

# THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

## Polish workers battle for rights



Strikers defend gates of Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk. Workers are using the shipyard as organizing center for strike movement. See page 3.

Demand  
union  
gains,  
political  
freedom

**California  
socialists  
sue for  
ballot spot**

—PAGE 4

**SOLIDARITY  
WITH CARIBBEAN**

**Rally tells Carter: Hands off!**

—PAGES 9-12

## Nuclear insanity

On August 5 the Carter administration announced a policy on nuclear war. It threatens the survival of all humanity.

The plan, Presidential Directive 59, calls for retargeting some of the 11,000 U.S. nuclear warheads towards direct hits on Soviet missile bases.

According to the administration's doomsday logic, this will make possible limited nuclear war. Some U.S. officials even look forward to fighting "prolonged, limited nuclear war."

In fact, the aim of this policy option is to make it possible for U.S. forces to launch a nuclear first strike against the Soviet Union without a devastating counterattack by Moscow.

These nuclear-armed madmen know there will be millions of U.S. victims in a nuclear war. But they have no intention of being among them.

So Carter issued Directive 58, proposing construction of special shelters for top government officials, generals, billionaires, and other "pillars of society."

Directive 59 came at a fitting time: the thirty-fifth anniversary of the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In August 1945 the U.S. became the first and only nation to use nuclear weapons, killing 150,000 people with an atomic bomb of only a fraction of the power of today's arsenal.

Although the Pentagon has been working for decades on developing the necessary technical capabilities for launching a first strike, Carter chose to release this information on the eve of the Democratic Party convention and three months before the election.

Why?

The elections offer the warmakers an opportunity to try to whip up support for their plans.

Both presidential candidates have come out squarely in favor of a stronger "defense" and are trying to out-do each other as advocates of a massive arms buildup.

What better forum than the campaign for presenting arguments for further arms escalation.

Carter launched an intense fight at the Democratic Party convention to make support of the \$34 billion MX missile system part of the platform. In contrast, the administration rejected a \$12 billion jobs program.

While Carter moves ahead on Directive 59, Reagan is declaring that the arms race is necessary.

The rulers hope that such a show of bipartisan support on this issue will convince the American people that they have to go along with more money for nuclear suicide schemes.

But working people have already participated in a unique referendum on Carter's war preparations. In July, hundreds of thousands of American youth refused to register for the draft, and demonstrations against conscription were held at post offices across the country.

Working people have no intention of being incinerated in a nuclear war or throwing away their lives in a so-called conventional one.

That was the meaning of the chant which reverberated across the nation: "Hell no, we won't go, we won't fight for Texaco."

## More of the same

The Democratic convention may have managed to be even more boring than its Republican counterpart. From the standpoint of working people, it was more of the same.

Both parties have nominated candidates who can be counted on to press the big-business policies of building up the military, cutting back public services, and making working people pay for the economic difficulties caused by capitalism through inflation

and unemployment.

Appealing for the votes of working people, both parties coated a reactionary program with promises of jobs and equal rights for all.

Over Carter's opposition, the Democratic delegates threw some phrases into the platform about federal funding for job programs and for abortions for poor women. They called for repeal of Section 14-b of the Taft Hartley Act allowing states to adopt antilabor "right to work" laws.

The crude cynicism of these moves is shown by the fact that Democratic-controlled Congresses have repeatedly adopted the Hyde amendment barring abortions for poor women.

Democratic-controlled Congresses have approved cuts in job programs.

And although Congress has been controlled by the Democratic Party for nearly twenty-six years, moves to repeal 14-b never got off the ground.

Carter didn't hide his contempt for the planks on jobs and abortion rights. He kept quiet about 14-b.

But he bubbled with pride over the convention's endorsement of the MX missile. That weapon of mass-murder will cost tens of billions, fueling inflation and providing pretexts for more cuts in health care and other social services.

In the face of the antilabor stand of both parties, union officials are sticking with the Democrats. "It ain't much," one union president at the Democratic conclave was quoted as saying, "but the alternative [a Reagan presidency] is even worse."

In other words, there's no way to go but down. What a ruinous policy!

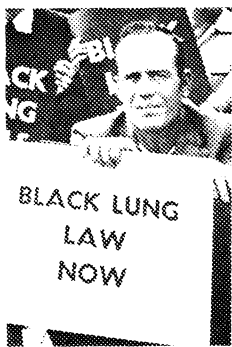
The fact is that unions have a choice. With more than 20 million members, they could start now to build a labor party that would defend working people. Any such initiative would be sure to find a sympathetic response in the civil rights and women's movements which are also prime victims of the big-business onslaught.

The perspective that labor needs its own party, as part of the fight to defend our rights and living standards, is being advanced in this campaign by Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president.

They deserve your support.

## Militant Highlights This Week

- 3 Polish workers strike
- 4 Calif. SWP sues Brown administration
- 7 Candidates' stands on abortion rights
- 8 Calif. marchers protest Klan violence
- 9 Rally in solidarity with Caribbean
- 12 Salvadoran general strike a success
- 14 Workers hurt by GM program
- 15 San Francisco hotel strike
- 16 John Keeley, working-class fighter
- 17 *The Great Society*  
Women in Revolt  
What's Going On
- 18 *Our Revolutionary Heritage*  
Letters
- 19 *Learning About Socialism*  
If You Like This Paper



### Black lung benefits

Coal miners rally in West Virginia to answer recent attacks on gains won a decade ago. **Page 13.**

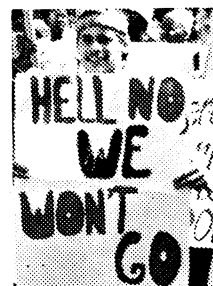
### Protests greet Democrats

Thousands marched on convention, while politicians inside gave us more of the same. **Page 6.**



### Iranian students in U.S. freed

Carter's repression backfired, but his campaign to discredit Iranian revolution goes on. **Page 5.**



## The Militant

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# Polish workers fight price hikes, demand union rights

By Fred Feldman

Poland's biggest strike wave in a decade has rocked the government of President Edward Gierek. Tens of thousands of workers have shut down some 170 factories in the Baltic Sea port cities of Gdansk, Gdynia, and Sopot. The driving force in the struggle are the 17,000 workers at the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk, who have taken over the yard and turned it into an organizing center for the struggle.

Strikes are also reported in other parts of Poland, part of a tide of protest that began welling up on July 1 when the government imposed a sharp increase in meat prices.

The Lenin shipyard workers halted work on August 13. Their action was sparked by the firing of a woman worker who had played a role in leading earlier struggles.

Their demands initially centered on a \$66 a month wage increase to match price rises and recognition of their right to form a union independent of the Gierek government. But the demands have expanded to include a wide range of democratic and economic rights.

The shipyard workers have elected a strike committee to represent them. It is headed by Lech Walesa, a shipyard worker fired in 1976 for protest activities.

The August 18 *New York Times* reported Jacek Kuron, a representative of the Committee for Social Self-Defense (a left-wing dissident group), as saying that an inter-factory strike committee had been formed "when representatives of the shipyard strikers visited 20 other factories in Gdansk and the neighboring towns of Gdynia and Sopot to express solidarity."

(On August 21, Kuron and at least thirteen other members of the Committee for Social Self-Defense were detained by Polish police.)

Support for the strikers grew steadily. "Throughout the day," wrote John Darnton from Gdansk in the August 20 *Times*, "factory delegates continued to arrive at the shipyard in vans flying the red and white Polish flag. As they strode into a grimy, red-brick conference building serving as strike headquarters, they were given a rousing welcome by delegates already there, seated at long tables with makeshift

placards identifying their plants."

The strike committee's proceedings are highly democratic: "The proceedings inside the meeting hall were broadcast throughout the yard. They included speeches and debates about which enterprises—electric power, water, health services—were essential to public safety and so should continue."

The spirit of solidarity, democracy, independence, and social responsibility of these workers reflects the confidence that the Polish workers have gained in a decade of struggle.

In 1970, the Lenin shipyard workers spearheaded strikes against an earlier attempt to raise meat prices. The government of Wladyslaw Gomulka reacted with brutal violence, killing scores of workers. But the workers hung tough, the strike spread, and Gomulka was forced to resign. Gierek was brought in to replace him and the price increases were rescinded.

In 1976 the government tried again to raise meat prices, and again was forced to back down by working-class protests.

*Continued on page 15*

## What strikers demand

[Following is a list of sixteen demands issued by striking Polish workers. The list was issued by the Committee for Social Self-Defense/Committee to Defend the Workers (KSS/KOR) and published by Associated Press.]

- Reopening of all telephone and telex communications in the Gdansk area.
- Guarantee of the right to strike and security for all strikers.
- Guarantee of freedom of expression in word and print and abolition of censorship.
- Release of all political prisoners.
- Respect for the International Labor Organization conventions, which include the right to establish free trade unions.
- Access by all religious groups to the mass media.
- Abolition of administrative interference in trade union matters.
- Realistic steps toward leading the country out of the recent crisis by informing the public fully about the socio-economic situation of the country, and making it possible for all classes and sections of the Polish community to discuss the program of reforms.
- Abolition of privileges for security services by granting equal family allowances to all. Liquidation of special shops [open only to police and party officials].
- Abolition of commercial prices [the system under which quality meat is sold only in special shops at high prices].
- Full supplies on the domestic market. Only surplus commodities should be exported.
- Introduction of meat rationing to make the market stable.
- Salary increases by an average of 2,000 zlotys [\$66] for everyone as compensation for higher prices.
- Vacation pay for those on strike.
- Guarantee of automatic salary increases following increases in prices or devaluation of the currency.
- Publication on radio, television, and in the newspapers of news about the strikes and the establishment of the strike committee.

## Pulley: 'Their fight is our fight'

The following statement by Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, was released August 21.

The Socialist Workers Party hails the struggle of tens of thousands of our working-class brothers and sisters in Poland. Their actions are providing a powerful example for workers around the world. All working people have a stake in their victory.

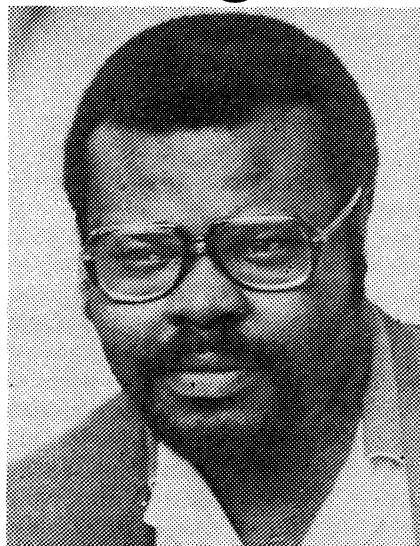
They are fighting to protect their standard of living, for democratically run unions, and for a decision-making role in the economic and political life of their country.

This struggle by a fighting workers movement is an inspiration to working people in the United States whose unions are under attack, whose standard of living is being pushed down, and who face arbitrary plant closings and layoffs.

The Polish workers are uniting workers of many industries, farmers, youth, and others with justified complaints.

They are establishing democratic strike committees which involve the whole work force in deciding every aspect of negotiations and strike policy.

They demand that word about the struggle be broadcast throughout Poland so that the whole population can know their side of the story.



Militant/David McDonald

ANDREW PULLEY

There's a big difference between the situation of workers in Poland and here. Polish workers made a revolution that got rid of capitalism a few years after World War II. The shipyards, mines, and factories they work in don't operate for private profit. There is no capitalist class claiming its right to command the economy at the workers' expense. This strengthens the workers' position.

Although their living standard is lower than ours, they have a lot less to fear in terms of unemployment, plant closings, high medical expenses and soaring rents. But their economy also feels the

squeeze from the international economic crisis.

What Polish workers are up against is a corrupt gang of anti-democratic bureaucrats who control the government. These parasites live off the gains won by Polish workers. The bureaucrats want to defend their privileges.

The U.S. media try to make it look like Polish workers are fighting to have capitalism back. This is a lie. They completely reject a return to capitalism. They don't want to turn the shipyards over to Tenneco, the railroads to Amtrak, the coal mines to Consol, or the steel mills to U.S. Steel. They want to run them themselves in the interests of working people and society as a whole.

That's a sentiment every American worker can identify with.

The capitalist news media, the employers, and the U.S. government are as much opposed to the workers in Poland as they are to workers here when we stand up for our rights. They fear the example of the Polish workers.

We must make our voices heard above the lies and confusion sown by the news media, the government, and Stalinist bureaucrats in Poland and the Soviet Union.

The fight of Polish workers is our fight.

A victory for workers in Poland will be a victory for working people around the world and a tremendous advance for socialism.

Workers at Boeing aircraft in Seattle are circulating a petition among other members of International Association of Machinists District 731 in support of the demands of the Polish strikers. Copies of the petitions will be sent to the strike committee in Gdansk.

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## **Demands its place on ballot**

# **Calif. SWP sues Brown administration**

By Sara Gates

OAKLAND, Calif.—The Socialist Workers Party has filed suit to compel the administration of Gov. Edmund Brown to place the party's 1980 ticket on the state ballot.

Announcement of the August 15 court action was made at a press conference here two days earlier. Speaking to the media were George Johnson, SWP senatorial candidate, and Howard Moore, the party's attorney in the suit.

A noted civil rights lawyer, Moore was co-counsel for Angela Davis. Earlier, he defended SWP presidential nominee Andrew Pulley when the army tried to victimize Pulley for his activity as a GI against the Vietnam war.

California's restrictive ballot laws require that an independent ticket file petition signatures of 101,000 registered voters to gain a ballot place. The SWP filed more than 150,000 for its presidential ticket and nearly as many for senatorial nominee Johnson. Yet election officials are stalling on certify-

ing the party for a ballot place.

The court action is also aimed at compelling the state to certify Mark Friedman for the ballot. Friedman is running for Congress in the San Diego area against the Democratic nominee, Ku Klux Klan leader Thomas Metzger. Friedman too filed substantially more than the required minimum.

At the press conference Johnson charged that Secretary of State March Fong Eu, a member of the Brown administration, was deliberately trying to keep the party off the ballot for political reasons. The Democrats, he said, see the party's campaign as encouraging independent political action at the very moment when the state trade union movement is discussing the need for a labor party.

That debate within the labor movement was initiated last fall by John Henning, executive-secretary of the state AFL-CIO, who pointed to big-business domination of the two major parties and the increasing hostility of these parties to labor's needs.

Democratic party chieftains recognize that the formation of a labor party would threaten their power, not to speak of the future of the capitalist system they uphold.

At the press conference announcing the suit, attorney Moore told reporters that the moves to deny the SWP a ballot place included "wholesale violations" of the state election code. He cited a number of such violations.

Legally qualified petition signers have been disqualified because they moved to a new address after registering.

There is evidence of tampering with an asserted "random sampling" method of spot checking the percentage of valid signatures.

In addition, election officials have violated a statute requiring that they report their findings in regard to a petition within ten days after filing.

They have sought to justify their failure to comply with this on the basis of another statute that gives them twenty-nine days. However, while such a statute is pending, it has not yet been passed.

Hammering at the political basis for this illegal activity, Johnson said this was Brown's way of trying to deal a blow to the developing sentiment for a labor party, an attempt to establish that there is no way for genuinely



California SWP candidate George Johnson, left, and attorney Howard Moore at news conference.



Militant/Jim Watson

independent forces to break the major-party monopoly of the ballot.

The SWP, Johnson vowed, will make this denial of its right an issue throughout the state and nation. Many protests against the illegal treatment of the SWP have been made by labor and political figures in California. There will be a major effort, he said, to win such protests from across the country.

Johnson said that in addition to its advocacy of a labor party, the SWP had evoked the hostility of the Brown administration because it takes stands on issues that a growing number of workers are coming to agree with.

"The SWP is campaigning against draft registration," Johnson said, "and for the rights of the people of Central America and the Caribbean to run their countries without interference from Washington." The party, he emphasized, favors support for the revolutionary governments of Cuba, Grenada, and Nicaragua.

