consulting firm, Harbour and Associates, Chrysler has had the highest per vehicle profit of any automaker in North America for three consecutive years.

In what union tops call “ground-breaking,” Chrysler promises to “not outsource any major operations,” to create a new union job for every job lost to an outside supplier and to “not close or sell in whole or part” any of its plants for the life of the contract.

Union officials call this “work ownership.” CAW National Secretary-Treasurer Jim O’Neil said this “means that workers will have a say in maintaining jobs in their community when the work they do is productive, high quality, at reasonable cost and

profitable.”

The *Toronto Star* newspaper, however, reports that the company can move to scrap any commitment to job security because of an “act of God, catastrophic circumstances or significant economic decline.”

Globe and Mail said the accord “does appear to strike a blow against outsourcing.” It continued, “But getting the outsourcing agreement was relatively easy because, analysts and Chrysler management say, it won’t really affect how the company does business.” Chrysler has already carried out most of the outsourcing it needed and has projected investments at all three of its assembly plants. “Our plans were pretty much already in place,” Chrysler spokesman Walter McCall told *Globe and Mail*.

In the information distributed to union members at ratification meetings, union officials admit that “jobs will still depend on fluctuations in the market and, in the absence of economic growth, technological change will mean fewer workers will be needed to make the products.”

“I don’t feel any more secure today than I did three weeks ago,” remarked an engine line worker at the Bramalea assembly plant.

In the weeks leading up to the expiration of auto contracts, Local 707 members at Ford in Oakville, Ontario, successfully beat back the firings of four CAW members. The company accused them of being “ringleaders” of a mass refusal to work twenty minutes of overtime in temperatures over 30°C (86°F) on the evening of August 22. The fight halted production for two hours on August 23.

The Chrysler Bramalea body shop lost four production hours in a similar fight over heat. In an effort to prevent possible stockpiling, on the weekend of September 14 and 15, Local 444 members at Chrysler in Windsor refused overtime.

The Chrysler settlement will now be used as the pattern for negotiations affecting 11,700 workers at Ford Canada and 28,500 at General Motors (GM). GM profits reached \$1.39 billion. The company outsources the least of the Big Three and has put two parts plants in Canada up for sale and is threatening to close a third.

GM workers have been gearing up for a fight for several months. Last spring several hundred rallied at the company headquarters to protest the announced sale of the parts plants. At the same time, CAW Local 222 officials advised members to begin putting money aside for any work stoppage. Workers have been sporting T-shirts and buttons that read “GM ’96. Looking For a Settlement. Prepared to Fight.”

Gary Watson is a member of CAW Local 1285 and works at the Chrysler Bramalea Assembly plant in Toronto.

CIA drug report rocks L.A.

Continued from Page 9

Blandón was later arrested, served short time, and hired on the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), where he remains today, having thus far earned \$166,000 for services rendered. Meneses is now serving time in a Nicaraguan prison for narcotics trafficking.

In Webb’s journalistic trek, when Blandón, Meneses, and their ilk wheel and deal, local beat cops become clueless, the FBI turns a blind eye, the DEA gumshoes lose interest, witnesses go deaf, dumb, and blind, files are classified or vanish, and government agencies invoke “national security.”

The White House’s “war on drugs” Webb said, was, in fact, “drugs for Washington’s war.” Blandón recently defended his coke-selling in testimony at a dope trial in San Diego. “There is a saying that the ends justify means,” the ex-contra stated, “and that’s what [CIA operative] Bermudez told us in Honduras, OK? So we started raising money for the Contra revolution.”

In their heyday Blandón, Meneses, and others sold 100 kilos of discounted cocaine a week in South Central, which Webb states, “helped spark a crack explosion in urban America.” A kilo of powdered cocaine is turned into three or more kilos of rock, or crack, by adding an anesthetic called procaine.

There is a widening discussion among working people here as knowledge of the revelations spreads, fueling outrage against the government.

At the Arco refinery in Carson, where a number of Black and Latino workers are employed, the scandal is a common topic of discussion. “We’ve known for years,” a middle-aged Black worker said, “that Blacks don’t have planes or boats to bring cocaine up from Colombia. Somebody like the CIA had to be involved.”

One worker debated other unionists, questioning just how involved the CIA was in the drug sales.

On the ramp at Northwest Airlines, there is “a gut level feeling of disgust among a number of workers,” one International Association of Machinists member said, “based on the hypocrisy of the government. The ‘war on drugs,’ ‘just say no,’ and then this. A lot of people don’t know who the contras are. People want to read the [Webb] articles.”

Tavis Smiley, a local Black political commentator, was speaking for more than himself when he told *New Times*, “You can’t spend too much time digesting this because it makes you beyond angry.”

“It makes you... less American,” he said.

Eli Green is member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-675 at Arco Refinery in Los Angeles.

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London cops kill Irish man

Continued from front page coverage.

The Sun newspaper reported that an ambulance crew was prevented by cops from attending O'Neill for 30 minutes. O'Neill, who was born in Britain to Irish immigrants, died later in hospital. Police used so much CS tear gas in the raid that it took four hours for it to clear out of the boarding house, where several Irish workers lodged. Two other men who lived there were forced by police to sprawl on the street at gun-point and stripped naked before being stuffed into boiler suits, according to *The Sun*.

Having earlier suggested that O'Neill had been armed, the press rapidly changed their tune. "Police ready for backlash after unarmed terrorist is killed — Why we had to shoot bomber," read one headline in the right-wing *Daily Mail*. The newspaper drew a parallel with the British army execution of three IRA volunteers in Gibraltar in 1988, an incident that prompted worldwide outrage. In this case the media have made a special effort to demonize O'Neill to justify his execution. "He was going to blow up the channel tunnel today," claimed the *Mirror* on the day of the killing. Press photographs showed the young man holding a copy of *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, the newspaper published by Sinn Fein, the leading Irish republican party.

O'Neill's brother and four others, including an airport worker, were also arrested. All five were held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, first enacted by a Labour government in the 1970s. The law allows police to hold suspects for up to seven days without access to a lawyer.

In an action organized by Fúascailt, which campaigns on behalf of Irish political prisoners, protesters gathered outside Paddington Green police station September 24 to condemn the killing and call for the scrapping of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Peter Middleton, speaking on behalf of the campaign, attacked the "trial by media" of the arrested men, none of whom had been charged with any crime. He compared it to the frame-ups of the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four in the 1970s.

In Belfast, there have been few developments reported in the talks on the future of Ireland being carried out under the chairmanship of former U.S. Senator George Mitchell. Sinn Fein has been excluded from the talks, which began June 10, in face of London's demand that the IRA restore a cease-fire before republicans will be included at the table.

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams expressed "regret" at the killing of O'Neill. "The onus is on the British government to build confidence in a new reconstructed peace process," he said.

British Prime Minister John Major declared that he was "absolutely delighted" at the police actions.

As the early celebrations by cops and ruling-class politicians died down, the London *Evening Standard* commented September 24, "The war goes on."

Meanwhile, republican activist Colin Duffy, 28, who had been framed for the murder of an ex-soldier in 1993, was released in Belfast September 24 after his conviction was quashed on appeal. "I spent three years and three months in jail and today proves the lack of justice here," Duffy said.

Two key witnesses in his original trial were ruled to have been unreliable. Lindsay Robb, who claimed to identify Duffy as the killer, has since been convicted in a Scottish court of gun-running for the Ulster Volunteer Force, a pro-British paramilitary group. The judge in Duffy's trial had described Robb as a man of "obvious honesty."

from *Pathfinder*

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MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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Prop. 209 — How to fight the anti-affirmative action measure. Panel discussion (Speakers to be announced). Fri., Oct. 4, 8 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel (213) 380-9460.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Defend Immigrant Rights — Support October 12 March on Washington. Panel discussion with Gary Cohen, Socialist Workers Party, other immigrant rights activists. Fri., Oct. 4, 8 p.m. 780 Tremont St. (corner of Mass Ave). Donation: \$4 (low income \$2). Tel (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

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Equal Rights for Immigrants: Build the October 12 March. A panel discussion. Fri., Octo-

ber 4, 7 p.m. 7414 Woodward Ave. Donation \$4 / \$1 for students, strikers, and unemployed. Tel: (313) 875-0100.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Equal Rights for Immigrants: Build the October 12 March. A panel discussion. Fri., October 4, 7:30 p.m. 59 4th Avenue (corner of Bergen). Donation \$4. There will also be refreshments. Tel: (718) 399-7257.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Lesser Evil Politics: Is this the Only Strategy for Youth in the '96 Elections? Panelists include Becca Arenson, Young Socialist organizer and participant in the Cuba Youth Exchange; John Ottomanelli, participant in the Cuba Youth Exchange and recent demonstrations at the

Democratic Party Convention; and Janice Gallegher, Swarthmore student and participant in demonstrations at the Republican Party Convention. Sun., Oct. 6., 4 p.m. 1906 South Street. Donation \$4. Tel (215) 546-8218.

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NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

The Spanish Civil War: Are There Lessons for Today? Speaker: Lar Ericson, Communist League. Fri., October 4, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Donation \$3 Tel: (9) 379-075.

Israeli soldiers fire on Palestinians

Continued from front page

is where al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock are located, one of the main worship sites for people of the Islamic faith around the world, and a symbol of the Palestinian struggle to regain sovereignty over East Jerusalem. "Tel Aviv is opening the tunnel to create more facts on the ground and try to seal Jerusalem as an Israeli city," Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian legislature, told CNN in an interview.

The PLO authority and other Palestinian organizations helped organize protests from Hebron to Nablus in the West Bank. In Ramallah and Bethlehem, Palestinian university students gathered and marched near Israeli army checkpoints just outside the Palestinian-controlled city centers.

Under the limited self-rule agreement between Tel Aviv and the PLO, Palestinian forces have some governing authority inside dozens of cities throughout the West Bank. But the Israeli troops still surround these cities, control roads between them, and remain in full charge over the majority of the land and water resources of the territory.

The Palestinian youth hurled stones at Israeli troops with slingshots and used makeshift armor of steel trash cans on wheels to defend themselves. They stood their ground through hundreds of rounds of tear gas, pressing scarves or onions on their noses to ward off the fumes. But they were

cut down under Israeli fire, most with rubber bullets and many others with live ammunition from M-16 assault rifles.

"When they started at us it was like rain," said Mustafa Barghouti, a physician at the scene of the Ramallah clash. "I can tell you I saw death. It was hundreds and hundreds of bullets around us." Palestinian witnesses showed reporters two hilltops inside the Ramallah boundary where they said Israeli soldiers drove protesters, and then strafed the streets below for 90 minutes. Palestinian police then responded to the ongoing Israeli fire against unarmed civilians.

PLO leader Yasir Arafat said in Gaza that Tel Aviv's disputed opening of the tunnel marked "the Judaization of Jerusalem." He said that "East Jerusalem is our capital and this has been occupied since 1967."

Netanyahu has stated clearly that his government will not even discuss ceding any part of Jerusalem to Palestinian control. He said in June that there is no chance of a negotiated settlement over the city, whose eastern half is populated in its majority by Arabs. During his three months in office Israeli police and the army have stepped up demolition of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem, and have aided Zionist thugs who are pushing their way — one apartment at a time — into Arab neighborhoods.

U.S. officials were uneasy about the implications of Tel Aviv's decision to go ahead with the tunnel. "We were not informed in

advance of this activity," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau said.

Meanwhile, Israeli jet fighters again fired rockets into southern Lebanon September 25. Tel Aviv says it was targeting bases of the Hezbollah guerrilla forces, who are fighting against the occupation of the southern portion of their country by Israeli forces.

CALENDAR

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Are you fed up because there is no real debate on issues of peace and economic justice? The Coalition for a Real Debate is sponsoring a rally and march that coincides with the official Presidential "debate" between Clinton and Dole being held Oct. 6. Rally 5-7:30 p.m.; march to Civic Center 7:30-8 p.m. where "debate" is taking place; 8-9 p.m. demonstrate and leaflet. Sponsored by the Coalition for a Real Debate. Bushnell Park. For more information call (860) 522-5995.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Cuba Today: A Report on Its Progress Despite U.S. Economic Blockade. Hear Johana Tablada and Eugenio Martínez, third secretaries at Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C. Friday, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by Cuba Support Coalition. Friends Center, 15th and Cherry Sts. For information call (215) 482-4685.

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Tart as a lemon — In a test, Del Monte installed a device in a London bus stop shelter which, when someone enters, releases a bit of the fragrance of Citrus Twist, a new soft



Harry Ring

drink allegedly made from fresh lemons and limes. Sniffed Mabel Pierce, 69, "It smells just like my husband's armpits."

'Stability' defined — In the

three years since Israel opened "peace" negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization, foreign investments in Israel have tripled — from \$782 million in 1993 to almost \$2.2 billion in 1995. Meanwhile, almost none of the aid promised the PLO for West Bank and Gaza self-rule has materialized.