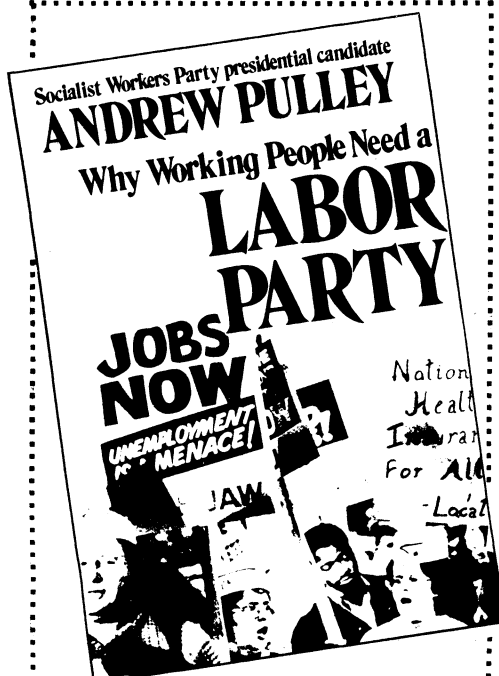
The SWP has also drawn the fire of Democratic officeholders, he added,

because it opposes nuclear power and weapons, supports the Equal Rights Amendment, and opposes the racist oppression of Blacks and Chicanos.

Johnson also noted that while the Democrats have a KKKer on their slate for Congress, they are deliberately trying to bar his socialist opponent from the ballot.

Messages of protest against the flagrant violation of SWP rights should be addressed to March Fong Eu, Secretary of State, 1230 J Street, Sacramento, California 95814.

Copies of such protests should be sent to the SWP state campaign office, 2864 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, California 94609.



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## **Excellent start in N.Y. petition drive**

NEW YORK—Socialist campaigners are off to an excellent start in winning a place on the New York state ballot.

To do so, it's necessary to obtain the signatures of 20,000 qualified voters, with a minimum of 100 coming from twenty of the state's forty congressional districts.

### **Ind. ballot fight**

INDIANAPOLIS—Seven thousand petition signatures are needed to qualify an independent ticket for the Indiana ballot. On August 1, the Socialist Workers Party filed a total of 14,500 for its presidential slate.

Yet the secretary of state asserted that only 6,100 of these were valid. On August 18, the SWP filed an added 2,500 signatures, nearly triple the amount officials said were needed.

Messages demanding that the SWP be certified for the ballot should be sent to the Secretary of State Ed Simcox, State House, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

In addition, the party is petitioning to qualify two congressional candidates in the New York City area and one in the Albany area.

In New York City, on a single Saturday, 5,700 signatures were obtained for the party's presidential ticket and for senatorial candidate Victor Nieto. Several hundred additional were obtained for congressional candidates Reba Williams Dixon and Keith Jones.

In Albany, where the party was able to begin petitioning earlier, more than 3,000 names were obtained on the presidential petitions and 1,749 for congressional candidate Patricia Mayberry.

YSA organizer Mark Emanation said this was three times the number of signatures they had anticipated collecting in the first week. He added that people who petitioned in the area in 1978 said that the rate of signature collection was double this time.

Among unionists in neighboring Schenectady, there was a particularly favorable response to petitioners' emphasis on the SWP stand in favor of building a labor party. Thirty people

bought copies of Andrew Pulley's pamphlet, *Why Working People Need a Labor Party*.

Since the petition drive began, Emanation said, a twenty-year-old Black college student and a sixteen-year-old high-schooler have joined the YSA.

The college student had been in touch with the organization for a number of months but decided to join after participating in petitioning and seeing the positive response of workers to the socialist message.

The high-schooler approached petitioners, explained he had bought the *Young Socialist* at his school and considered himself a socialist but wasn't old enough to vote. He was quickly persuaded that he was old enough to join the YSA.

In New York City, campaign staffer Karen Melville said the first day's petitioning ended with a campaign rally featuring vice-presidential nominee Matilde Zimmermann. The well-attended meeting included several people who had received rally announcements during the day's petitioning. After the rally, three people joined the YSA.

## **Mo. SWP hits state 'count'**

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Apparently determined to illegally keep the Socialist Workers Party off the Missouri ballot, officials assert that the party has not obtained the necessary 17,966 petition signatures needed for a place on the ballot.

This despite the fact that the party has now turned in a total of more than 32,000 signatures!

Initially, the SWP filed more than 26,000 names. The secretary of state then asserted this was 3,400 short of the necessary goal.

To assure the fullest compliance with restrictive requirements, the SWP then obtained an additional 6,800. These too were declared insufficient. In one district it was asserted that only 35 percent of the added names were valid. Yet on the initial filing, officials had conceded a validity rate of 55 percent.

These clearly discriminatory moves follow the same pattern as in 1976 when state officials arbitrarily denied the party a ballot place after it more than met legal requirements.

Both the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* and the *Kansas City Times* have already demanded that the Pulley-Zimmermann ticket be given its rightful place on the state ballot.

Other protests have been lodged and more are being solicited. Letters demanding that the party be certified for the state ballot should be addressed to James Kirkpatrick, Secretary of State, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.



# Gov't attack on Iranian students backfires

By Janice Lynn  
and Harvey McArthur

One hundred and ninety-two Iranian students were released from prison August 5 after ten days in federal prisons in Washington, D.C., and New York. The 172 men and 20 women had been arrested July 27 after a vicious attack by Washington police on their legal demonstration in defense of the Iranian revolution.

Attempts by the Carter administration to whip up sentiment against the arrested Iranians and its manipulated media campaign to try and discredit the Iranian revolution backfired. The government was compelled to release all the Iranian students, to drop the fraudulent "disorderly conduct" charges that had been leveled against them, and to back down on its deportation threats.

The July 27 demonstration had been called to counter a march by the right-wing, pro-shah Iranian Freedom Foundation. It took place on the same day the hated Shah Reza Pahlavi died in exile in Egypt.

Abbas Esfahani of the Muslim Student Association—one of three groups sponsoring the counterdemonstration—explained that the action was to protest continued U.S. intervention in Iran. He cited Carter's April 24 military raid, the recently discovered plans for a coup, and Washington's connections with the Iranian Freedom Foundation.

"We were protesting that the United States was trying to organize those people. We thought this was another conspiracy against the revolution in our country," Esfahani said.

## A brutal attack

As television cameras rolled, club-swinging cops moved in to attack the pro-Khomeini demonstrators. One reporter likened the police violence to scenes from southern civil rights demonstrations in the early 1960s.

TV crews filmed shots of cops surrounding small groups of Iranians, beating them to the ground. One man was picked up and slammed head first into a nearby car. Many were repeatedly beaten about the head after they had been knocked down by police. Some policemen removed their badges to avoid being identified.

At least thirty-five persons injured in the cop attack required hospital treatment.

After the police riot, the victimized Iranian students were arraigned on disorderly conduct and assault charges. They were jammed six to eight at a time into small cells designed to hold two people. They report that police continued to beat them while in jail. Some were sprayed with a "chemical irritant."

Two demonstrators filed a \$6.2 million lawsuit against the federal and local government charging their constitutional rights were violated in the cop attack.

Antidraft and peace groups in the Washington area, as well as the National Lawyers Guild, former attorney general Ramsey Clark, and others protested the police brutality. Under this pressure the police department announced it would investigate whether excessive force was used. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) pointed to the need for an independent public investigation and ACLU attorneys vehemently protested the flagrant violations of free speech and assembly.

To avoid deportation, the Iranian students refused to give their names. They began a hunger strike.

Under the growing pressure, all charges against the Iranians were suddenly dropped on August 1. But the students were still held in jail.

Agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) then took over. Following high-level discussions with the Justice Department, the INS was ordered to begin deportation proceedings—an attempt to intimidate



Militant/Michael Baumann  
**Glenn White, right, talks with Iranian students on hunger strike at White House. White, Socialist Workers Party candidate for D.C. city council, issued a statement calling for the immediate release of all those arrested and demanded prosecution of police involved in July 27 attack. White also talked with interested passersby at the White House. 'Some were a bit hostile at first,' said White, 'but when I raised the possibility of the U.S. provoking a war with Iran, they made it clear they did not want to be drafted to fight there.'**

participants in political demonstrations.

During the night of August 1, the INS secretly moved the 172 Iranian men to a federal prison in Otisville, New York, and the 20 women to a federal jail in New York City. In a particularly racist display, the men and women were shackled in leg-irons and handcuffs—despite the fact that there were no longer any charges against them!

The students continued their hunger strike, and prison officials brutally force-fed some of them—shoving tubes down their throats and noses.

## Mass protests in Iran

As news of this savage treatment reached Iran, some quarter of a million Iranians responded to a call by the Muslim Students Following the Imam's Line at the occupied U.S. embassy. On August 5, the streets in front of the embassy were filled in a four-hour protest.

In the early morning, men and women textile workers staged a sit-in outside the Vatican's diplomatic mission in Tehran, calling on the pope to intervene on behalf of the arrested Iranian students.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini upbraided the pope for his hypocritical refusal to condemn the treatment of the students.

Fifty youth began a hunger strike in a Tehran mosque to show their support for the arrested students while several hundred others held a sit-in outside.

Messages of solidarity with the "victims of the savagery of the American

police" were issued from Iranian president Bani-Sadr's office, the Foreign Ministry, and other government offices.

Solidarity demonstrations took place in London, Beirut, Manila, and at the Vatican in Rome, as well as in U.S. cities. In London, sixty-three Iranian demonstrators continue to be held in jail and most are on a hunger strike. Fifty members of the Muslim Student Association conducted a two-week hunger strike in front of the White House.

Instead of intimidating supporters of the Iranian revolution and halting the demonstrations in its defense, the victimization of the Iranian students was having the opposite effect. Washington was forced to back down.

On August 5 the students were released after giving their names to the INS. Undaunted, they traveled to Washington for two days of demonstrations August 7 and 8. They were joined by American Black Muslims, supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and other backers of the Iranian revolution.

The demonstrations coincided with another outpouring of hundreds of thousands in Iran in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle and against Israel's annexation of Jerusalem.

## Right-wingers turn out

Organized right-wingers showed up for the Washington demonstrations. They were encouraged by a scurrilous article in the August 7 *Washington Post* claiming that anonymous "law enforcement officials" had discovered a secret "\$5 million fund" that was being used by the Iranian government to orchestrate demonstrations in its behalf. The *Post* also claimed that a terrorist group, called the "Islamic Guerrillas in America" had been uncovered. This was a transparent attempt to smear defenders of the Iranian revolution as terrorists.

One inflammatory talk show on a major Washington radio station quoted the *Post* story and exhorted citizens not to put up any longer with the Iranians.

The right-wingers heckled the more than 700 demonstrators, throwing eggs, tomatoes, and bottles. The racism was blatant. Flag-waving whites directed racial taunts against the Blacks marching with the Iranians. A group of white counterdemonstrators chased a D.C. resident for three blocks just because he was Black.

"We saw many people with Nazi or Ku Klux Klan insignia and jewelry" one antidraft leader said.

But as Glenn White, Socialist Workers Party candidate for D.C. city council, pointed out, "These few racists do not represent the opinions of most Americans, contrary to the image the press is trying to create."

"The real sentiment was shown by the thousands and thousands of young men who refused to register for the draft, or who did so under pressure, declaring that they would refuse to be sent into a war against Iran."

## 'Evidence scanty'

Iranian students vehemently denied the vicious rumors circulated by the media. "Our money comes from contributions and donations by our members," one student leader said. The students held a press conference to refute the charges, and even *Newsweek* magazine was forced to admit that "evidence was scanty" on charges of manipulation by Tehran.

Nevertheless, the capitalist media has continued its attempts at discrediting the Iranian revolution.

An August 15 item in the *New York Times* again quoted anonymous "law enforcement officials" charging that after the unsuccessful coup attempt was uncovered in Iran last month there was "a coordinated international effort to eliminate foes of Ayatollah Khomeini."

Evoking images of an international terrorist conspiracy, the *Times* cited the July 18 attempt on the life of the shah's former prime minister, Shahpur Bakhtiar (who has publicly announced the formation of a movement to crush the Iranian revolution) and the July 22 shooting of the shah's former Washington embassy press attaché, Ali Akbar Tabatabai. Then, in the tradition of true gutter journalism, it linked these actions with the July 27 demonstration.

But, as more and more people have begun to realize, it is the U.S. government that is the real international conspirator. It was Washington's CIA that conspired in 1953 to reinstall the hated shah in a bloody coup. And it is Washington that continues to conspire against the Iranian revolution and against the Iranian people's right to run their own country.

From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

## Invasion plan

"A startling, top-secret plan to invade Iran with a powerful military force" was revealed August 18 by American columnist Jack Anderson.

The column was the first of five that will detail Washington's plans for an October invasion. Anderson and his associates uncovered "documents so secret that the code word used to classify them is itself classified."

The plans are said to include an armed forces invasion that would hold portions of Iran and a "cover plan" designed to disguise the true intent.

"The ostensible purpose is to rescue the hostages, but the operation also would exact military retribution," Anderson wrote.

These revelations coincide with a huge buildup of U.S. troops and supplies in the Persian Gulf, recent midair refueling exercises, and new training maneuvers.

While admitting the existence of military plans to protect "America's interests" in the Persian Gulf, the White House strenuously denied Anderson's reports—just as it strenuously denied it was planning any military action right before its April raid on Iran.



**Freed Iranian students celebrate in New York City.**

# Thousands protest at Democratic convention

By Judy Norris

NEW YORK—A steady presence of protesters was maintained outside Madison Square Garden as the Democratic Party met here August 11-14 to renominate James Carter.

The biggest of the loosely knit activities was a march and rally of 5,000 on Sunday, August 10, organized by the Coalition for a People's Alternative in 1980.

Earlier that weekend, the same group sponsored a "People's Convention" in the South Bronx. Organizers reported 1,500 registered.

The largest and most spirited group of marchers in the August 10 action was the Latin American contingent, made up of members of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, Antonio Maceo Brigade, Salvadoran support groups, and others. Colorful banners and lively chants demanded U.S. out of Guantánamo! Stop U.S. spy flights! Free Puerto Rico now! U.S. out of Vieques! No U.S. intervention in El Salvador!

A women's rights contingent focused on abortion rights. Several women carried a giant red coat hanger made of wire mesh to symbolize the dangers of self-induced and back-alley abortions.

A large banner declaring "No draft for women or men" was carried by activists from the Mobilization for Survival.

Rally speakers included Puerto Rican nationalist Rafael Cancel Miranda, who declared he would be willing to spend twenty-six more years in prison to win a free Puerto Rico.

Dave Dellinger, editor of *Seven Days*, blasted the government for "trying to persuade us to accept a lesser evil—nuclear war, a long-term limited nuclear war. There is no such thing as a safe, limited nuclear war," he said. Maggie Kuhn from the Gray Panth-

ers demanded the money being spent on the MX missile system be used instead for better transportation for people and to put "the millions who are jobless back to work."

The lead banner in the march, as well as the sign on the speakers platform, read, "Too many promises—now we will be heard." This theme of reforming the Democratic Party was reflected in the remarks of the rally's first speaker, William Winpisinger, president of the International Association of Machinists. Winpisinger spoke as a Democratic convention insider.

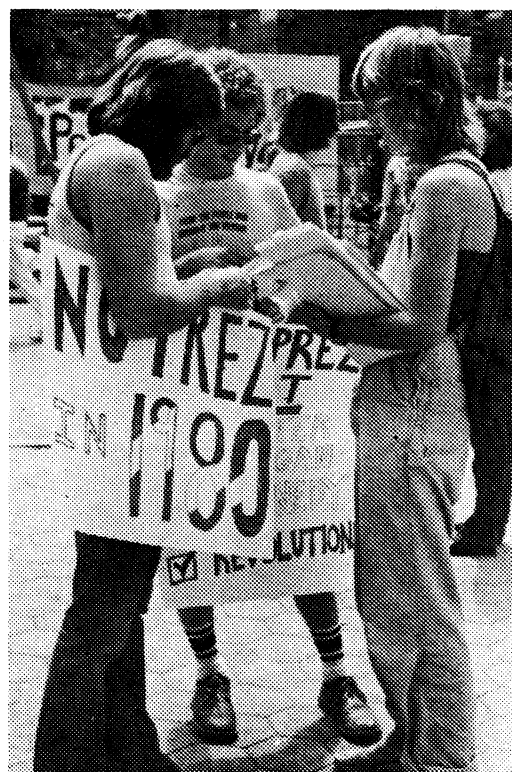
Describing the Democratic and Republican Parties as "one giant ideological party wearing two labels," he said, "We're making one last effort to change the Democratic Party."

But many of the thousands of demonstrators did not come with the idea in mind of giving the Democrats "one last chance." Joe Strucich, who works at a New Jersey metals factory, carried a sign that said "No one for Prez." He told the *Militant* he was there to oppose the draft.

Despite his sign's message, Strucich eagerly took literature on the Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, Andrew Pulley.

A woman on a bicycle had a sign strung across her back protesting registration and the draft. The mother of a draft-age son who didn't register, she looked around a little nervously at her fellow demonstrators and said, "I'm not a radical. I was a regular Democrat and I voted for Carter, but I have come to loathe him. I came here because I feel the need to protest against the draft and militarization."

Gene Kipp, a middle-aged building maintenance worker, was there because: "Reagan and Carter—they're about the same—neither one has anything real to say about all those people out of work."



August 10 march to Madison Square Garden

Militant photos by Nancy Cole

## Yet another dose of 'democracy at work'

NEW YORK—Up to five hours daily of TV coverage (per major network). A special section every day in the *New York Times*. Banners around town welcoming delegates emblazoned with the stars and stripes in the shape of the Big Apple.

Most of the hype for the Democratic Party convention every four years is to convince the American people that this is in fact a momentous occasion—the democratic process at work.

This year we were treated to a group of national newscasters, grown men, sitting around misty-eyed at the conclusion of the convention, extolling the example of democracy they had just been privileged to witness. Unlike the Republican convention, they explained to us in TV viewerland, the Democratic delegates had actually had a say in this convention. The behind-closed-doors deliberations had been brought to the convention floor.

Come on.

When New Yorkers didn't buy it, they were portrayed as dumb, indifferent, provincial. One TV newscaster, after a series of on-the-street interviews,

to override New York City's ban on nuclear shipments.

None of this provincial stuff, of course, was appropriate for the lofty discussions at the Democratic Party convention.

The news focus was divided into two segments: first the "open" versus "closed" convention debate and then on to the theme of "Democratic unity."

The "open" versus "closed" hullabaloo offered the Kennedy forces ("open") and the Carter supporters ("closed") the chance to out-democracy each other. It was intended to give any who didn't stop to think about it the impression that the convention wasn't sewn up from day one.

Those in favor of holding delegates to the candidate they were elected to support were the *real* democrats because they wanted the people's voice in the primaries to hold sway.

Those for releasing the delegates to "vote their conscience" called on the delegates to exercise their rights, and not, as New York Gov. Hugh Carey put it, to act like sheep.

The vote came, the "open" side lost. The question then became: Would Kennedy support Carter and forge the needed unity?

In the world of the news media, the suspense built until Kennedy's speech Tuesday night. "Kennedy Rips Reagan, Electrifies Convention," announced the *Washington Post's* headline.

It was "one of the greatest speeches I have ever heard," offered Carter. The chasm had been bridged!

Then came the platform deliberations. To pull off the charade, Kennedy needed a gesture to show he had made his mark on the 1980 campaign and could now throw his support to Carter with face.

### 'Minority' planks

So he introduced some "minority" planks. Some passed, the biggest news-getter being the \$12 billion jobs plan. (Cheers to the caller into a radio talk show here, who asked, "If Kennedy is so big on this \$12 billion plan, why didn't he get it through Congress—he's been there eighteen years!")

A block of women delegates introduced their own minority planks—and they passed. One banned Democratic Party national funds for candidates who don't support the Equal Rights Amendment.

The other, in a roundabout way, favored Medicaid funding for abortions. Carter vigorously opposed both planks.

This was touted as a gigantic victory for feminists, a reflection of their growing clout in the Democratic Party.

Now, we all know that campaign promises are a dime a dozen, as Carter's list of hundreds of unmet pledges from the 1976 campaign attest to. But the planks on abortion and the \$12 billion for jobs won't even be campaign promises. Under a new rule, Carter was supposed to state his differences with the platform. He embraced the "spirit and aims" of the jobs proposal, but not a dollar amount. He reaffirmed his opposition to abortion.

Otherwise, he would "proudly run on the platform."

So there you had it. A Democratic Party platform with a lot of platitudes, a few good-sounding things, and more that were bad (a ringing endorsement of the \$34 billion MX missile system, for example). And a presidential candidate who planned to run on his own platform anyway.

The whole thing was a show, staged from beginning to end. Kennedy aides later admitted there was never a question that their candidate would support Carter in the end.

Even the editors of the *Washington Post* had to take note of the hypocrisy of this "democracy at work."

### 'A deal was cut'

"On Tuesday night a deal was cut between the Kennedy and Carter forces on procedures for voting on the contested economic platform planks," the *Post* editors wrote. "It was decided in advance, backstage and on the phone, which ones would be won and which lost by the administration forces and that there would be no bothersome and contentious and protracted roll call test of the outcome."

"And there, in all his glory, Speaker O'Neill stood and did the necessary listening and gavel-work, miraculously hearing the thing—the ayes and the nays—a little differently from some of the rest of us, but in accord with the deal that had been cut."

So much for the two-party system's democratic processes.

—Nancy Cole

## AS I SEE IT

appallingly pronounced New Yorkers more concerned with the propane leak that nearly blew up a section of Manhattan the week before than with the events at Madison Square Garden.

Thousands of New Yorkers were a spark away from oblivion August 7 when a truck carrying 9,000 gallons of explosive propane gas sprung a leak on the George Washington Bridge. It was nearly seven hours before a method was happened upon for plugging the leak. One of the biggest traffic jams in New York's history resulted, and 2,000 people were evacuated from their homes.

### Could have been nuclear wastes

"New Yorkers should feel relieved," quipped a reader in a letter to the *New York Times*, it could have been a truck carrying nuclear wastes that overturned on the bridge. That was no jesting point when several days after the propane accident, the *Times* reported the federal government had decided



# March for equality August 26

Women's rights supporters will march and rally in New York City, Tuesday, August 26, women's equality day.

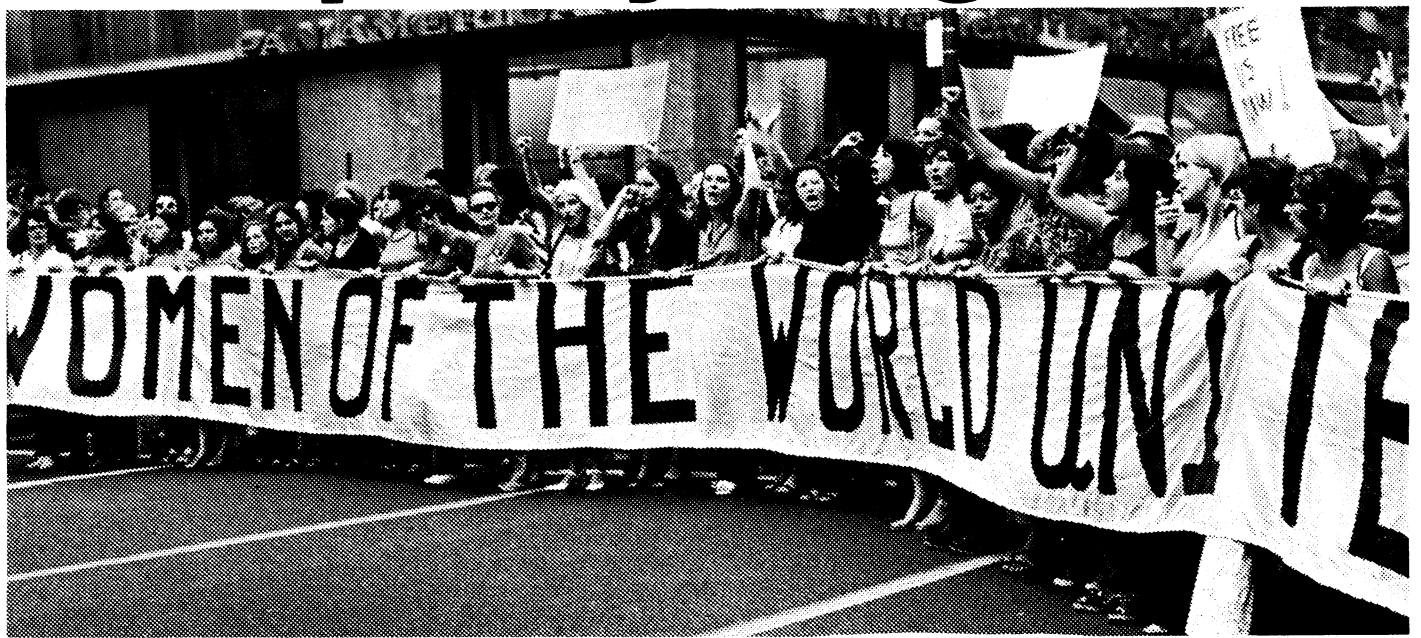
The march will celebrate the sixty years since women won the right to vote. August 26 also marks ten years since more than 50,000 women marched in actions around the country, heralding the beginning of the fight for women's rights in this country.

The action is also a response to the current attacks on women's rights, the list of which is headed by failure to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment and the Supreme Court decision legalizing the Hyde Amendment that cuts off federal funding for abortion.

The march will begin at 5:30 p.m. at 60th St. and Fifth Avenue and proceed down Fifth Avenue for a rally in Bryant Park, Forty-second Street and Fifth Avenue, at 7 p.m.

Speakers include Bella Abzug, president of Women, USA; Gloria Steinem, editor of *Ms. Magazine*; Karen Nussbaum, executive director of Working Women; and others.

The march is being organized by Women '80, an ad hoc coalition, and is endorsed by New York National Organization for Women, Women Strike for Peace, District Council 37



Actions on August 26, 1970, like this one in New York City, signaled rise of women's movement. Today women are fighting to defend and extend gains won in last decade. Militant/Howard Petrick

of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and others.

For more information, contact Women '80, 579 Ninth Avenue, New York, New York 10036 (212) 564-8708.

On August 23 and 24 walkathons for the ERA organized by NOW will

be held in cities across the country.

Seattle, Washington, will hold an ERA march and rally on Saturday, August 23.

Assembly time is noon at the federal court house with a 1 p.m. march. A rally will be held at 2 p.m. at Freeway Park.

Organized by the Washington

ERA Coalition, endorsers include: District 751 of the International Association of Machinists; Puget Sound Coalition of Labor Union Women; Seattle-King County National Organization for Women; Washington State Labor Council; United Steelworkers Local 1208; and others.

## Where candidates stand on abortion rights

By Suzanne Haig

What choice do supporters of abortion rights have on election day?

Ronald Reagan and the Republican Party have come out unabashedly on the side of those opposed to a woman's right to control her own body and the back-alley abortionists into whose hands women will be driven.

The Republican platform affirms "support of a constitutional amendment to restore protection of the right to life for unborn children" and of "the congressional efforts to restrict the use of tax payers dollars for abortion."

They hold this demagogic and reactionary position even though polls show Republican voters oppose it two to one.

The Democratic Party claims to defend a woman's right to choose. The platform "supports the 1973 Supreme Court decision on abortion rights as the law of the land and opposes any constitutional amendment to restrict or overturn that decision."

Many have lauded this stand. But the plank addressing the Hyde Amendment, which denies federal funding for abortion, is under a section entitled "privacy," and it is so weak and evasive that it doesn't even mention the words "abortion" or "Hyde Amendment."

It states opposition to "restrictions on funding for health services . . . that deny poor women especially the right to exercise a constitutionally guaranteed right to privacy."

This position is designed to prepare the ground for further Democratic Party treachery on abortion rights.

Even the *New York Times* admitted on August 13, amidst the hoopla following the platform's passage, that it is a way to unify the party, not "a serious plan of action if Carter is re-elected."

In an August 13 statement to the convention on the platform, Carter declared:

"Since the beginning of my administration, I have personally opposed Federal funding of abortion."

This is one time Carter is telling the truth.

Every year since he's been in office, Congress has voted to restrict federal



Women's contingent at protest march on Democratic Party convention demanded abortion rights. They won't get support from candidate Carter. Militant/Nancy Cole

funding for abortions.

Carter made his position clear as far back as 1976. When asked if it is fair to deny safe abortions to women who cannot afford them, Carter answered:

"Well, as you know there are many things in life that are not fair, that wealthy people can afford and poor people can't. But I don't believe that the federal government should take action to try to make these opportunities exactly equal, particularly when there is a moral factor involved."

On July 30 of this year, the Supreme Court upheld Carter's position. It ruled that it was constitutional to deny poor women abortion funding.

This decision condemns untold numbers of unemployed and poor women, especially teen-agers, Blacks, and Latinas, to a choice between unwanted pregnancy and the threat of being maimed or killed in back-alley abortions.

That is the real Democratic Party position.

Some supporters of women's rights, disgusted with the Democratic and Republican candidates, point to John

Anderson—a Republican running as an "independent"—as an alternative.

When he first began his vote-catching drive, Anderson said he supported federal funding for abortions. But when asked by the *Wall Street Journal* in a July 1980 interview if he would do anything to reverse the Supreme Court decision ruling the Hyde Amendment constitutional, he replied, "I don't think so, it seems to me the

court has spoken on this."

When the interviewer persisted, pointing out that Congress could repeal the amendment if it wanted to, Anderson answered, "I guess your question is: Would I lead a drive, as President, to repeal the Hyde Amendment? No. I don't think I would." So much for Anderson's highly-touted pro-choice position.

Thus all three pro-capitalist candidates have stepped forward as leading opponents of the most basic right of women to decide if and when to bear a child.

In sharp contrast, Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann, Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president, vigorously defend the right of all women to choose abortion. They call for the restoration of federal funding for abortions to guarantee this right equally.

The Socialist Workers Party has been actively involved in the fight against the patently discriminatory Hyde Amendment and urges its immediate nullification by Congress.

Rather than phony platform promises, the socialist candidates offer a strategy to fight back: building a massive movement of women's organizations, trade unions, and civil rights groups that have the power to win abortion rights for all women.

Yes, there is an alternative on November 4—Vote Pulley and Zimmermann!

<p>EVELYN REED Author of <i>Women's Evolution</i></p> <h2>SEXISM &amp; SCIENCE</h2>	<h3>BY EVELYN REED</h3> <p>This book exposes the antiwoman, pseudoscientific bias that permeates biology, sociology, anthropology, and primatology today. It is a companion volume to Reed's major work, <i>Woman's Evolution</i>, which documents the preeminent role of women in the earliest and longest period of human history—prehistoric matriarchal society.</p> <p>190 pages, paper \$3.95, cloth \$14.00</p> <p>Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, New York 10014.</p>
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## Fontana unionists join action

# Calif. marchers protest Klan violence

By Stan Jaroszinski

FONTANA, Calif.—An anti-KKK demonstration of 400 was held here August 9. Speakers at the rally included two officials of the United Steelworkers, an important force in this steel town fifty miles east of Los Angeles.

The demonstration was sparked by mounting Klan-incited racist attacks throughout southern California. This violence culminated in the near-fatal shooting here of Dovard Howard, a Black telephone lineman who was hit with gunshots while on a pole.

The Communication Workers of America, of which Howard was a member, also participated in the anti-racist protest.

The demonstrators marched from a nearby park to city hall for their rally. The march was led by a contingent from Kaiser Steel Local 2869 and directly behind were members of the CWA.

Several dozen Klan scum held a counterdemonstration, shouting provocative racist epithets. Cops took tire irons, chains and knives from them but did not make a single arrest.

Robert Petris, district director of the Steelworkers, emphasized that no KKKer would hold office in the steel union. "The Klan," he declared,

"should go back into the hole where they came from!"

Joe Bautista, Local 2869 financial secretary, said, "We support our Communications Worker brother, Dovard Howard, and demand an end to Klan activity in this area. Fontana is a union town and has no room in it for scum like the KKK. Our local union will not allow discrimination or harassment based on race prejudice."

The rally also heard the well-known civil rights figure, Rev. William Dunston, president of the NAACP in nearby Rialto.

In addition to the union sponsors, the action was sponsored by the NAACP of Fontana and Rialto, the National Lawyers Guild, and others.