The Great Hamster Society — In real dollars, millions of middle-aged U.S. workers are making less than they did in 1979, a federal commission found. Declared a spokesperson: "It's as if workers are running in place. The fact that American families are working more for less pay helps explain why they're

main anxious about the future."

Growth industry — Temp agencies are doing well providing blue collar workers. The *San Francisco Chronicle* points to Labor Ready, a company that's been opening inner city hiring halls offering jobs that pay by the day. It says Labor Ready's stock has nearly tripled in value. No mention of what the workers get.

Are tumors contagious? — For decades, an Englishwoman was a conscientious housekeeper. When she got fed up and stopped doing it, her husband saw it as a personality change and insisted she see a doc-

tor. Tests disclosed a benign brain tumor. It was removed, but she still said no to housework. A neurologist opined that the pressure of the tumor on her brain may have changed her personality for good.

Gutter sexism — The *Times* of London headlined the above story, "Lazy wife has her head examined."

The 'great equalizer' — Using the Internet will become increasingly expensive and exclusive, says cyberspace expert Robert Silverman. He notes that "gated communities" are already being created that will exclude low-income surfers. "That the Net politically

empowers the little guy is also a myth," he says.

A really great society — "Children in U.S. account for half of chronically poor" — News headline.

Meanwhile... — Neiman-Marcus is offering a pair of Prado's Mary Jane shoes for \$515, plus a matching handbag for \$630.

Just being efficient — In England, Severn Trent Water was fined £175,000 for dumping chemicals into the River Wye, killing 33,000 young salmon. It was the company's 34th conviction since it was privatized in 1990.

Malcolm X speaks: 'It's the ballot or the bullet'

The following are excerpts from "The Ballot or the Bullet," a speech Malcolm X gave on April 3, 1964, at the Cory Methodist Church in Cleveland, Ohio. The meeting, sponsored by the Cleveland chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality, took the form of a symposium entitled "The Negro Revolt — What Comes Next?" The speech is contained in *Malcolm X Speaks*, published by Pathfinder. It is copyright © Pathfinder Press. The excerpts are reprinted by permission.

BY MALCOLM X

If we don't do something real soon, I think you'll have to agree that we're going to be forced either to use the ballot or the bullet. It's one or the other in 1964. It isn't that time is running out — time has run out! 1964 threatens to be the most explosive year

BOOK OF THE WEEK

America has ever witnessed. The most explosive year. Why? It's also a political year. It's the year when all of the white politicians will be back in the so-called Negro community jiving you and me for some votes. The year when all of the white political crooks will be right back in your and my community with their false promises, building up our hopes for a letdown, with their trickery and their treachery, with their false promises which they don't intend to keep. As they nourish these dissatisfactions it can only lead to one thing, an explosion....

Don't let anybody tell you anything about the odds are against you. If they draft you, they send you to Korea and make you face 800 million Chinese. If you can be brave over there, you can be brave right here. These odds aren't as great as those odds. And if you fight here, you will at least know what you're fighting for.

I'm not a politician, not even a student of politics; in fact, I'm not a student of much of anything. I'm not a Democrat, I'm not a Republican, and I don't even consider myself an American. If you and I were Americans, there'd be no problem....

Well, I am one who doesn't believe in excluding myself. I'm not going to sit at your table and watch you eat, with nothing on my plate, and call myself a diner. Sitting at the table doesn't make you a diner, unless you eat some of what's on that plate. Being here in America doesn't make you an American. Being born here in America doesn't make you an American. Why, if birth made you American, you wouldn't need any legislation, you wouldn't need any amendments to the Constitution, you wouldn't be faced with civil-rights filibustering in Washington, D.C., right now....

No, I'm not an American. I'm one of the 22 million black people who are the victims of Americanism. One of the 22 million black people who are the victims of democracy, nothing but disguised hypocrisy. So, I'm not standing here speaking to you as an American, or a patriot, or a flag-saluter, or a flag-waver-no, not I. I'm speaking as a victim of this American system. And I see America through the eyes of the victim. I don't see any American dream; I see an American nightmare....

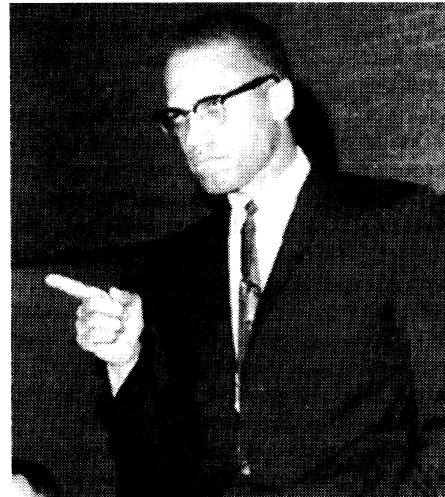
When white people are evenly divided, and black people have a bloc of votes of their own, it is left up to them to determine who's going to sit in the White House and who's going to be in the dog house.

It was the black man's vote that put the present administration [of Democratic president Lyndon Johnson] in Washington, D.C. Your vote, your dumb vote, your ignorant vote, your wasted vote put in an administration in Washington, D.C., that has seen fit to pass every kind of legislation imaginable, saving you until last, then filibustering on top of that. And your and my leaders have the audacity to run around clapping their hands and talk about how much progress we're making. And what a good president we have.

If he wasn't good in Texas, he sure can't be good in Washington, D.C. Because Texas is a lynch state. It is in the same breath as Mississippi, no different; only they lynch you in Texas with a Texas accent and lynch you in Mississippi with a Mississippi accent. And these Negro leaders have the audacity to go and have some coffee in the White House with a Texan, a Southern cracker — that's all he is — and then come out and tell you and me that he's going to be better for us because, since he's from the South, he knows how to deal with the Southerners. What kind of logic is that?....

In this present administration they have in the House of Representatives 257 Democrats to only 177 Republicans. They control two-thirds of the House vote. Why can't they pass something that will help you and me? In the Senate, there are 67 senators who are of the Democratic Party. Only 33 of them are Republicans. Why, the Democrats have got the government sewed up, and you're the one who sewed it up for them. And what have they given you for it? Four years in office, and just now getting around to some civil-rights legislation. Just now, after everything else is gone, out of the way, they're going to sit down now and play with you all summer long — the same old giant con game that they call filibuster. All those are in cahoots together... They're playing that old con game. One of them makes believe he's for you, and he's got it fixed where the other one is so tight against you, he never has to keep his promise.