The day after the rally, Fontana officials made clear where they stand when the cops announced they would seek criminal charges against sponsors of the action for holding a demonstration without a permit. Authorities had demanded they take out expensive insurance in order to get a permit.

While taking this action against the antiracist forces, the police said they would not file charges against the KKK which also did not have a permit.

Why not? "The Klan wasn't organized," a police official said. "It was haphazard. Who would you prosecute?"



'Fontana is a union town,' local Steel official told rally. 'We will not allow discrimination or harassment based on race prejudice.'

# Nazi threats fail to stop Ohio SWP rally

By Alyson Kennedy

CLEVELAND—Despite death threats from the American Nazi Party, the July 26 grand opening of the Cleveland Socialist Workers Campaign Headquarters and celebration of the Cuban revolution was attended by more than seventy people.

Due to the public defense campaign mounted during the week to expose the

Nazi threats, the rally was held without one Nazi showing his face.

The threats began on Monday evening, July 21, when a man identifying himself as a member of the American Nazi Party called the campaign headquarters of SWP senatorial candidate John Powers. The caller said, "We understand you are holding a rally Saturday night. Don't hold that rally. If you do, people will die. We will be there with guns."

At a well attended news conference July 25, Powers, a member of United Auto Workers Local 451, said, "We will not be intimidated. The rally will go on. Threats like these can not be taken lightly. The Nazis and the Klan have a long, brutal, bloodstained history of attacks against trade unionists, women's rights activists, Blacks and other minorities, and socialists."

Powers pointed to the Klan/Nazi murder of five demonstrators in Greensboro, North Carolina, last November. The government provocateur involved in that massacre, Bernard Butkovich, was from the Cleveland office of the Arms, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the Treasury Department, Powers said.

"We want to know if Butkovich or

another ATF or FBI agent knows anything about this threat against the Socialist Workers Campaign," he said. "We'd like to ask that question publicly to those agencies. Who is behind these threats against my campaign?"

Powers said the SWP campaign had received statements of support against the Nazi threats from the Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry; Robert Klein and Donald Ramos, associate professors at Cleveland State University; American Friends Service Committee; Edmund Ciolek, council member, Thirty-first Ward; the antinuclear North Shore Alert; CSU Emergency Coalition to Defend Student Rights; Arnold Gleisser, Citizens Party candidate for Congress; and the Ohio Communist Party.

A statement "wholeheartedly supporting the right to hold a political event without harassment or violence" was signed by Al Forney, president of United Steelworkers Local 1157; Geraldine Roberts, Domestic Workers of America; Steve Tormey, field organizer for United Electrical Workers; Bill Waller, recording secretary of USWA Local 14613; and Floyd Olson, section chair of Cleveland Meatcutters Local 427.

Attending the news conference were Mary Jo Long of the National Lawyers Guild, Charles Welsh of the Nicaragua Solidarity Committee, and a representative of the Urban League.

The day of the rally the threats intensified. On Saturday afternoon, a car with two men dressed in Nazi garb pulled up in front of the campaign headquarters. Several phone calls were received from Nazis saying, "Heil Hitler. Hitler was right—kill the Communists." "Why are you discriminating against Nazis? We are coming to the dinner and rally." "Will the rally be integrated?"

Campaign supporters got on the phone to the police department and demanded that it protect the rally from Nazi violence. Statements detailing the latest threats were phoned to the news media. The Cleveland Plain Dealer sent two reporters to investigate. This was the top news story on two major television stations.

One campaign supporter from Kent, Ohio, decided to come to the rally to help defend it after he heard news of the threats.

The rally was held without any incidents. The Nazis did not appear again.



JOHN POWERS

Militant/Dave Wulp

# Behind those plane hijackings to Cuba

By José G. Pérez

"They came here with the wrong idea. They thought life here was easier."

That's how one New Jersey Cuban explained to an American newspaper the rash of hijackings by recent Cuban emigres desperate to return to their homeland.

For years, the Voice of America had told them about the American paradise, where even the poorest worker lives like a king. When the boatlift from Cuba started, President Carter promised to receive the emigres with an open heart and open arms.

What the refugees encountered has been totally different. Instead of finding open arms, thousands have been

thrown into military bases converted into concentration camps. Thousands more have been thrown into the streets, jobless and friendless, without even a roof over their heads. Hundreds live in a tent city under a Miami expressway, evicted from their temporary refuge in the Orange Bowl to make way for football practice.

Compared to the United States, Cuba is a very poor country. Moreover, for twenty years she has been the target of terrorist attacks, military threats and an economic blockade from the colossus to the north.

Nevertheless, every person in Cuba is guaranteed the right to a job; the right to housing; the right to food and clothing; the right to free education;

the right to free medical care; the right to be treated with respect, whether they are young or old, male or female, black or white.

In the United States, the only rights the Cuban emigres have found are the right to be exploited; the right to be oppressed; and the right to be dumped in prison without as much as a hearing if they utter a word in protest.

"It is too brusque a change," said one New Jersey Cuban who came several years ago. "The majority are under thirty, and those who are twenty-one grew up entirely under a communist system. You have to deprogram and program them all over again because logically many of these individuals cannot adapt to this system."

## Further Reading

**Selected Speeches of Fidel Castro**  
134 pp. \$4.00

**Fidel Castro at the UN** 46 pp. \$1.25

**Che Guevara Speaks** 159 pp., \$3.45

**Dynamics of the Cuban Revolution**

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# Solidarity with Caribbean

## Rally tells Carter: Hands off!



By Harry Ring

OBERLIN, Ohio—A cheering, chanting crowd of 1,300 rallied here August 3 in solidarity with the rising revolutionary struggles in Central America and the Caribbean. The rally pledged to mobilize mass opposition in the United States against moves by Washington to intervene with military force in the area.

Speakers included a representative of the Guatemala solidarity movement, a representative of the revolutionary

war!" from the audience throughout the rally showed how deeply they felt the connection between the antiwar and solidarity movements in this country and the popular struggles in Central America and the Caribbean.

As the speakers assembled on the stage, they were greeted with resounding applause. A Spanish-speaking section of the audience began chanting, "Cuba, Grenada, Nicaragua, jamás serán vencidas!" [Cuba, Grenada, Nicaragua will never be defeated!]

### Draft debacle

Adding to the high spirits was the fiasco of Carter's draft registration in the preceding weeks. The rejection of the draft by American youth was seen as a powerful aid to liberation fighters in Latin America and around the world.

In his introductory remarks opening the rally, Barry Sheppard recalled that after their victory in World War II, the capitalist rulers of the United States boasted that this was the "American Century" and that they would reign supreme in the world.

But, Sheppard declared, "We said no!" The Socialist Workers Party had recognized that the global extension of U.S. imperialist domination would embed it in all the world's revolutionary powder kegs.

The stunning defeat suffered by Washington in Vietnam, Sheppard said, "changed the face of the world." Fettered by mass working-class opposition at home to new Vietnam-style wars, U.S. imperialism has been unable so far to use its military might to crush the revolutions in Iran, Grenada, Nicaragua, and El Salvador.

The relation between anti-imperialist battles abroad and the struggles of the U.S. working class, he said, is particularly close in the case of Central Amer-

ica and the Caribbean. The liberation movements there, Sheppard said, "are our struggles as well."

"We reach out to these comrades in revolutionary solidarity," he declared. "We have the same enemy."

### Murder in Nicaragua

The deadly nature of that enemy was underlined when Sheppard told the rally of news that three young teachers in Nicaragua's literacy crusade had been murdered by forces from ex-dictator Somoza's National Guard, who had crossed the border from camps in Honduras.

The meeting voted unanimously to send a message to the revolutionary government in Nicaragua denouncing this murderous act by the U.S.-sponsored mercenaries and vowing "to redouble our efforts" in solidarity with Nicaragua.

At the request of Noel Corea of Casa Nicaragua, the audience stood in a minute of silence to honor the fallen literacy brigade members.

In addition to solidarity with the victorious revolutions in Cuba, Grenada, and Nicaragua, the rally focused on those Central American countries where the liberation struggle is reaching a new peak.

### Guatemala message

John Fried of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala read a message from the Democratic Front Against Repression in Guatemala, which unites 160 national and regional organizations in Guatemala.

The message told of the right-wing kidnappings and murders of peasants, students, priests, and unionists, as well as assassinations of journalists in Guatemala.

The message also included a concrete request: "Don't permit the government of the United States to be an accomplice of the government of Guatemala in these massacres. Demand no aid to Guatemala."

### Upsurge in El Salvador

An analysis of the present stage of the explosive struggle in El Salvador was presented by Andrea Granados, who was speaking on behalf of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), an umbrella organization of most of the forces opposed to the Salvadoran junta. Granados is a member of the Revolutionary People's Bloc (BPR)—a 100,000-member organization that is part of the FDR and that includes unions, peasant federations, student groups, and others in El Salvador. She has been in the United States for the past year organizing solidarity with the struggle in her homeland.

"At this historic moment," Granados declared, "we are taking a jump of decades in the history of our country."

It had taken only a brief time, she said, for the junta installed last October with U.S. backing to come to the point of deep crisis. It has been stripped of its initial false veneer of reform and exposed at home and abroad for the repressive regime that it is.

As it becomes more and more isolated, the dictatorship, prodded by Washington, has increased its murderous repression. But with the recent unification of the principal opposition forces, the struggle against it has also mounted.

Granados warned of the danger of Washington trying to crush the revolution by organizing a military invasion from neighboring Honduras and Guatemala.

This danger, she said, underscores the vital need to mobilize opposition among working people in the United States and around the world to any aggression against the Salvadoran people.

Granados pointed to the working-class character of the Salvadoran revolution. She quoted the great Cuban liberation fighter, José Martí: "When

*Continued on next page*

*This week the Militant reprints speeches to the Caribbean solidarity rally by Nicaraguan and Grenadian revolutionists. In coming issues, we will publish the speech by Andrea Granados, of the Revolutionary Democratic Front in El Salvador, and a message to the rally from the Democratic Front Against Repression in Guatemala.*

forces in El Salvador, a Nicaraguan revolutionary, and a member of the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada.

The rally was chaired by Barry Sheppard, a national chairperson of the Socialist Workers Party.

This meeting was a high point of a week-long socialist educational and activists conference sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

The rally, like other conference events, was simultaneously translated into Spanish, French, and German.

Inspired by the revolutionary victories in the Caribbean and Central America over the past year, participants voiced their enthusiasm at every opportunity.

Prolonged chants of "No draft! No

## Socialist conference

The confrontation between U.S. imperialism and revolutionary forces in the Caribbean and Central America was a central focus of the week-long socialist educational and activists conference held in Oberlin, Ohio, in August.

At the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance gathering, more than a dozen classes and workshops were held to discuss:

- the gains made by working people in Cuba, Grenada, and Nicaragua;
- the progress of revolutionary movements in El Salvador, Guatemala, and other countries still

fighting for their liberation; and

- plans for spreading the truth about these struggles and organizing solidarity.

In addition, major presentations to the entire conference by Jack Barnes, SWP national secretary, and Mary-Alice Waters, a national chairperson of the party, discussed the significance of the Cuban, Nicaraguan, and Grenadian revolutions for U.S. working people and for the world socialist movement.

These and other aspects of the SWP and YSA conference will be featured in coming issues of the *Militant*.

# 'We have a common enemy--united we will win'

Following is the speech by Noel Corea, a leader of Casa Nicaragua in New York, at the Oberlin, Ohio, rally in solidarity with the revolutionary struggles in the Caribbean and Central America.

Corea grew up in a poor family in Nicaragua. His mother, the only breadwinner, worked as a domestic servant.

While in high school Corea was active in struggles against the Somoza dictatorship. When he finished school he went to work picking cotton.

Like tens of thousands of other Nicaraguans, Corea was driven by the poverty and oppression in his homeland to make his way to the United States.

He arrived in San Francisco with only five dollars. He worked at a number of jobs, including selling fish at Fisherman's Wharf.

As the Nicaraguan revolution developed, Corea became a leader of solidarity work in San Francisco's big Nicaraguan community, helping to build one of the most effective support groups in the country.

Today, as coordinator of Casa Nicaragua in New York, he is playing a central role in organizing the Nicaraguan community in the United States behind the FSLN-led revolution in their homeland and in rallying broad solidarity with the Nicaraguan people.

[Standing ovation.]

Compañeros y compañeras, I would like you to stand for one minute of silence in memory of those who have fallen while trying to teach our countrymen in Nicaragua to read and write.

[Audience stands for a minute of silence.]



NOEL COREA

Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Muchas gracias.

Compañeros y compañeras, my presence here tonight as a free Nicaraguan is in great part due to the solidarity work that you have been doing here in the United States.

The people of Nicaragua know very well that our victory wasn't won exclusively on Nicaraguan territory. The victory of Nicaragua was won in the streets of Washington, D.C., in the streets of New York, in the streets of San Francisco, thanks to the solidarity work that you have been doing.

The cry for solidarity that our vanguard, the FSLN [Sandinista National Liberation Front], made in early 1977 was heard by you.

The same cry that Sandino made in the 1920s\*. Solidarity around the world. Solidarity of the workers then. Solidarity by the workers now. That solidarity has helped bring the revolution in Nicaragua to the point where it is now.

We know very well that imperialism

doesn't rest. They try by every means to stop our revolution. First, militarily. And now, by economic means and even by sending Somoza's National Guards from the area of Honduras, on the frontier with Nicaragua, to kill our people in Nicaragua.

## Spread the word

We ask you to keep working, wherever you might be. Spread the word about Nicaragua. Spread the word about the Nicaraguan revolution and the revolution in Central America.

The solidarity work that you have been doing for Nicaragua is also very much needed for the people of Grenada, much needed for the people of Cuba. It is very much needed for the people of El Salvador and Guatemala. And more than ever, it is very much needed for the people of Bolivia.

It is important to keep in mind that, as Sandino said in the 1920s, my struggle, the struggle of my people, is the struggle of all oppressed people in the world.

Our fight in Central America is your fight. Your fight here is our fight down there. We have a common enemy.

United we have been. United venceremos [we will win].

It is important to note that many people are dying in El Salvador, while the press in the United States presents little of the reality of what is going on down there. At this moment they want to present the situation as a stalemate. They would like to have an intervention in El Salvador. But rest assured, compañeros, that Nicaragua won't stand for that. [Applause.]

## 'No draft!'

But the first cry has to be heard here in the United States. That cry is: No draft, no war! [Applause.]

In Nicaragua as well as in Latin America, our hope is that you understand that. Our hope is that you keep doing the work that you have been doing so far.

You here have helped the Cuban revolution in the 1960s, are helping the Cuban people now, helped the heroic people of Vietnam, helped the Grenadian revolution, helped the Nicaraguan revolution, and are now helping the Salvadoran revolution. I'm sure that you are quite proud of what you are doing. And let me assure you that you are living a moment of history that will be remembered for time to come.

Compañeros, I repeat again, your struggle is our struggle. Keep doing the work that you are doing. We'll keep the arms in our hands. [Applause and chants of "Se siente, se siente, Sandino está presente!"—"You can feel it, you can feel it, Sandino is present."]

Compañeros, that's right. Sandino está presente hoy más que nunca [Sandino is present today more than ever].

Yes now more than ever, Sandino is present. Sandino is present in El Salvador. Sandino is present in Guatemala. Sandino is present at the barricades that the mine workers of Bolivia are making. [Applause.]

Let me finish up by saying that as the Cuban revolution, as the Grenadian revolution, as the Nicaraguan revolution, El Salvador vencerá, y Guatemala también vencerá! [El Salvador will win and Guatemala will also win!]

Patria libre, compañeros! [Free homeland, compañeros!]  
[Standing ovation.]

\*Gen. Augusto César Sandino, the "General of Free Men," led the struggle in the 1920s and early 1930s to defend Nicaragua's sovereignty against military occupation by U.S. Marines. He was murdered in 1934 by Somoza's National Guard, which was then being established to run the country in the interests of Washington and Wall Street.



ATLANTA



GRENADA



NEW YORK



NICARAGUA

## ... Rally

Continued from preceding page

history cannot be written with a pen, it should be written with a rifle!"