So it's time in 1964 to wake up. And



Malcolm X, Harlem, March 1964.

when you see them coming up with that kind of conspiracy, let them know your eyes are open. And let them know you got something else that's wide open too. It's got to be the ballot or the bullet. The ballot or the bullet. If you're afraid to use an expression like that, you should get on out of the country, you should get back in the cotton patch, you should get back in the alley.

They get all the Negro vote, and after they get it, the Negro gets nothing in return. All they did when they got to Washington was give a few big Negroes big jobs. Those big Negroes didn't need big jobs, they already had jobs. That's camouflage, that's trickery, that's treachery, window-dressing. I'm not trying to knock out the Democrats for the Republicans, we'll get to them in a minute. But it is true — you put the Democrats first and the Democrats put you last....

They have got a con game going on, a political con game, and you and I are in the middle. It's time for you and me to wake up and start looking at it like it is, and trying to understand it like it is; and then we can deal with it like it is.

The Dixiecrats in Washington, D.C., control the key committees that run the government. The only reason the Dixiecrats control these committees is because they have seniority. The only reason they have seniority is because they come from states where Negroes can't vote. This is not even a government that's based on democracy. It is not a government that is made up of representatives of the people. Half of the people in the South can't even vote....

This is pitiful. But it's not pitiful for us any longer; it's actually pitiful for the white man, because soon now, as the Negro awakens a little more and sees the vise that he's in, sees the bag that he's in, sees the real game that he's in, then the Negro's going to develop a new tactic....

When you keep the Democrats in power you keep the Dixiecrats in power....

The same government that you go abroad to fight for and die for is the government that is in a conspiracy to deprive you of your voting rights, deprive you of your economic opportunities, deprive you of decent housing, deprive you of decent education. You don't need to go to the employer alone, it is the government itself, the government of America, that is responsible for the oppression and exploitation and degradation of black people in this country. And you should drop it in their lap. This government has failed the Negro. This so-called democracy has failed the Negro. And all these white liberals have definitely failed the Negro.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interest of the Working People
Price 10¢
October 8, 1971

"illegal abortion" (exercising her constitutional right to control her own body). She faces a possible 20-year sentence for this "crime."

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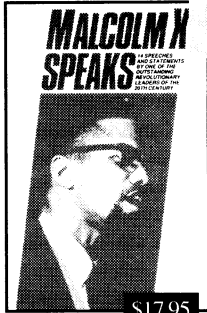
October 5, 1946

The largest, most militant and best organized student strike in Akron's history ended today with most of its demands won. Over 600 students of Central High School, supported by their parents and hundreds of students from other high schools took part in the five-day strike.

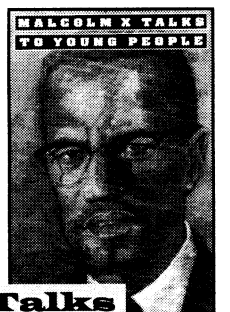
The immediate cause of the walkout was an abrupt increase of about 50 percent in food prices at the school cafeteria. When high-handed, dictatorial Principal J. Ray Stine refused to allow student spokesmen to state their grievances at an assembly, 100 students walked out.

All strikers have been readmitted except George Chomalou, their leading spokesman. He was summarily expelled two days before the walkout as a "troublemaker." He is strongly supported by the students, their parents, and numerous other people in the community. Leading CIO officials here are also being brought into the movement to reinstate Chomalou. The Board of Education is scheduled to hear his case September 30.

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NATO out of Yugoslavia now!

The elections in Bosnia were a sham organized by Washington under the boot of 60,000 NATO troops. They highlight the necessity for working people around the world to demand that the imperialist occupation force get out of Yugoslavia now.

The U.S. rulers used their military might to intervene in the Balkans last year in order to overthrow the workers state in Yugoslavia. Washington and its rivals in Bonn, Paris, and London seek to erase the social gains of the 1945 workers and peasants revolution in Yugoslavia and return the country to capitalist exploitation and imperialist domination.

The Dayton accord, rammed down the throats of the warring factions by the White House, was put together to crystallize the carving up of Bosnia and allow imperialist troops to pose as "peacekeepers." Using this agreement as cover, the imperialists hope to further divide working people in the region.

The NATO-sponsored elections had as a collateral goal legitimizing the nationalist gangs that started the slaughter in Bosnia. The chauvinist Bosnian Serb forces and their masters in Belgrade, the Croatian nationalists, and the ruling caste in Sarajevo are all fragments of the former centralized Stalinist regime that began the war to divide land, factories, and other economic resources in order to guarantee or enlarge their competing privileges. In doing so, they provided an opening to the imperialist powers to intervene.

The elections not only did not bring peace and stability to the Balkans, but registered the fact that the problems working people face have been exacerbated, and the U.S.-led occupation is about to be extended. Only a handful of Bosnia's more than 2 million refugees have returned to their homes for fear of reprisals. The Yankee troops have not embarked on any reconstruction of the republic as promised earlier. At the same time, Bonn and other capitalist powers have begun expelling Yugoslav refugees from

their countries. Meanwhile, the chairman of Bosnia's new three-member presidency, Alija Izetbegovic, who seeks to implement aspects of the imperialist agreement, has warned "a new war would start if Bosnia-Herzegovina fell apart."

U.S. officials are drawing up plans to politically justify Washington's occupation force remaining in Yugoslavia. The *New York Times* reported that Clinton administration officials have stated "for months that a follow-on peace-keeping force would be necessary on the ground in Bosnia." The masters of Wall Street still cannot rely on the chauvinist regimes in power to do the job — even after they gave them the stamp of 'democratic elections.' U.S. and other imperialist troops will have to take the Yugoslav working class on and smash it militarily before returning the country to the fold of the world market system.

The biggest danger to working people in Yugoslavia are the NATO troops themselves. U.S. defense secretary William Perry has already stated a willingness to use "air power" against the toilers of Yugoslavia if any "follow-on force is needed."

Working-class resistance to the imperialist occupation force and to the policies of the wanna-be-capitalist gangs in power will grow. Protests like the demonstration of 10,000 workers who marched in Nis, Yugoslavia, May 13 demanding back pay, are an example of this resistance. Other battles will be waged to halt deteriorating living standards worsened by the world capitalist depression.

The NATO troops are the biggest obstacle to Yugoslav workers and farmers in organizing such resistance and in the process gaining self-confidence to replace the bourgeois-minded regimes in the Yugoslav republics with their government.