### Sandinista victory

The same revolutionary determination was voiced by Noel Corea, coordinator of Casa Nicaragua in New York.

"Our fight in Central America is your fight. Your fight here is our fight down there. We have a common enemy," he said.

Reiterating the danger of a U.S.-organized intervention against the Salvadoran revolution, he repeated the stand of the Nicaraguan government, led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN): "Rest assured, compañeros, that Nicaragua won't stand for that."

He added: "But the first cry has to be heard here in the United States. That cry is: No draft, no war!"

Corea told the rally that participants could be proud of the historic contribution they had made in building solidarity with Vietnam, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada. "Keep doing the work that you are doing," he told the cheering audience. "We'll keep the arms in our hands."

### Free Grenada

A rousing reception was also extended to Liam James, a leader of the Grenada revolution.

He thanked the Socialist Workers Party and the people of the United States for the support they have given to free Grenada.

Applause reverberated throughout the gathering as James pointed to the worldwide decline of imperialism and

the advances of the world liberation forces.

"There would have been no revolutionary Cuba if there was not a Soviet Union in 1959," he declared. "And there would not be today a revolutionary Grenada and a revolutionary Nicaragua if there was not a revolutionary Cuba."

James told of the poverty and repression in Grenada under the dictatorship of Eric Gairy. He recounted how the New Jewel Movement gained support among working people and led thousands of Grenadians in toppling Gairy on March 13, 1979.

### Consolidating the revolution

But the tasks of consolidating the revolution, increasing production, raising living standards, and defending the country from imperialism are "a million times more difficult than the seizure of state power," he said.

The top priority of the New Jewel Movement today, he explained, is raising political consciousness among the masses of Grenadian workers and farmers and "getting our people more and more involved in the revolutionary process."

James appealed to the people of the United States to block efforts by the deposed Gairy dictatorship to recruit mercenaries for a counterrevolutionary invasion.

The audience came to its feet as he concluded with the battle cry of the New Jewel Movement: "Forward ever! Backward never!"

The spirit of the rally was captured in its final moment. To the cheers of the audience, the representatives of the revolutionary forces on the platform stood shoulder to shoulder, with their hands clasped aloft in unity and solidarity.



# 'We must be prepared to stand up & fight imperialism'

Following is the speech given by Grenadian leader Liam James to the August 3 Caribbean solidarity rally in Oberlin, Ohio.

Liam James was born into a farming family in Grenada. As a student, he became active in the 1973-74 upsurge that nearly toppled the dictatorship of Eric Gairy. James joined the New Jewel Movement shortly after it was founded in 1973.

Before the revolution he was a dock worker and leader of the dock workers' union, as well as a leader of the New Jewel Movement youth organization. He was an active participant and leader in the March 13, 1979, insurrection that overthrew Gairy and brought the NJM to power.

Liam James is today a member of the twenty-three member People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada and a member of the Central Committee of the New Jewel Movement.

[Standing ovation.]

Thank you, comrades, for this very, very warm welcome.

Comrades, I bring the warmest and deepest fraternal revolutionary greetings to you, revolutionary people of America, from our people of Grenada and from our revolutionary party, our vanguard party, the New Jewel Movement of Grenada. [Applause.]

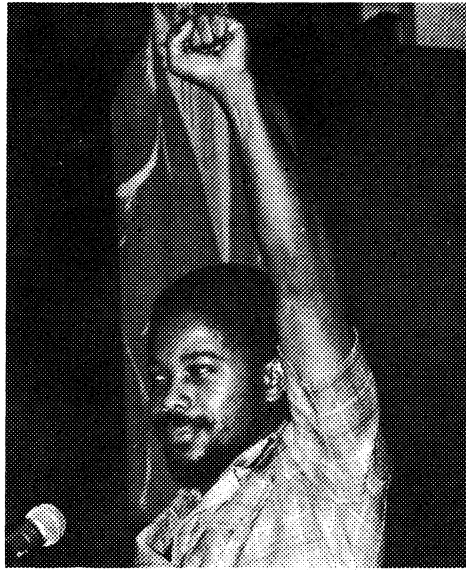
I also want to thank you and your party, the Socialist Workers Party, for the deep solidarity and support that you have given us since our March 13 revolution. We deeply appreciate all this. We can honestly say that the support and solidarity you have given us have been a great help to us in our developing revolutionary process at home. Thank you once more.

Comrades, I feel particularly pleased to be here with you tonight in this important forum. I feel particularly pleased because this is no gathering of schoolmates. This is no gathering of ordinary friends. This is no gathering of business associates. [Laughter and applause.]

This gathering is a gathering of serious revolutionary people who are committed to the liberation of the international working people. Serious people who are committed to putting an end, once and for all, to exploitation of man by man. [Applause.]

Comrades, for all these reasons, I feel very, very pleased to be with you here.

Today we find ourselves in the era of the decline of imperialism and the



LIAM JAMES

Militant/Lou Howort

growth of the world revolutionary movement. We have seen the growth of the socialist world. We have seen the victories and advances of the world liberation forces. We have seen the growth and maturity of the international working class and their respective parties. All of this indicates the world revolutionary movement is growing stronger and stronger, day by day. [Applause.]

We must never, never underplay the importance of all of this. We must understand that there would have been no revolutionary Cuba if there was not a Soviet Union in 1959. [Applause.]

And there would not be today a revolutionary Grenada and a revolutionary Nicaragua if there was not a revolutionary Cuba. [Applause.]

Given the decline of imperialism, we as serious revolutionaries have two important tasks ahead of us. First, we must prepare ourselves to fully exploit this growing weakness of imperialism. We must also prepare ourselves to stand up and fight down imperialism.

## Prepared to fight

Because the other side of the coin is that imperialism, becoming weaker and weaker every day, may in the future become desperate and attempt to turn all its weaponry, all its nuclear power, against the whole of mankind. And we must be prepared to stand up and fight against this. [Applause.]

Comrades, I speak of the *weakening* of imperialism. However, we must never illusion ourselves into believing that imperialism is today *weak*. Although imperialism is losing the battle, they are still a very powerful enemy. Only the most serious struggle, only the most serious efforts on our

part can bring about the eventual defeat of imperialism.

The examples of the people of Iran, the people of Nicaragua, the people of Cuba, and the heroic people of Vietnam [applause] show us that imperialism can and will be defeated.

Our Grenadian revolution would not be properly understood if we do not see it from this perspective. Our Grenadian revolution stands on this background of the weakening of imperialism and the growth of the world revolutionary movement.

## Poverty and repression

In Grenada, before our March 13, 1979, revolution, the most terrible conditions of poverty existed in our country. Malnutrition was rampant throughout our country.

Side by side with this, we had brutal repression by the Gairy dictatorship. In Grenada we had the famous secret police, which became known as the Mongoose Gang, who rounded up Grenadians who dared to speak in the open against the Gairy dictatorship.

Our [current] prime minister, for example, had to pay the price of losing his father in the struggle against Gairyism. In the 1973-74 upheaval, which we refer to as the 1973-74 revolution, Comrade Maurice Bishop lost his father [Rupert Bishop] in battle. Many other comrades involved in our revolutionary movement at home lost their own lives or their families in struggle.

But all these losses, all these sacrifices, never once daunted our spirits. They did the very opposite. They formed our mettle, they fired our determination, they firmed our commitment to struggle more resolutely against Gairyism and against imperialism. [Applause.]

## New Jewel Movement

Comrades, the New Jewel Movement, the vanguard party of the revolutionary forces in Grenada, was formed in 1973. In the years between 1973 and 1979 our party consistently took up all the battles of the working people at home. Whether it was the fishermen, poor farmers, the urban working class, the youth, the unemployed—all people who are on the side against imperialism, all people who suffered one way or another from imperialism, were supported to the fullest by our party.

And as a result of this, the confidence of the working people of Grenada in our party, the New Jewel Movement, grew and grew over the years.

And so, on the morning of March

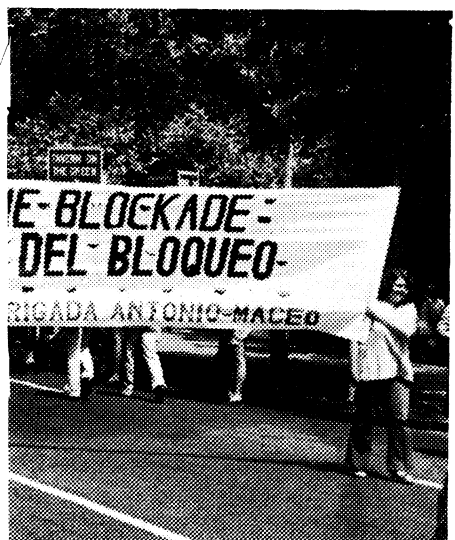
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Militant/Robb Lutton



Militant/Jerry Hunnicutt



Militant/Nancy Cole



Militant/Fred Murphy



WASHINGTON, D.C.

Militant/Michael Baumann

# Salvadoran general strike a success

By Will Reissner

A three-day general strike protesting repression and U.S. involvement in El Salvador, organized by the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) on August 13-15, achieved a high degree of success despite a murderous repression throughout the country and threats that strikers would be fired.

The August 14 issue of the Nicaraguan daily *Barricada* reported that the first day of the strike was marked by "simultaneous confrontations, large numbers of civilian and military casualties, bombs and barricades, and an atmosphere of general tension."

The strike closed down 80 percent of industry and idled 70 percent of public transport, while having a lesser impact in stores, government facilities, banks, and offices, according to *Barricada*. A dispatch from the Spanish news agency EFE reported that although some 60 percent of the stores eventually opened their doors, often under military and government pressure, they had few customers. Many stores were again closed by early afternoon.

In an attempt to undercut the strike, the ruling military/Christian Democratic junta militarized urban transport in the capital and occupied the bus terminals, forcing buses and taxis into the streets. The junta tried to point to the open stores and operating buses

as evidence that the strike had been a failure.

In addition, government forces continued their armed attacks against the Salvadoran population. During the course of the three-day strike, at least 129 persons were killed.

Residents of some neighborhoods around San Salvador reported seeing U.S. soldiers in Salvadoran army uniforms during military operations against strikers.

Since the beginning of the year, the American-backed junta has gunned down more than 4,500 Salvadoran workers, peasants, and youths.

The insurgent forces, however, have been gaining in strength. For the first time, uniformed guerrilla and militia forces entered San Salvador and other cities.

Revolutionary forces attacked a number of military posts and set up barricades in many areas of San Salvador. During the course of the strike they were able to cut the roads linking San Salvador with San Miguel, Santa Ana, and Aguilares.

Many neighborhoods in and around the capital were in the hands of revolutionary forces at some point during the strike. These included San Ramón, Soyapango, San Marcos, Miralvalle, Ciudad Satélite, Ayuctepeque, Mejicanos, San Jacinto, Vista Hermosa, San-

tanita, Colonia Ivu, Plan del Pito, and El Coro.

The largest battle took place in El Coro, on the outskirts of San Salvador, where guerrillas ambushed a military convoy, engaging in a three-hour battle with government troops.

The cities of San Miguel, Sonsonate, and Acajutla had no electricity following walkouts by power workers. In addition, the San Salvador metropoli-

tan area was without water after pumping stations were blown up.

During the strike the Mexican Foreign Ministry announced the withdrawal of its ambassador to El Salvador. Mexico will henceforth be represented in the country by a chargé d'affaires. This was a diplomatic blow against the junta.

From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

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## ...fight imperialism

Continued from preceding page

13—when a vanguard of our party attacked the [True Blue] army barracks, burnt it to the ground, seized the radio station, and called upon our people to come out and arrest the brutal elements of the secret police, of the police force, of the army, and the corrupt and brutal leadership of government—our people rallied and came out by the thousands in the streets.

In one single day the complete seizure of power took place. [Applause.]

### Period of consolidation

This, however, was only the first stage of our revolution, the seizure of state power. Today we have the second stage, that which we refer to as the period of consolidation, the period of building our revolution. We have learned that this task, the task of consolidation, is a million times more difficult than the seizure of state power. We have learned this in practice.

Today we have ahead of us many difficult tasks. The three fundamental tasks are:

First, the building of our people's political consciousness, the building of our people's political understanding of what we struggle against, of who our number-one enemy is, of what we struggle for, and of what tactics and strategy we must work out and follow to guarantee the success of our revolution. That is our number-one task.

Also, getting our people more involved in the revolutionary process at home so that they no longer see building a revolution as the task of the leadership of our party, but as the task of every single serious Grenadian who is committed to building our country so that the working people in the future may inherit a better Grenada, so that all of them shall participate in all the processes and activities of the Grenadian revolution. [Applause.]

### Building economy

The second major task we have ahead of us today is that of building our economy, producing the goods for our people of free Grenada.

Our people have suffered under slavery, have suffered under colonialism, have suffered and are still suffering today under imperialism. Our people have had a long history of suffering, and obviously our March 13 revolution brought with it great expectations on

the part of our people.

Hence we see the task of producing the goods, providing more jobs, improving our health facilities and conditions, improving our educational facilities and opportunities, building our economy, as a very important and fundamental task.

We understand only too well that our revolution in Grenada can fail not only if our enemy was to undermine it, but also if we in the revolutionary movement should fail to do what we have to do.

The third fundamental task that we have ahead of us in free Grenada today is that of developing our military and security forces, preparing ourselves for the defense of our revolution. We see this as of enormous importance.

### Counterrevolutionary attacks

Since our March 13 revolution, we have had two serious attempts by reaction aimed at turning back the revolution.\* These attempts have not

\*In October and November 1979, a number of counterrevolutionaries were arrested on charges of plotting to overthrow the government.

In April 1980, Grenadian authorities uncovered a second plot, involving some members of the army with ties to large-scale marijuana growers and possible links with the CIA.

surprised us. We understand only too well that revolution always breeds counterrevolution.

We expect in the future many more attempts by reaction, by those who figure that they have lost too much in the revolution, and by those who feel that in the future their interests will be threatened. But we are confident that just as we have been able to defeat these two attempts at turning back our revolution in free Grenada, so too we shall be able to defeat any future attempts. [Applause.]

Comrades, this third task, the task of developing our military and security forces, has particular relevance to you, revolutionary people of the United States of America.

I say so because today, at this very point in time, there are a few people in New York, Grenadians, who are counterrevolutionary. There are a few of them in New York who are today raising funds and recruiting reactionary Grenadians and mercenaries with the aim of launching an attack, an armed invasion of free Grenada. This is taking place on your soil here in the United States of America.

A few weeks later, on June 19, persons associated with these plotters carried out a terrorist bombing against a mass rally in St. George's, the Grenadian capital. Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and other top government and New Jewel Movement leaders, targets of the assassination attempt, escaped uninjured, but three young women were killed and dozens of people wounded.

But we at home in free Grenada have a song which our revolutionary people daily sing, and the chorus of that song runs like this: "Let them come, let them come, we shall bury them in the sea!" [Applause, standing ovation.]

Given the political advancement of our people over the years and particularly since our March 13 revolution, given the militancy of our people, given the great response there has been to our building of a people's militia, given the mood of our people at home, given the commitment, the firmness, the mettle of our people at home, we are confident that we shall be able to defeat any attempt by reaction aimed at turning back our revolution.

Comrades, to end, I want to say:

Long live the revolutionary people of Cuba and Nicaragua! [Applause.]

Long live the revolutionary people of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras struggling for their liberation too! [Applause.]

Long live the world socialist movement! [Applause.]

Long live the world liberation movements! [Applause.]

Long live the international working class and their respective parties! [Applause.]

Comrades, long live the revolutionary people of the United States of America! Forward ever! Backward never!

[Standing ovation and chants of "Forward ever! Backward never!" and "No draft! No war!"]



March 13, 1980. Grenadian masses celebrate first anniversary of their revolution

Militant/Jerry Hunnicutt



## 'Not one step backward'

# 300 protest threat to black lung benefits

By Linda May Flint

PURSGLOVE, W. Va.—Some 300 people protested threats to black lung benefits at a rally held here on Sunday July 27. It was sponsored by the Black Lung Association.

Most of those present were working or retired miners and their families in northern West Virginia. The crowd also included BLA members from Pennsylvania and Kentucky, as well as members of other unions.