That's why working people the world over should demand U.S. and other imperialist troops get out of Yugoslavia now!

TWA 'bomb' theory blown apart by facts

Continued from front page

sives are the same as those detected in microscopic quantities on two pieces of the TWA 800 wreckage lifted off the ocean floor.

This story rendered useless the only "evidence" the government and capitalist media have pointed to as proof that some "terrorist" blew the plane up with a bomb: minuscule traces of explosives discovered on the wreckage.

These facts were revealed after teams of federal investigators — complete with 100 Navy divers and sophisticated sonar equipment scouring the ocean floor every day for the past two months — have not been able to fish any evidence supporting the theory of a terrorist bombing.

The "discovery" ruffled feathers among government circles. "Setback in TWA Crash Inquiry Adds Urgency to the Search for Evidence of a Bomb," said the headline in a September 22 *New York Times* story. "For some investigators, who are still optimistic they will find evidence that a bomb brought down the jet, the revelation of the bomb-sniffing dog amounted to a stunning setback," the article said. "When he found out about it on Friday, one investigator said the news hit him like 'a punch in the gut.'"

Two days prior to the news about the bomb detecting dogs, the *Times* reported in a front-page article that investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) intend to do tests to show that the explosion could have been caused by a mechanical failure alone. This was announced after 70 percent of the plane had been retrieved from the ocean floor. As the *Times* reported, "The failure to find proof of a bombing, after more than two months, lends indirect credence to another theory, that an explosion in the Boeing 747's center fuel tank might have been sufficient to destroy the plane."

Probability of mechanical failure

While the big-business media has been peddling the government/company line that a bomb destroyed TWA Flight 800, very little attention has been given to the fact that Boeing 747 jets have a history of problems with fuel tanks. The only other time a 747 jet exploded in mid-air was in 1976. That plane was at the time owned by the Iranian military and exploded near Madrid. No cause was ever determined for this crash, but it was reported that lightning could have triggered an electrical spark from a fuel system pump.

A front-page article in the August 21 *Seattle Times* by the paper's aerospace reporter Byron Acohido detailed that incident. Once fuel vapors were ignited inside the wing, and after the wing skin was breached from an initial fire and explosion, the outboard engine snapped off leaving its fuse pins — fasteners designed to break if the aircraft pitched up or down too drastically — intact.

Acohido reported that the TWA Flight 800's two right engines were found separated from the right wing with the fuse pins from both engines still intact.

In the crash near Madrid in 1976, as the wing disintegrated, thousands of gallons of jet fuel spilled into the air, creating a highly combustible cloud of fuel vapor, which fed and multiplied the original explosion. In conclusion, Acohido stated that "officials have declined to say whether they are discussing the possibility of something akin to the Madrid disaster in the TWA 800 crash."

Following the 1976 crash, the FAA ordered 747 wings checked for fuel leaks. Most found leaks and the FAA ordered upgrades. But the TWA jet that crashed July 17 was owned by Iran's military and was exempt from civil aviation rules. Boeing spokesman Doug Webb would not say whether the fuel system upgrades were made once the plane was repurchased by TWA in December 1976. Just before the July 17 crash, the TWA pilots reported "an erratic fuel gauge," in a statement recorded in the jet's black box. This fact has been buried in most news stories.

In discussions this reporter had with fellow unionists at JFK Airport in New York, most workers did not buy the idea that the plane crashed as a result of a bomb. Many were suspicious of the government investigation and commented that some type of a cover-up of information is underway.

In order to bolster declining public confidence in aviation safety, and to justify government support for employer cutbacks that undermine aircraft maintenance, many airplane crashes remain "unsolved."

On Sept. 8, 1994, USAir Flight 427 crashed in Pittsburgh killing all 132 passengers and crew aboard. For a long time, the crash was not explained after the initial investigation. Now, two years later, *New York Newsday* reported in a small news item in its September 22 issue that "recent laboratory tests suggest dirty hydraulic fluid may have caused a rudder component to fail on the USAir flight."

The article continued, "The tests, which were suggested by an independent panel of aviation experts formed by the National Transportation Safety Board, revealed that the main hydraulic power unit in a 737's rudder can jam under certain conditions."

Nancy Rosenstock is a member of the International Association of Mackinists and works for TWA at JFK Airport in New York.

Equal rights for immigrants

Continued from front page

cops with more powers to intimidate and threaten undocumented workers. It denies millions of those who have papers basic social benefits, even health care for those with AIDS.

While vowing to veto a measure that would allow states to bar children of undocumented immigrants from public schools, President William Clinton has signed several laws already that go further than ever before in attacking immigrants rights — from his "antiterror" law to the recent Welfare Reform Act. The differences among bourgeois politicians over the immigration law are entirely within the framework of scapegoating immigrants, and attempting to turn this section of the working class into people without rights. The current debate ranges from Republican Robert Dole's attempt to include the provision denying education to undocumented children, to liberal Democrat Edward Kennedy's call for "better methods to deny jobs to illegal immigrants."

The working-class must clearly state the opposite: No human being is illegal. The chauvinist "America first" line pushed by all these ruling-class spokesmen is used to divide and weaken the working class and soften its resistance to the onslaught of capitalist austerity.

The working class in the United States is becoming more international, and for this reason stronger, as toilers from around the world seek some relief from the devastation

the world capitalist depression is causing in their homelands. The United States of America is becoming more of a Mexican country every day. Hallelujah!

For the capitalist class, national borders are defined by its currency and the area within which the bourgeoisie's army is based to defend that currency. And they want workers to believe we have a stake in defending their prerogatives and national boundaries. But the working class has no country. We are all wage-slaves for bosses who want us to compete among ourselves in order to steal the maximum surplus value from the wealth we produce and the employers appropriate.

The more porous these borders are today the better for workers in the United States and other imperialist citadels. Immigration brings together workers who have been through different experiences, and makes it more possible to unite and cut through the chauvinist demagogues used to divide us. It increases the possibilities to organize an international fight for jobs for all and other demands to defend labor from the capitalist exploiters.

The recent rallies of the strawberry pickers in California demanding a union contract and better wages and working conditions are a good example.

Lets get out in the streets October 12 and demand:

Equal rights for all immigrants!

Stop the deportations!

For a world without borders!

What's behind debate of rap artist's murder?

BY BRIAN TAYLOR

There has been much hype in the media about the recent death of Tupac Amaru Shakur. The rap artist was fatally wounded in a September 7 drive-by shooting and died a week later. Conservative commentators have used his killing as an occasion to fire some more shots in what rightist politician Patrick Buchanan has termed the "culture war," by portraying rap music and Black youth who listen to it as the cause of crime. Others, including petty bourgeois leaders in

AS I SEE IT

the Black community, have tried to portray Shakur as some kind of revolutionary — another Malcolm X. Both are dead wrong.

Thomas Sowell, a conservative columnist who is Black wrote a piece in the September 20 *New York Post*, where he abhorred the "barbarism being celebrated and marketed to impressionable and immature minds." He said that "the poorest and least educated segment of the Black population," who listen to this sort of music, glorify "savage and self destructive behavior." He then argued, "The 1960s were a crucial decade, not only because it made Black cultural patterns sacrosanct, but also because it saw the burgeoning of a welfare state which subsidized behavior that would otherwise have had a much higher cost to those who engaged in it." A photo of the late artist accompanied the column with the caption "Tupac Shakur: A loser's culture."

An article in the September 17 *Wall Street Journal* described Shakur as a "thug rapper."

Farm workers demand contract

Continued from Page 10

with Bruce Church Inc., the distributors of Red Coach lettuce. This five-year contract, which covers some 400 workers, culminated an 18-year battle. The Watsonville/Salinas area is the heart of the California strawberry industry and the UFW's organizing drive began here last summer.

Strawberry workers get paid in the range of \$8,000 a year for the six-day and up to 12-hours-per-day workweek during the March to October picking season. Most strawberry workers haven't seen a significant raise in a decade. The union is also demanding protection from arbitrary firings, clean drinking water and bathrooms in the fields, health insurance, and an end to sexual harassment of female workers.

It painted a picture of unruly, undisciplined, dangerous animals when speaking of Tupac Shakur, Biggie Smalls, Snoop Doggy Dogg, and other performers. "As the saying goes, if you lie down with Dogg, you get up with fleas." Then the article pointed fingers at the producers and business managers of various record labels, saying that Marion Knight of Death Row Records "recruits the talent, negotiates the deals, brainstorms the film projects and bails his stars out of jail," perpetuating this apparently unique phenomena.

Welfare and 'gangsta-rap'

It is no accident that Sowell brings the question of welfare into this discussion. He, in effect, claims that the social safety net for those relegated to the ranks of the permanent army of the unemployed by capitalism breeds the "attitudes" of violence. It's the same culture war arguments Buchanan presents, only with a Black conservative twist.

What is at stake here? The ruling class of the United States and the parties and newspapers that are chattel to them have a big problem: the bosses can't make profits any more at a satisfactory rate. They have "downsized" and shut down factories to the limit. Now they are undercutting basic democratic rights and slashing social services that workers won in struggle; rights that in the eyes of many come with being human. This will not pass without resistance. But since one of our biggest weapons as working people is unity of our class, the employers aim to keep us divided. Workers are forced to compete against each other for survival and blame each other in a system where better economic conditions for our class and a stable future are impossible.

The culture war, in a nutshell, is the ideological preparation by the bosses' class to make us think that certain layers of the working class are responsible for bringing the nation down due to lack of moral values. It is a bourgeois tool to soften labor resistance to capitalist austerity.

In this case it is "gangsta-rap" music, in another it is single mothers, or immigrants from Mexico, and the list goes on. The aim is the same. Make young Blacks look like criminals. Point to these "criminals" as the ones using welfare. Conclude that if it wasn't for the loads of money spent on public assistance America would be all right. These arguments may sound silly, but they can make sense, at least initially, to workers feeling the squeeze on their wages or who can't find a job and want to know why.

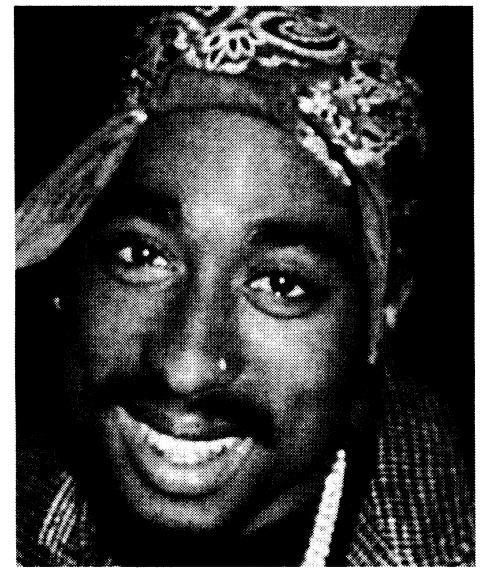
Shakur may have been involved in corruption and thuggery that many entertainment "stars" are engulfed in, in a society where art is nothing but a commodity. He may have been killed by competitors in the business. These values and modes of behavior come straight from the capitalist class and the policies of its government. One only has to look, just this last week, at the revelations of CIA drug-running in the Black community in Los Angeles, the Pentagon manuals instructing bribery and torture at a U.S. military school, the cop killing of Anthony Baez, and other examples of police brutality to pinpoint the source of the problem: the profit system and the bourgeois values it breeds put into action by the repressive apparatus of the capitalist class. Neither Shakur's lyrics, nor welfare, are the root cause of violence in the Black community.

The attempt to portray the corrupt behavior of music "celebrities" like Shakur as some fresh revelation is bogus. It's nothing new. Shakur's record label is worth over a \$100 million. He was living the rich life. The description given about Knight bailing out the performers is no different that what United Fruit or other big businesses do when their crooked chief executives get caught doing their slime.

Tupac was no Malcolm X

On the other hand people like Rev. Herbert Daughtry, a national leader of National Black United Front, referred to Shakur as "revolutionary" and compared him to "Martin [Luther King] and Malcolm [X]." Nothing is further from the truth.

No matter what Shakur said in his music, Malcolm X was a man who led a revolutionary movement of working people in action. Malcolm awakened Blacks involved in struggle to our dignity and self-worth. He



Rapper Tupac Shakur shot September 7.

became an internationalist and began pointing to capitalism and imperialism as the cause of racism. For these reasons he became a dangerous man to the powers that be and was assassinated — by thugs organized by the Nation of Islam with the knowledge and complicity of the police. "Members of the Nation of Islam were involved in the assassination of Malcolm X," acknowledged Nation leader Louis Farrakhan at a public meeting in Harlem's Apollo Theater May 6, 1995. "We can't deny whatever our part was." The Nation of Islam organized a memorial meeting for Shakur in Harlem's Mosque no. 7 recently.