The protest rally was called to answer a research report by Dr. Keith Morgan, which claims that black lung is caused mainly by cigarette smoking, not coal dust. The report was published in the June *Journal of the American Medical Association* along with an editorial claiming government benefits for miners suffering black lung disease are often awarded without basis.

### Coal bosses' stooge

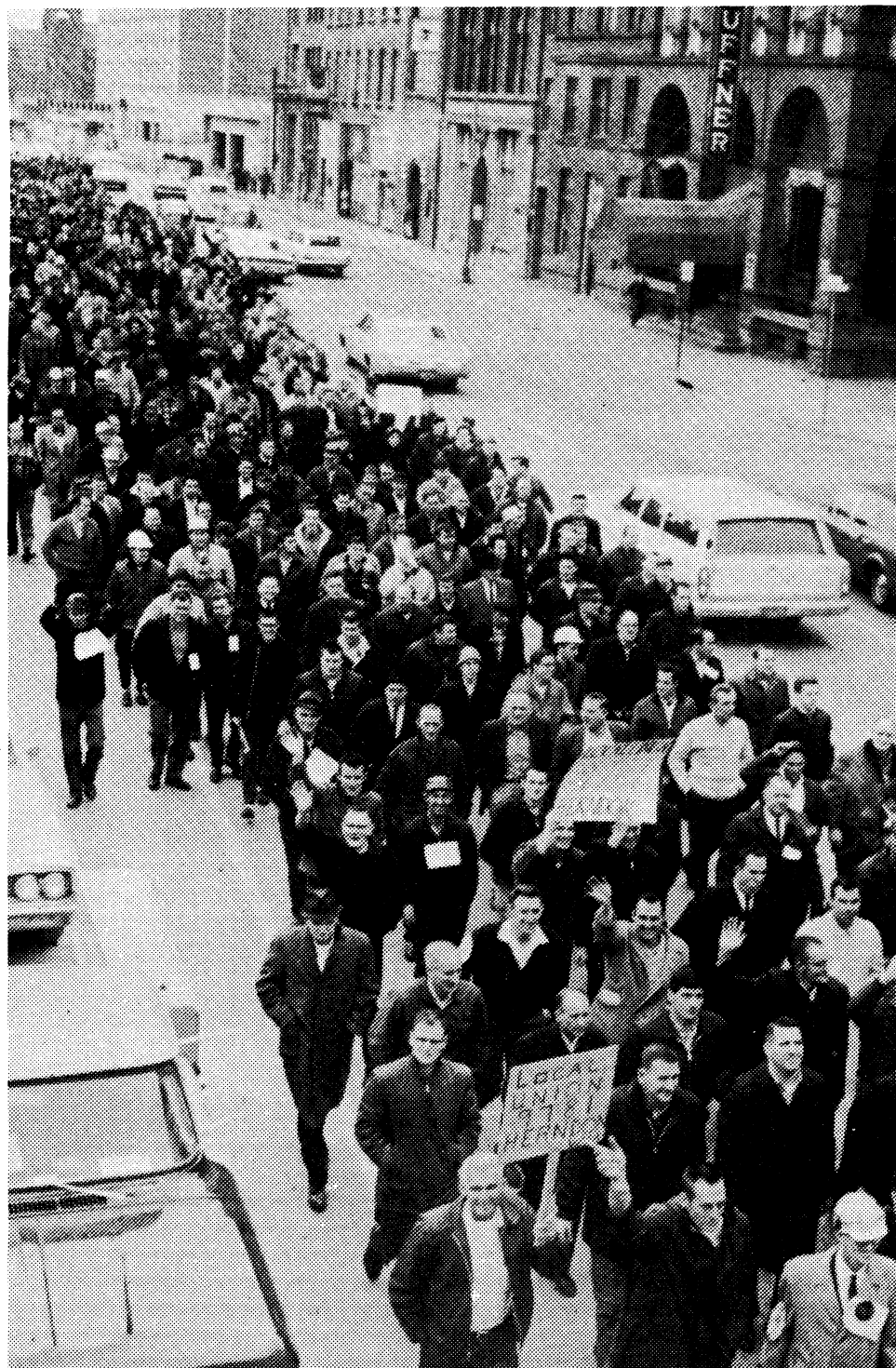
The report alarmed and infuriated miners, for Morgan had been used by the coal operators a decade ago to fight the movement that won benefits for black lung victims.

The timing of the report is no coincidence. Funding for the Black Lung Benefits Trust Fund is under debate, black lung clinics are in trouble, and compensation for black lung victims has been getting more difficult to win.

Speakers at the Black Lung Association rally included: Dr. Donald Rasmussen, a noted authority on lung disease among miners; Eldon Callen, representing United Mine Workers of America President Sam Church; Bill Worthington, president of the BLA; Arnold Miller, president emeritus of the UMWA; Ken Hechler, former member of Congress; and A. James Manchin, secretary of state of West Virginia.

The rally was chaired by David Lee Smith, president of the Coal Miners Political Action Committee at the Federal #2 Mine in the northern part of the state. "We're here to tell Morgan, the coal operators, and others that we will not take one step backward from the gains we've made in the past," he said.

Smith concluded his remarks by reference to the black lung movement, the struggle waged by miners more



February 26, 1969: Coal miners march through Charleston, West Virginia, demanding black lung benefits. Gains won by the black lung movement are now under attack.

than a decade ago that spurred Congress to pass the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. That act established the first mandatory federal health standards for any occupation as well as benefits for black lung victims.

### Movement needed

"A movement was needed to get black lung benefits, and a movement will be needed again to extend black lung benefits," Smith said.

Both secretary of state Manchin and former Rep. Hechler lashed out at Keith Morgan in their talks. Manchin referred to Morgan as "a damn fool who doesn't know what he's talking about." Hechler held up a huge balloon saying that's what he thought of Morgan.

Eldon Callen, director of public information for the UMWA, spoke for union President Sam Church. He said the union had already issued a statement providing medical evidence that refutes Morgan's latest study. "We coal miners know that coal dust is responsible for black lung," he said.

Callen also addressed the issue of preventing the disease. "All occupational diseases are man-made. And all man-made diseases can be prevented—totally, not partially."

Dr. Donald Rasmussen spoke as an authority on black lung and as a veteran of the black lung movement. He carefully refuted Morgan's claims. Rasmussen also spoke about the campaign to establish benefits for victims of black lung.

Those who are now trying to reverse those gains, he said, are the same forces that worked against the law to control coal dust and protect the health of miners in the first place.

He said the key to establishing the benefits in 1969 had been "the miners who were willing to lose five to six hundred dollars in pay to win the fight." He was referring to a three-week strike by 30,000 (out of 40,000) West Virginia coal miners demanding the state legislature stop stalling on benefits legislation. At that time miners not only struck, but they rallied in Charleston, the state capital, making it clear that they would leave only when the bill had been passed and signed into law by the governor.

Arnold Miller, past president of the

UMWA who rose to prominence in the union as a leader of the black lung movement, traced the movement's history. He recalled how it started with small meetings around the state and led to a drive for democratization of the UMWA.

Bill Worthington, a retired miner who was also a key figure in the BLA for years, warned that the black lung program is limited, and has to be renewed in 1981. Funding for clinics is likewise not guaranteed. It is in this context, he explained, that Morgan launches his attack.

"Mark my words, they're trying to take away these benefits," Worthington said. "I've been a miner for thirty-five years, and I know they never give up trying to take away what we've won."

Helen Powell, a leading BLA activist, noted in her talk the number of young miners present. "The old miners started the fight and young miners will have to take up the fight to defend these benefits. If not, beneficiaries may one day go to their mailbox and find no checks."

Don Bryant, a disabled miner who spoke for the West Virginia Employee Benefits Coalition, stressed the need to begin sounding the alarm so that miners can fight the threats to their benefits.

### 'Do it again'

"Labor is going to suffer, no matter whether Reagan or Carter gets into office," he warned. "Four thousand five hundred miners had to march on Washington before for black lung benefits. And when the time is right, we'll have to do it again."

Throughout the rally, messages of support were read from those who couldn't attend. Richard Gray, president of United Steelworkers of America Local 1408, pointed out in his message that not only are black lung benefits under attack, so are other programs that deal with health and safety on the job, referring to current congressional moves to gut the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).

Crystal Lee Sutton (the real "Norma Rae") said in her message that "if anything gets taken away from coal miners, it will make it harder for textile workers to get brown lung compensation."

Others who sent messages or expressions of support included: UMWA Districts 29 and 6; USWA Locals 1397, 1557, and 1256; the executive board of United Electrical Workers Local 610; the Monongalia County AFL-CIO; the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers; and the Coal Employment Project.

## Socialist hails rally

PURSGLOVE, W. Va.—Coal miner Tom Moriarty, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of West Virginia, attended the black lung rally here July 27.

Moriarty introduced himself to people as they walked into the rally and passed out a statement, calling for an end to the bipartisan attacks on black lung benefits.

"This attack on miners' rights to black lung benefits is part of an assault by the corporations and the government against our standard of living and our right to health and safety," Moriarty's statement said.

"To defend past gains and win new victories, working people must take their fight into the political arena. We need a new political party that will fight for workers' safety and health rights, not company profits. We need a labor party based on the unions."

Moriarty hailed the successful rally here as an excellent step toward "getting out the word to miners and other workers that our benefits are under attack and warning the bosses and their Democratic and Republican friends that we're not going to just let it happen."

## Scotia widows win settlement

By Vivian Sahner

Thirty-five family members of those killed in the 1976 Scotia mine disaster have finally won an out-of-court settlement with the Blue Diamond Coal Company that could bring them from \$10 to \$12 million in damages.

The two explosions four years ago killed twenty-six men in the non-union Blue Diamond mine in Owen Fork, Kentucky.

The settlement agreed to on August 17 is believed to be the largest ever made in the coal industry. Another case is pending against Blue Diamond by six women widowed in the second Scotia explosion.

The official federal report on the disaster, completed in 1977, was suppressed by federal Judge H. David Hermansdorfer at the request of Blue Diamond. The study reportedly detailed some of the

gross safety violations that led to the 1976 disaster.

Hermansdorfer, who owns coal lands, originally dismissed the Scotia widows' suit. When it was reinstated by the U.S. Court of Appeals, the judge refused to hear it, citing a "crowded docket." It was then reassigned to Federal District Judge William Bertlesman and set for trial on August 19.

After Bertlesman made a series of decisions lifting the ban on the federal report, Blue Diamond buckled and agreed to the out-of-court settlement. The cash value of the settlement is actually \$5.9 million. The top \$12 million figure is based on accrued interest on deferred annuities to the survivors.

The widows' attorney, Gerald Stern, said that "they wanted to prove that Blue Diamond was responsible for their husbands' deaths, and they did."

## 'They cut out jobs, ignore the union'

# Workers hurt by GM 'quality of work life'

By Stu Singer

"When I went into the session, the very first thing that happened is that the union representative got up and said, 'This is not a brainwashing session.' The union knows what people think of it," said Bruce Pla, a member of United Auto Workers Local 664 at General Motors Tarrytown, New York, assembly plant. He was describing the Quality of Work Life (QWL) training session he attended.

The June 30 issue of *Business Week* magazine features a long cover story, "The Reindustrialization of America." This article purports to offer a solution to the "problem" that "U.S. industry has lost its competitiveness in world markets."

The solution they propose: "a new social contract."

Some of the rationale for the "social contract" is taken from the eighteenth-century French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Behind this outdated facade, the Wall Street magazine is putting forward the same program President James Carter described as "pain and discipline."

Whatever name they call it, the capitalists are talking about how to shift more of the burden of their economic crisis onto the shoulders of working people.

"Reindustrialization" and "social contract" are code words in a war of ideas to convince workers to support attacks against themselves.

### Harmony?

*Business Week* illustrates its "social contract" by the labor-management harmony that supposedly exists at the Tarrytown GM plant. The QWL program there, begun in 1973, is held up as a model of how workers should get along with bosses.

What is the reality of life at this model plant?

I went to Tarrytown, about an hour north of New York City, to get a second opinion.

I spoke with four workers: Bruce Pla, Wells Todd, and Fran Collett, who have each worked there between one and two years, and John Inzar, a fifteen-year Tarrytown veteran.

Inzar: "QWL is supposed to be for improving relations between blue- and white-collar workers."

"The quality of work life has gotten worse, not better, under the program. They cut out jobs."

"There is no time off for model changeover like there used to be. Instead of stopping at the end of the model year in the summer and retooling, they now start running the new models right on the line."

"People used to be advised not to buy cars made at the beginning of the model year because workers on the line were still getting used to their jobs. Now you should not buy a car made either at the beginning or at the end of the model year. At the end the workers are learning jobs for the new models and quality goes down on the old ones."

"I went through the QWL right after the layoff in 1974. I was out one year and nine months. The SUB [supplemental unemployment benefits] ran out six months before I was called back, so it was rough for a while."

### QWL sessions

Collett: "The QWL program takes about thirty people in each session. You are off the line for three full days. You get your regular pay. They show you movies, slides, and make you play games."

"Foremen are in there without their white shirts and ties so they'll look like everyone else."

Todd: "It sounds like they revamp the program after every session. One thing that is ignored is the role of the



Militant/Stu Singer

**Above, workers leave day shift at Tarrytown. Below, UAW Local 664 union hall located next to plant. GM's 'quality of work life' really means job cuts and speed-up. So far the union has cooperated, but anti-union propaganda is still part of the company effort.**

union in winning everything we have.

"If you didn't know better, you'd think from QWL that the company gave us everything willingly."

"The union does participate in the program. A union rep is in each session. They even show a film featuring former international Vice-president Irving Bluestone, who headed the GM division of the union. Unfortunately the union supports this program."

Pla: "People feel it is an attempt to brainwash workers."

"People say the union was more militant before the layoff in 1974. But after the layoff the company got the union involved in this program."

Inzar: "Anything bad that happens, is good for GM. Like the Mahwah closing. They keep talking about that. If Ford had QWL, they say, Mahwah would still be open."

"It's so bad they even changed the story on why they shut down the truck production line in 1975. Everybody knew it was because of the recession."

"But now, to fit into the threats comparing us to Mahwah, they say the truck plant had poor quality."

Pla: "You're supposed to suffer quietly and happily. For example, if you have to put in a few screws, you may take a couple extra into the car in case you drop one. They tell you not to do this. If you drop one, spend the time to find it. But you don't have time because of the line speed. But they tell you it's supposed to make you happy to find the screws."

### Tricks & games

Inzar: "One of the games they make you play is called 'Win All You Can.' It is a trick. If you try to win all you can,

you lose. You are supposed to learn that only the whole team together can win all it can, not individuals."

Pla: "They show you a film giving the point of view of an auto worker and showing how bad it is to work here; how they treat you like a child all the time."

"After the film they ask, 'How many people think that is what it's like to work here?' Everybody raises their hands. Then they try to convince you that it is not true."

"The union reps in the session sound worse than management. If somebody gets up and criticizes the company, the first person to answer is from the union leadership, defending the company against the worker."

I asked what it's like in the plant.

Inzar: "Here's an example: Last week there was a leak of dangerous chemicals. It was so bad the people living in houses nearby were told to stay inside. We were working then. The leak was from the plant. They never even told us about it. We did not hear about it until we read the newspapers."

"The heat is terrible inside. There is forced overtime. Has been for over a year."

Todd: "There are 3,900 hourly workers on two shifts. The line runs at 62.5 cars an hour, eighteen hours a day, five days a week. Plus we work three Saturdays a month with each shift six or eight hours long."

"The GM 'X body' car, the Citation, which we make, is selling very well."

Inzar: "They keep talking about quality. But a lot of it is just games. They measure quality through an

audit. They deduct a certain number of points for each defect."

"Recently they changed the number of points for a headlight bezel and fender from four to ten. So the high audit we've gotten will start to go down and we'll have to work harder to keep up."

Pla: "They eliminate people and combine jobs at the same time. The better you get at your job, the more they give you to do. This hurts quality. They tell you to work smarter, not harder. But they don't mean it."

Collett: "They say you can't win by competing. But then they organize competitions. In the department that does best, all the workers get company hats."