Malcolm's political evolution and assassination have nothing analogous to Shakur's life and works. The attempt to portray Blacks who have made some money as supposed leaders of the struggle for Black freedom is bourgeois to the core. It comes directly from those who act as a brake and an obstacle to the proletarian masses of Black people leading the struggle against racism independent of the capitalist class and its twin political parties.

Tupac Amaru Shakur was a musician who made money. Nothing more, nothing less. Music, and in this particular case rap music, is not inherently revolutionary or reactionary. It is a tool of expression that reflects the reality and culture of the class society we live in — bourgeois culture today. It is only through an uncompromising struggle to uproot the causes of racism and class exploitation — the capitalist profit system — that crime among the oppressed will diminish, and in the process human values will find their expression in songs and music.

LETTERS

Irish hunger strikes

The *Militant's* coverage of the struggle in Northern Ireland is excellent. However, for readers unfamiliar with the struggle in Northern Ireland, I think more information, on the hunger strikes of 1980-81, mentioned in Jack Willey's September 16 article, might prove useful.

The hunger strikes won the restoration of de facto POW/political prisoner status for imprisoned Irish freedom fighters; but the victory came with a price. Between March 1 and October 3, 1981, ten young Irish freedom fighters died of starvation. Seven volunteers from Ogligh na hEireann (the IRA) and three volunteers of the Irish National Liberation Army, chose a slow and painful death as their last means of struggle against the imperialist power that occupied their country and had attempted to strip them of their human dignity.

The first hunger striker was Bobby Sands; his fast began March 1 and ended, with his death, May 5, after 66 days without food. In these few weeks of painful struggle, Bobby Sands became an example to freedom fighters across the world. On April 9, after five weeks on hunger strike, Bobby Sands was elected to the British Parliament, with some 30,000 votes. After his death, four weeks later, over one hundred thousand mourners marched with his body, through the streets of West Belfast, that city and

all of Ireland was swept by protests.

Two other hunger strikers, Paddy Agnew and Kieran Doherty, were elected to Southern Ireland's Parliament, and died in their turn. As the strike continued and the death toll climbed, the British government began to pay a steep political price. At the end of strike, the five demands were won. This is seen today in the improved conditions at Long Kesh. The victory went beyond prison conditions. In those terrible months of 1981, Britain lost the political struggle in Ireland. The British government's propaganda attempt to portray the Irish freedom fighters as criminals was decisively defeated.

In the aftermath of the hunger strike, the nationalist movement, which had been driven underground by British repression, returned to the streets of N. Ireland. The republican struggle, which had been carried on by a narrow vanguard, again



became a mass political movement. With these 10 deaths the Irish republicans won the moral high ground and have held it ever since. Roy Inglee
Wilmington, Delaware

Ricardo Aldape Guerra

On September 16 — Mexican Independence Day — some 20 demonstrators carried signs and banners and chanted in Spanish and English demanding freedom now for Ricardo Aldape Guerra in Houston. The protesters marched in front of the Harris county jail where Guerra is currently being held.

try or release him. This marked an important victory for the fight to end the death penalty and the struggle for immigrant rights.

A hearing in Aldape Guerra's case is set for October 18 and a new trial for December 20. Participants in the demonstration vowed to continue fighting until Guerra is free.

Participants in the demonstration included representatives of the Union of Families of Mexicans Condemned to Death, the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Coordinadora '96, Committee in Solidarity with the People of Mexico, Guatemala Support Network, and the Socialist Workers.

Aldape Guerra, an immigrant from Mexico, had been in the U.S. only two months when he was framed-up and sentenced to die for the killing of a Houston cop. After 14 years on death row, a federal court finally ordered Guerra released from death row and ruled the state must either re-

After visiting Aldape in jail, Maria Jiménez told supporters, "Ricardo wants to thank everyone for coming." She said they had talked about the building of the October 12 march, where a banner will be carried demanding Guerra's release and abolition of the death penalty.

Lea Sherman
Houston, Texas

Confronting the Klan

On September 1, members of the fascist, racist, terrorist KKK held impromptu rallies in Ebensburg, county seat of Cambria County, in western Pennsylvania, as well as in the nearby town of Patton.

In Patton, according to local news reports, 150 angry residents confronted the Klan who were passing out racist leaflets advertising for a September 14 "White Unity" rally near Ebensburg, where District 2 of United Mine Workers of America has its headquarters.

I called the head honcho of UMWA, who had run for state senate in the last election as a Democrat, and asked him if he could help organize a counter-demonstration.

He told me that he would contact other labor leaders and politicians to hold a unity rally against the Klan. No such luck. All of them are busy campaigning for the anti-labor Clinton, I suppose.

Nicholas Brand
Loretto, Pennsylvania

Apartheid killer turns on masters Hit squad commander names former South African presidents in crimes

BY GREG ROSENBERG

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One of apartheid's birds has begun to sing.

Col. Eugene de Kock, commander of the notorious Vlakplaas police death squad, named in court former South African presidents P.W. Botha and F.W. de Klerk as having approved "hits" against apartheid's opponents. The vast repressive machinery of the former apartheid state apparatus was aimed at the revolutionary movement led by the African National Congress.

In August de Kock was convicted of six murders, two counts of conspiracy to murder, one of attempted murder, one of culpable homicide, and other charges, including 66 counts of fraud. The Vlakplaas unit took its name from a farm outside Pretoria where anti-apartheid fighters were taken to be tortured and killed.

The apartheid assassin's grisly resume included blowing up the ANC headquarters in London; bombing the Johannesburg headquarters of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU); murdering ANC activists in South Africa and Swaziland; planting arms so that Pretoria could have an excuse to raid an ANC office in Botswana, in which 12 people died; killing police informants who had outlived their purpose; sending a tape recorder rigged with a bomb that killed an ANC lawyer; collaborating with Pretoria's "Department of Bacterial Warfare"; and gun-running to leaders of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

De Kock and his unit were favorites of the apartheid regime. The colonel has described having generals pinning medals to his chest for raids, and receiving accolades from a former South African foreign minister for his actions. But in light of his August conviction, de Kock has now been allowed to present "mitigating" testimony prior to sentencing. And the cop has begun to turn on his former masters.

'On the highest authority'

On September 17, de Kock testified that when ordered to blow up the COSATU headquarters, he questioned on whose authority the order had been issued. His superior pressed him to take the assignment, stating it came on "the highest authority."

"I asked if it came from the President himself and he said yes," de Kock stated. At that time, P.W. Botha held office.

A day later, current National Party leader de Klerk was named by de Kock. "De Klerk cannot say that he did not know that such [covert] organizations existed," the colonel said. "He gave the order for the attack on the Transkei in 1993."