"In the QWL sessions they show you six hours of slides. It is supposed to be a whole tour of the plant. But they don't show people working. The slides are mostly of stock."

"The QWL approach is pushed by the union leaders now. When the union president wanted to convince us to vote for the contract, he said how lucky we are to be making this 'X car' and we'd better ratify the contract if we want Tarrytown to stay in business."

"Just when we need a stronger union, you can see how this is really weakening the UAW."

Pla: "The union has gotten real close with the company. The committeemen are elected every year but all they do is sit in an air-conditioned office reading or playing cards the whole shift. They are getting their regular pay from the company."

"If you have a problem and need a committeeman you have to get your foreman to call him. The foreman may not call for hours. And then the committeeman may not show up right away."

Inzar: "People don't file grievances as much as they used to because they don't feel it is worthwhile. The committeemen will trade off grievances with the company. The company may say, 'Well, we'll give you this one if you drop all these others.' And the union representatives agree."

### Workers under fire

The picture of Tarrytown GM is not the idyllic labor-management peace of the "social contract" of either Rousseau or *Business Week*.

It is a picture of workers under heavy propaganda bombardment. It shows a once-militant union whose officials have adopted such extreme pro-company positions that the members are losing confidence in their organization.

But the most important fact that comes through from this discussion with Tarrytown workers is that whatever success GM has with its propaganda drive, the workers still suffer under worsening conditions.

Fifteen miles west of Tarrytown, 5,000 auto workers were thrown out of work when Ford closed its Mahwah, New Jersey, plant. But Tarrytown keeps working fifty-three hours a week. Auto workers on the New York side of the Hudson River are subjected to speedup, forced overtime, sweltering heat; on the New Jersey side they have no jobs.

"Pain and discipline," "reindustrialization," "social contract"—they all come down to one thing: higher profits for the capitalists at the expense of the workers.

It will take a lot more than QWL movies and psychological games to deaden the consciousness of American workers. The UAW may be weaker than before, but it is not defeated.

General Motors and *Business Week* are going to have to add another word to their vocabularies: "overconfidence."



## S.F. hotel strike

# Workers fought takeback demands

By Louise Armstrong

SAN FRANCISCO—Six thousand hotel workers returned to work August 15, ending this city's first hotel strike in forty years.

On July 17, the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union Local 2 struck twelve hotels and were locked out of twenty-four others by the Hotel Employers Association.

At issue in the strike were wages and fifty-nine takeaways of workers' rights, including the right of maids to shop steward representation, an arbitrated decision to reduce room quotas for maids, seniority, and an affirmative-action plan.

The hotel workers—mostly Filipinos, Latinos, Asians, Blacks, and women—won widespread sympathy during the strike. Employed by the big luxury hotels where a single room starts at \$85 a night, these workers' average wage was \$4.50 an hour when the contract expired July 1.

Several San Francisco labor officials, including Walter Johnson, president of Department Store Employees Union Local 1100, and Jack Wein-

traub, president of Teamsters Local 85, initiated a labor and community support committee which backed an August 2 solidarity rally of 2,500 strikers and friends.

The San Francisco Labor Council, headed by Jack Crowley, was working with Local 2 on another support demonstration for August 23 when the strike ended.

The San Francisco chapters of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the National Organization for Women participated in the picketing and support activities.

It was clear from the outset that the hotel bosses considered the stakes high in this fight.

Tourism, a \$1 billion annual business, is the largest industry in San Francisco.

Days before the strike, the Hotel Employers Association ran a full-page ad in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, admonishing readers to "join the hotel industry in urging hotel employees of Local 2 to accept this offer" of take-

back demands. HEA Executive Director Douglas Cornford boasts that he played a major role in breaking the unions in the long Los Angeles *Herald-Examiner* strike.

Scabs were flown in from as far away as Hawaii and Texas.

Victimizations and harassment by city cops and the HEA plagued the strikers. On July 21, Police Chief Murphy, under direction from Mayor Dianne Feinstein, ordered picket captains to "cease and desist" from noise-making on the picketlines.

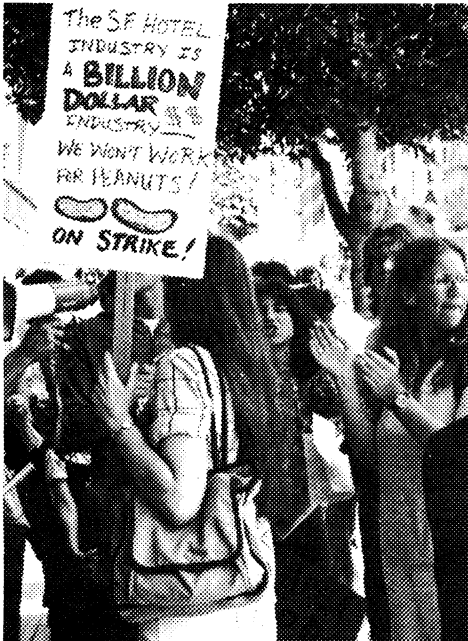
In a show of strength the next day, 600 strikers rallied outside the Hyatt Regency. TAC squad cops moved in, arresting forty-six, including Local 2 president Charles Lamb. By July 24, the HEA won a temporary restraining order limiting picketing. In addition, HEA slapped a \$5 million damages suit against Local 2.

Early in the strike, Mayor Feinstein, owner of the Carlton Hotel under separate negotiations with Local 2, offered her services as a "neutral mediator." Daily news media coverage heralded her intervention and cried about the lost revenue to the city.

In a secret meeting in Los Angeles August 9, representatives of the HEA and top officials of Local 2 as well as Edward Hanley, international president of the union, came to a tentative agreement on a settlement. The thirty-two member rank-and-file negotiating committee was excluded from this session, and rejected the offer sixteen to eight.

On August 12, Local 2 members voted three to one to accept the offer. While details are unclear, the settlement includes wage increases from 26 percent to 33 percent over three years, reduced room quotas for maids, shop steward representation on the job for maids, and total amnesty for strikers.

The return to work August 13 hit a snag when the HEA refused to make the wage agreement retroactive to July 1. In a surprise move, the international union pledged August 15 to foot the bill of about \$250,000 in back pay.



Militant photos by Wayne Glover

San Francisco hotel unionists conducted first major strike in forty years.

## ...Klan

Continued from back page

sticks hitting bodies," she testified. "I don't believe I'll ever forget the look on his [Pridmore's] face during the fight."

She testified that heavy gunfire from the rear of the caravan followed the fighting.

All six of the Klanners and Nazis on trial have been identified by at least one witness. Several more of their associates have been indicted for the killings but have had their trial postponed until the present one ends.

About half the participants in the murderous attack have not been indicted.

The defense claim that they shot in self-defense has already been undermined by testimony that there was no obstruction to the flow of traffic and that all the cars involved could have left the scene at any time.



Nazi-Klan murderers take aim at anti-racist protesters last November 3.

## How racist system of 'justice' works in North Carolina

GREENSBORO—On August 6 in a courtroom here, Assistant District Attorney Lee Knight presented the following argument to the judge:

"This man poses a clear danger to the people of Greensboro. We are talking about a person who inspires and encourages others to the point where five people are killed."

"He says he is not legally responsible for the death of five people last November 3, but he's clearly morally responsible. He precipitates situations where violence is a clear and present danger, and on November 3, it happened. He is indicted for a crime of physical violence. There was blood shed on November 3 and there will be blood shed again if his conduct is not controlled."

Was Knight referring to the Nazi and KKK defendants who millions of television viewers watched coolly open fire on a crowd killing five on November 3, 1979?

Or was he referring to the federal or local police agents who played key parts in encouraging this fatal attack?

No. Knight, a former Baptist minister now working as a public prosecutor, was arguing for a \$100,000 bond to be imposed on Nelson Johnson, a leader of the Communist Workers Party and one of the targets

of the Klan attack. (The highest bond for any of the KKK killers was \$50,000.)

Johnson and five other participants in the November 3 anti-Klan demonstration were indicted in May for felonious riot. This attempt to blame the victims is North Carolina's version of even-handed justice.

Originally Johnson's bond had been set at \$15,000 but when he refused to be silent during another court appearance and was forcefully removed by sheriff's deputies, the prosecutors argued that this necessitated the \$100,000 bond. Fortunately, the request was finally denied.

Johnson's attorney, Rich Rosen, said the attempted increase in Johnson's bond amounted to preventive detention.

Reverend Leon White, of the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ said, "for too long, the courts in North Carolina have been used for political repression, and this is just another example."

The state's move was also protested by George Gardner, executive director of the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union, and Anne Braden, of the Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice.

## ...Poland

Continued from page 3

The independent organizations that the seaport workers began to forge in these battles have taken deep root since then.

In each outbreak of struggle, demands for democratic rights have become more prominent.

The Gierk government tries to suggest that these demands are directed against socialism. The U.S. media has taken up this theme.

But nothing could be further from the truth.

The Polish workers made a revolution that got rid of capitalism after World War II. The establishment of a workers' state made it possible for Poland to recover from the terrible destruction of World War II and become an important industrial power.

But the occupation of Poland by Soviet troops resulted in the Polish workers' state being saddled with a parasitic, corrupt bureaucracy that was devoted to preserving its own privileges. Like the bureaucrats in the Soviet Union, they know that granting democratic rights to the masses would threaten those privileges.

That's why thirty years after the victorious revolution against capitalism, the workers are still fighting for the right to form unions controlled by themselves, rather than by the bureaucrats.

The Polish working class would fight to the death against any move to go back to capitalist exploitation. But they know that they are better able to lead society than the narrow-minded, selfish bureaucracy, and they are proving it in action.

The Polish government says it can't

### NEW YORK CITY

'Strike in Poland': Fred Feldman, *'Militant'* staff writer, will speak on the events. Saturday, August 30, 8 p.m., 108 E. 16th St., second floor. Donation: \$2. Auspices: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call: (212) 260-6400.

afford to meet the demands of the strikers. They point to a foreign debt of \$20 billion to capitalist financial institutions as proof.

While trying to use the situation for anticommunist propaganda, pro-capitalist newspapers like the *New York Times* make no secret of their support for Gierk.

The August 18 edition of the MacNeil-Lehrer report, a popular news program on public television, featured Lawrence Brainard, a specialist on Eastern Europe for the Bankers Trust Co. of New York. He explained that Polish workers must accept cuts in their living standards so that Gierk can meet debt payments to Bankers Trust and other money hogs.

"The workers have to sacrifice," Brainard insisted.

That's a pitch workers in New York City and elsewhere have heard all too often.

But the Polish workers have different priorities. They think the needs of working people come first.

They propose eliminating the special stores and privileges of the bureaucrats, rationing meat to assure a fair share for everyone, and, above all, a democratic discussion of the country's economic problems and what to do about them.

Their spirit of socialist solidarity was expressed in the singing of the Internationale in the Lenin shipyard. And in the words of strike leader Florian Wisniewski:

"We are the first full representatives of the workers in this district free of party, trade unions, and the authorities. Until we have real trade unions, our only weapon is strikes. We want to restart work as soon as possible, but we must be the real masters of our factories."

## 48 years a militant socialist

# John Keeley, a true working-class fighter

By George Lavan Weissman

John Keeley died on July 30 in Faribault, Minnesota, where he and his wife Ellen were visiting relatives. Hospitalized for twelve days, he finally succumbed to a heart attack.

John, known also to many as "Tabor," a pen name adopted in his early days in the socialist movement that hung on as a nickname, had been active in the Trotskyist movement without interruption for the past forty-eight years. Widely known and respected in left circles generally, he was deeply loved by the members of his party, the Socialist Workers Party.

He had a long and distinguished record in the trade-union movement. He had belonged to the United Office and Professional Workers Union (CIO) in Boston prior to World War II, then later to the Seafarers International Union (AFL), and subsequently to the National Maritime Union (CIO) in which he played a leading role. At the time of his death he was a retired member of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers Union.

Keeley was born on June 25, 1911, in South Boston, then known as the Dublin of America. Both of his parents had been born in Ireland. His father, Martin, was a teamster and his mother, Nora, had worked as a domestic servant.

It was an Irish nationalist household and Johnny recalled that for years there had been a picture on the kitchen wall of Terence MacSwiney, the Sinn Féin martyr who died in an English prison after a seventy-four day hunger strike.

John's first rebellious step appears to have been taken in his teens when he announced that he no longer believed in religion and stopped going to church. This followed a period of argument and discussion with two neighborhood friends whose older brother was a Marxist. It was from them too that he first heard some of the ideas of socialism.

### Full-time breadwinner

The family was beset by economic difficulties and eventually the parents separated, the seven children remaining with the mother in South Boston. Already at the age of eleven John had begun to work nights in a grocery store. Now he and his older brother had to become full-time breadwinners. John had reached the ninth grade in public school, now he quit and for about two years attended night classes at South Boston High. This was the total of his formal education.

First he found work with a photographer in downtown Boston, then in a shop that processed blueprints. Upstairs in the same building on Bromfield Street was the loft and office of a man named Nichols whose clientele consisted principally of collectors of old prints and paintings and who also did matting and framing.

## His love of books an invaluable asset

NEW YORK—After his retirement from the job, one of John Keeley's most important contributions was the work he did for the library at the Socialist Workers Party national headquarters.

Reba Hansen, who directed the library for several years, described his work there as "invaluable."

"He knew books better than anyone I've ever known," she said.

If there was a particular hard-to-find book the library needed, she recalled, John would "make a little note on one of the scraps of paper he always seemed to have in his pockets. Then, one day, he would come back with the book. He knew New York's Fourth Avenue bookstores inside out and, apparently, he would remember having seen the particular book buried on a back shelf in one of them."

Hansen said this particular expertise was especially important when a library was being assembled for the party's leadership school.

At the national library, she added, as they began to run out of shelf space, John went through the inventory book by book to determine what could be discarded.

"That wasn't easy for him," Hansen observed. "He loved every book."



John Keeley, about 1946, during a night off with fellow maritime unionists.

John worked his way up in the building to employment there and soon became Nichols' right-hand man. He worked there until he left Boston in 1941. By then he had become an expert on engravings, etchings, lithographs, and early American paintings. This knowledge proved useful in later years for when he had the time he would often find prints in second-hand stores and bookshops which could be sold at a considerable profit to specialists. The proceeds usually went to fatten his contributions to party fund drives.

In Boston the most important part of his life had come to center around political ideas and activity. His two friends from the days of the discussions about religion met Frank Trainor whose older brother Lawrence had recently joined the Communist League of America, the name adopted by the first Trotskyist organization in this country.

### Antoinette Konikow

Frank put them in touch with his brother Larry, already the sparkplug of the Boston CLA branch, and he invited them to classes at the home of Antoinette Konikow.

This remarkable woman was a physician, a pioneer advocate of birth control (in Catholic-dominated Boston!), and a veteran revolutionist. Born in tsarist Russia, she had studied medicine in Switzerland and there had joined Plekhanov's Emancipation of Labor group, the first Russian Marxist organization. Facing police persecution if she returned to Russia, she had emigrated to the United States where she became active in the socialist movement.

When the bureaucratic degeneration of the Soviet Union became evident and began to spread to the American Communist Party, she denounced Stalinism and declared her support for Trotsky. She and a small group of like-minded members were expelled from the CP and formed the nucleus of the CLA in Boston.

After attending the classes at Antoinette's and comparing the CLA positions with those of the other radical parties in the Boston area, John and his friends in 1933 joined the CLA's youth group, the Spartacus Youth League.

Under the guidance of Larry Trainor, they embarked on a recruiting campaign and brought into the Spartacus League and CLA a number of young people from South Boston.

John read widely and began to assemble that collection of labor and Marxist books that made his library the envy of many radicals. He was a stalwart in the youth and adult organizations, serving repeatedly on the branch executive committee.

He was indefatigable in selling the party paper and soapboxing (public speaking at outdoor meetings). Steadily employed throughout the depression years, he was a financial mainstay of the party.

### To sea

At the end of the 1930s the SWP instituted a campaign to have its members in white-collar jobs transfer to industries where they could be active in unions. In response John went to sea. Shipping initially through the AFL Seafarers Union, he later joined the CIO's National Maritime Union.