The Transkei was one of the apartheid "homelands" — desolate areas with little arable land in rural South Africa where blacks were forced to live in miserable conditions under apartheid. Five youth, aged 12-17, were murdered in the attack. Shortly there-



Apartheid cops and military troops (inset) terrorized black South Africans for decades. But a mass movement of working people, like goldminers (above), brought down the racist regime. Now a former colonel is fingering National Party leaders for crimes.

after, de Klerk was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with ANC president Nelson Mandela.

Loyalty for his former employers was in short supply during the mitigation hearing. De Kock said he regarded de Klerk as akin to "a small scared dog lying on his back wetting his pants," who had betrayed loyal apartheid functionaries.

The colonel also explained that as police death squad activities began to be exposed, the cops went on a document-destroying campaign. "For days we burnt evidence," he testified. "Literally tons and tons and tons of evidence." De Kock added that he knew of other death squads operated by the National Party government whose deeds would leave his own "in the shade."

De Kock's case falls outside the jurisdiction of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was established by the ANC-led government with the power to grant amnesty to people who make full confessions of their crimes. De Kock has applied for amnesty. But the Truth Commission is prohibited from granting amnesty to those guilty of heinous violations of human rights.

The latest revelations brought professions of disbelief from some of the likely architects of apartheid's terror campaign. Inkatha Freedom Party member of parliament Themba Khoza, named by de Kock as a recipient of police gun-running, asserted he was being set up. "It is the ANC that caused this country and its citizens untold miseries. The ANC brought in more weapons than anybody else," Khoza claimed.

Former apartheid foreign minister Pik Botha also bleated shock. "I believe the Department of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Pik

Botha knew about it," de Kock had testified regarding the planting of weapons in Gaborone, Botswana, set up to justify a South African military raid that claimed 13 lives. Botha claimed the testimony meant that "the Cabinet was deliberately misled when matters of this nature were discussed."

National Party leader de Klerk had no immediate comment on the charges. But they were in stark contradiction to testimony he gave to the Truth Commission on behalf of his party in August. "Within my knowledge and experience, [these actions] never included the authorization of assassination, murder, torture, rape, assault or the like. Nor did I individually directly or indirectly ever suggest, order, or authorize any such action," stated the former president at the August hearing.

In contrast to de Klerk's whitewash of 46 years of National Party rule, presented in a 30-page document to the commission, the ANC submission detailed apartheid repression. The report was presented by ANC deputy-president Thabo Mbeki to the Truth Commission at the end of August. In addition to providing an overall view of Pretoria's brutal history, the ANC document also explained and took responsibility for abuses committed by some cadres of the organization during the battle against apartheid, when it maintained an armed wing known as *Umkhonto we Sizwe* (Spear of the Nation).

'Know what happened and why'

"The ANC supports the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission," the submission states. "By knowing what happened and why it happened, South Africa will be better placed to ensure that the evil deeds of the past are never repeated."

Answering charges by South African rightists and liberals alike that the ANC was equally culpable for human rights violations, the document states, "It would be morally wrong and legally incorrect to equate apartheid with the resistance against it. While the latter was rooted in the principles of human dignity and human rights, the former was an affront to humanity itself...."

"Apartheid oppression and repression were therefore not an aberration of a well-intentioned undertaking that went horribly wrong. Neither were they, as we were later told, an attempt to stave off the 'evil of communism.' The ideological underpinning and the programme of apartheid constituted a deliberate and systematic mission of a ruling clique that saw itself as the champion of a 'super-race.'"

The ANC submission explained that such repression did not abate after Nelson Mandela was freed from prison and political organizations were unbanned in 1990. "Between 1990 and 1993, nearly 12,000 ci-

vilians were killed and 20,000 were injured in thousands of incidents, including several major massacres," the ANC document said. "A top secret document dated March 13, 1990 stated that F.W. de Klerk was 'briefed on a broad spectrum of sensitive projects; and

had given his approval 'in principle'" on various covert actions.

The report added that Pretoria's military actions against neighboring countries in southern Africa had cost 1.5 million lives by 1989.

'More deaths. Approved.'

Noting the mentality of the state officials who ran the white minority regime, the report quoted notes taken at a Cabinet meeting during the Soweto youth revolt in 1976 by then Minister of Police Jimmy Kruger: "10.8.76. Unrest in Soweto still continues. The children of Soweto are well-trained. The pupils/students have established student councils. The basic danger is a growing black consciousness and the inability to prevent incidents, what with the military precision with which they act. The Minister proposes that this movement must be broken and thinks that police should perhaps act a bit more drastically and heavily-handedly which will entail more deaths. Approved."

The ANC submission reported other details of the campaign to break the anti-apartheid movement in the 1980s. "Over 80,000 people, including over 1,500 children were detained without trial, some for periods of up to two and a half years; ...over 10,000 detainees were tortured, assaulted or suffered other forms of abuse; over 70 detainees died in detention during this period; at least 3,000 people were placed under house arrest; ... over 35,000 books were banned for possession and distribution in South Africa between 1960 and 1991; thousands of people were prosecuted in numerous political trials. Many were jailed and others executed...."

"Linked to this was the use of state-sanctioned hit squads in extra-legal terror and assassinations by the Civil Co-operation Bureau and the Vlakplaas police unit," the ANC report noted.

In contrast, the ANC said, "it was the policy of the ANC — ever since the formation of [Umkhonto we Sizwe] in 1961 — to avoid unnecessary loss of life. The ANC has never permitted random attacks on civilian targets.... The ANC has acknowledged that in a number of instances breaches in policy did occur, and deeply regrets civilian casualties. The leadership took steps to halt operations in conflict with the policy."

The report noted that previous commissions of the liberation organization had investigated and made public findings of abuse and torture in some ANC camps in southern Africa. "The ANC highly regrets the excesses that occurred. Further, we do acknowledge that the real threat we faced and the difficult condition under which we had to operate led to a drift in accountability and control away from established norms, resulting in situations in which some individuals within the [ANC] Security Department started to behave as a law unto themselves."

The De Kock revelations point to a new round of trials of former apartheid generals and other government officials that may be in the offing. One such lawsuit is already coming to a conclusion — that of former apartheid defense minister Magnus Malan. He and 14 co-defendants are currently on trial for a 1987 massacre in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Evidence has been presented linking the apartheid military, which ordered the assault, with the Inkatha goons who carried it out.

Judgment is expected in October.

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NELSON MANDELA
FIDEL CASTRO

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