With a personality that made him popular with his fellow workers, and with his unswerving militancy in fighting job grievances and opposing all forms of racial and national discrimination, he gained the trust of his shipmates and was frequently chosen as engine-room delegate to the ship's committee, chairman of such committees, and elected to strike committees. He was, for example, chairman of the ship's committee on one of the largest transatlantic liners.

In a subsequent national election he was chosen as one of the patrolmen for the Port of New York, a full-time union post comparable to that of business agent in shoreside unions. As patrolman he won an enviable reputation for conscientiousness and effectiveness. He was known as an official who would back crews' grievances to the hilt and usually win.

With the advent of the cold war and witch hunt a great battle took place within the NMU. Though the opposition to union president Joseph Curran and his clique had the support of the rank and file, the Curran machine retained control by the use of undemocratic methods, red baiting, and hired goon squads backed by hundreds of police brought right into union meetings. The opposition forces were smashed and purged from the union.

Indeed, the FBI and other federal agencies screened them out of the maritime industry completely, depriving alleged subversives of their seamen's papers without which they could not legally ship out. Thus by 1950 Johnny and hundreds of others who had opposed the Curran machine and its policies were driven off the waterfront.

As a qualified engine and boiler expert, John obtained employment in a large factory which made packaged baked goods, noodles, etc., for the New York area market. The many Black and Hispanic workers employed there were saddled with a corrupt union officialdom, indifferent to their needs.

Proceeding cautiously, Johnny won the confidence of the most militant production workers and showed them how to organize to make their weight felt in the union. He helped them eventually win contract improvements and a pension plan.

### Socialist activist

John was a member of the New York local of the SWP from 1945. With the exception of the time at sea and the hectic days of the struggle in the NMU, he was a branch activist. He attended meetings regularly and participated in branch work.

He was the New York literature director until 1965. For eighteen years he personally serviced Manhattan newsstands with *Militants*. He was, moreover, the party's ace book finder, seeking out rare and out-of-print volumes for which Pioneer Publishers and later Pathfinder Press had requests.

John Keeley was a revolutionist of the purest character. He was a man to whom malice, envy, or self seeking were absolutely foreign. A true worker-intellectual, he gave unsparingly of his talents and energy for his entire adult life. He embodied the finest qualities of the American proletariat and the fact that this class could produce such a person is confirmation that it has the inner resources to replace the present exploitative and racist system with a society fit for humans to live in.

His death is great loss not only to his wife Ellen, his devoted companion since 1943, and to his three younger sisters in Boston, but to the Socialist Workers Party and especially to all those in it who had the privilege of working with him.



# The Great Society

Harry Ring



**How concerned can you get?**—New York's Con Edison's Project Concern helps those enjoying the Golden Years who can't pay their utility bill. Members are aided in trying to get some agency to foot the bill. Also—whether you're a member or not—if your service is cut off and you're on life-sustaining equipment, it will be arranged that the "interruption" does not interfere with the equipment.

**Inflationary toll**—New York police officials have expressed concern that the spiraling cost of living could lead to a serious increase in corruption in the department.

**Progress report**—The Duquesne Club of Pittsburgh voted to drop its ban on women members. However, with a waiting list of 2,500 and the requirement that applicants be nominated and seconded by active members, it will be a while. Meanwhile, women guests will continue to eat in a segregated dining room. However, they will no longer be required to use the side door and back elevator.

## BLONDIE



**Now hear this**—The president of the Academy of General Dentistry says a recent poll shows that while most people don't go to the dentist, it's only because of a fear of pain. Nearly two-thirds of those queried felt dentists are worth what they charge, according to an independent research firm hired by the dentists.

**Mod product**—Avon is offering a special line of cosmetics which will, assertedly, provide "24-hour skin protection and conditioning to combat today's environment."

**The march of culture**—A plush Southampton gallery is featuring a new art form. Household objects and appliances are wrapped with plaster gauze, covered with high-gloss white paint, and outlined in black. Such "three-dimensional cartoons" as a vacuum cleaner go for \$675. But a table fan is only \$500.

**Good as gas**—Not content with their take at the pump, Getty Oil conspired with four major film com-

panies, says the government, to set up a pay TV network that would ice out rivals from obtaining feature films.

**L.A. housing tip**—Most of those new condos are ripoffs. But a new one in Los Angeles sounds promising. Your everyday "basic" apartment costs \$750,000. Two penthouses are priced higher. \$7 million. But that includes a heliport, wine cellar, and sauna. Plus, sign now and they throw in a free Rolls Royce.

## Women in Revolt

Suzanne Haig



### Cuba: Washington's foe, women's friend

The Carter administration is trying to sell registration and the draft to women in the name of equality.

But they don't tell us that they want women and men to fight against our sisters and brothers around the world who are struggling to eliminate poverty, lack of education and health care, and massive unemployment—all caused by the stranglehold of U.S. imperialism.

They don't bother mentioning that the targets of their military machine would be the revolutions in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada, which have made giant strides toward equality for women.

Look at Cuba.

Right after the revolution in 1959, the Cuban government began to lay the basis for full equality for women.

As in Nicaragua and Grenada today, women were encouraged to join the militias, and Fidel Castro publicly hailed women's heroic role in the conquest of power.

A mass literacy campaign was begun in 1961, and girls joined the brigades sent to the countryside. Schools to educate and retrain maids were established, as was a school for peasant girls. By 1963, half the medical students were women.

In 1960 the Federation of Cuban Women was formed. With a current membership of two million, the FMC has played a major role along with the Cuban government in advancing women's rights and increasing their self-confidence.

What a contrast to the United States where women's rights organizations have to fight the

government just to get the Equal Rights Amendment passed!

In 1966 Cuba began a drive to get women into the work force, a task made difficult by the limited resources the revolutionary government could put toward building child-care centers, laundry facilities, and so on.

Today, 800,600 women are employed—30 percent of the work force. About a quarter of these women (189,476) are industrial workers.

In addition, 31 percent of working women take courses in school, and women make up 44 percent of the higher education enrollment figures.

Women have also made important strides in leadership positions. They make up 40 percent of the trade union leadership and 46.4 percent of the leaders of the Federation of University Students.

In the Pioneers, composed of children from the ages of six to fourteen, girls hold 75 percent of elected positions—which shows what the future holds.

Women comprise 21.8 percent of the deputies to the National Assembly of Peoples Power. At the Third Congress of the FMC in March of this year, Fidel Castro pointed out to the 2,000 delegates that this was a step backward and addressed the measures needed to correct it.

The family code in Cuba puts many rights for women on the books that are nonexistent in most other countries. It proclaims that women are equal in marriage and have equal control of joint property. It decrees equal rights and responsibilities for both sexes in raising the children and maintaining

the home. It affirms the equal right to have a job or profession and participate in social activity.

An important gain for women in Cuba are the child-care centers for more than 90,000 children, beginning as young as forty-five days old. Clothes, baths, and meals are provided, twenty-four hours a day where possible, along with free medical care.

The main barrier to full elimination of discrimination for women in Cuba is the scarcity of material resources, the result of a heritage of colonial and semi-colonial underdevelopment and Washington's twenty-year blockade.

The Cuban government is unable to allocate the funds and labor necessary for society to take greater responsibility for child rearing, housework and other duties, historically relegated to women.

The Cuban revolution is truly a model in its fight to eliminate the economic, social, and political barriers to women's equality.

This is what Washington wants to use its combat troops, B-1 bombers, special strike forces, and nuclear weapons to crush.

Women have no stake in aiding the warmakers. Rather, our interests lie with the Cubans, the Nicaraguans, and the Grenadians. They are creating the very society that the women's movement stands for.

Women's rights organizations in this country must do everything possible to fight against Washington's draft and a new war. This is one of the best ways we can aid these countries so they can move uninterrupted toward their goal of liberation for women and the creation of a just society.

## What's Going On

### CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES

**CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN RALLY: BALLOT FIGHT.** Speakers: Mark Friedman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, San Diego, 43rd C.D.; others to be announced. Sat., Sept. 6, 7:30 p.m. 2211 N. Broadway, Lincoln Heights area. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: California SWP 1980 Campaign. For more information call (213) 225-3126.

### MINNESOTA TWIN CITIES

**SOCIALIST WORKERS CAMPAIGN RALLY.** Speakers: Matilde Zimmermann, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president; Steve Thomas, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 5th C.D.; Jim Kendrick, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 4th C.D. Sat., Sept. 6; 5:30 p.m. refreshments, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. rally, social following rally. 508 N. Snelling, St. Paul. Donation: \$6 dinner and rally, \$1 rally only. Ausp: Minnesota 1980 SWP Campaign Committee and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (612) 644-

6325, or (612) 645-1674.

**THE 1934 TEAMSTERS STRIKE: WHAT IT MEANS FOR TODAY'S WORKERS.** Speakers: strike participants Harry DeBoer and Jake Cooper. Sun., Sept. 7, 5 p.m. 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Ausp: Twin Cities Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

### OREGON PORTLAND

**THE EMERGING WOMAN.** A film documenting

the women's rights movement in the U.S., Sunday, Aug. 24, 7:30 p.m., 711 N.W. Everett. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call: (503) 222-7225.

**Andrew Pulley on national television: Monday, August 25, 12:10 p.m. EST, on your local Cable News Network station, "Take Two" program.**

## 1953 coup in Iran

August 19 marks the infamous anniversary of the 1953 CIA-backed coup that returned the shah of Iran to power and crushed the aspirations of the Iranian masses for freedom.

The events surrounding the coup and its aftermath demonstratively explain the Iranian people's intense hatred for Washington and their well-founded suspicions that similar plots to overthrow their government are now being planned by the Carter administration.

In their fight for freedom from imperialist domination in the early 1950s, the Iranian masses focused their demands around nationalization of the oil industry, the country's major economic asset, which at that time was owned and controlled by the British.

Millions of dollars flowed from the Iranian oil fields, while 80 percent of the population suffered from chronic malnutrition and oil workers lived in caves and mud huts.

Hatred for the British government mounted. On April 30, 1951, the Iranian parliament elected Mohammed Mossadegh, one of the most prominent advocates of oil nationalization, as prime minister.

The next day, the state nationalized the oil industry.

Immediately the British prepared a counterattack to this blow to their economic domination of Iran. Some 4,000 paratroopers and naval forces were rushed in close to Iran's borders and seacoasts.

Like the policy of the Carter administration today, the British government ordered all Iranian deposits in British banks frozen and imposed an embargo on oil purchases from Iran to strangle their economy.

As a result, between 1951 and 1953 Iran exported 103,000 tons of oil—less than it had exported in a single day prior to nationalization.

The United States and Britain encouraged the shah to fight back. In July 1952, the shah defied the parliament by refusing to give up supreme command of the army. Mossadegh resigned in protest.

But tens of thousands of Iranians went into the streets demanding Mossadegh's reinstatement. Hundreds of unarmed demonstrators were killed but the mobilizations continued. Soldiers started to join the demonstrators, and the shah's armed forces began to crumble.

The shah retreated. Mossadegh returned as prime minister.

Pressed on by the popular mobilizations, Mossadegh took further measures that threatened continued imperialist control of the country.

Lands illegally held by the shah were confiscated, and a land reform program was planned.

By August 1953, London and Washing-

ton had decided to move more actively against the Mossadegh regime and replace it with one more to their liking. The August events that led to Mossadegh's overthrow have been confirmed by CIA official Kermit Roosevelt in his memoirs and openly acknowledged by the big-business media.

In early August, General Norman Schwarzkopf, an American officer and CIA agent who had previously been involved in building up the shah's police forces, returned to Tehran. He immediately made contact with the shah and with General Fazlollah Zahedi, a close associate of the shah.

U.S. Ambassador to Iran Loy Henderson met with Schwarzkopf and then went to Switzerland to confer with Princess Ashraf, the shah's twin sister, and Allen Dulles, CIA director and attorney for Standard Oil of New Jersey in private life.

On August 15, the shah attempted to have an order delivered to Mossadegh dismissing him as prime minister. Troops surrounding Mossadegh's house foiled the plan, and the shah fled to Italy.

Ambassador Henderson rushed back to Iran to supervise another attempt. On August 19, an armed mob led by General Zahedi stormed Mossadegh's house.

Mossadegh was arrested August 21 and Zahedi became prime minister.

The September 21, 1953, *Militant* described the aftermath of the coup as "a reign of terror."

"For weeks mass arrests have been taking place throughout the country under the military dictatorship of Zahedi. Among the Government employees alone, the victims number into the thousands," the *Militant* reported.

The U.S. elevated Reza Pahlavi onto his peacock throne. Military aid came immediately—\$45 million in September 1953 and much more throughout the twenty-six years of his rule.

In 1957 the dreaded secret police network and torture machine SAVAK was formed with the aid of the CIA and Israeli secret police.

In 1954 with the imperialists securely in the saddle, a new oil contract between Iran, Britain, and the United States was completed. For its contribution, the U.S. demanded a large cut. Britain's share was reduced to 40 percent, the U.S. companies received 40 percent, and the remainder was carved up between French and Dutch companies.

Twenty-six years after the CIA's bloody coup, the Iranian workers and peasants finally brought the shah's dictatorship to an end.

Today the Iranian masses are fighting to take control of their own resources and their own destiny. Working people in this country have a stake in supporting their struggle.

—Suzanne Haig

### Skeptical on draft

When commercial radio stations start talking back to the federal government, then you can be sure the rulers of this country have problems.

I was struck by an article that appeared in the entertainment section of the *Los Angeles Times* on the eve of the two-week draft registration period at the end of July.

The article said that many stations were "in a quandary" over what to do about those government announcements telling eligible men they were supposed to register.

In a normal situation, when the government wants something important run, the stations simply comply. How many times have programs with big audiences been preempted because the president wants to beat his gums about something?

But, obviously sensing the deep-going opposition to the draft registration proposition, the stations—particularly those oriented to youth—didn't want to unnecessarily alienate their listeners.

Station managers told the *Times* that the problem was that the government announcements weren't simply informational, like how and where to register, but offered editorial opinions that warranted a reply. For example, they cited one registration commercial by singer Lou Rawls urging people to sign up "not because it's the law, but because it's the right thing to do."

One station, KMPC, decided finally it would run the Rawls spot, but would also run one provided by the Coalition Against Registration and the Draft (CARD).

KFI and KMET decided they wouldn't run either the government or CARD messages because they felt the content of both were "too political."

However, both stations told the *Times*, they were planning to announce the telephone numbers of draft counseling centers!

When bigtime brainwashers for capitalism suffer doubts and hesitations that's a wonderful sign for our side.

H.R.

New York, N.Y.

### B.C. headache

Anyone who thinks advertising never tells it like it is should check out the new commercial for B.C. Headache Powders, which features a knitting machine operating in a textile mill.

"I'm on production," she tells us, "and I can't afford to stop just because I have a headache. There's clocks on those machines, and I'm paid for what I run on those clocks."

The ad's slogan? "When the pain keeps growing—but you've got to keep going—that's the time to take B.C."

I don't know if B.C. is advertised much outside the Carolinas, but I can testify the commercial is pretty effective. Every time you hear it you get a headache.

J.R.

Winston-Salem, N.C.

### Last conventions?

According to a local radio report, Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) warned the GOP convention that this year's Republican and Democratic conventions "may very well be the last conventions held" by these two parties.

"In your heart you know he's right" (Goldwater's 1964 campaign slogan).

Gary Johnson  
Langley, Wash.

### Impressed

Concerning your publication, the *Militant*, I am quite impressed with the stance and directives of your party. Let me say that I feel an inborn loyalty for the working man's cause and support it vigorously.

The traditional political structure just doesn't represent the majority of the working people who need greater political leverage in our existing system.

A stronger voice is needed but these words must be backed by a formidable force of determined individuals willing to act on their own behalf. Obviously many Americans are affected by the ills of governmental and corporate abuse, yet remain silent and inactive instead of demanding their just cause as the working "core" of this nation.

A firmer stand must be taken, apathetic Americans must be aroused to pursue their own interest on all facets of the socio-economic realm. We are the people, let us enjoy what is rightfully ours.

Speak out dissatisfied Americans, your voices are to be heard, your diligence to be acted upon.

J. Bitticks  
Tucson, Ariz.

### Wasting our resources?

The article about *human suffering and the oppression of the poor* in regard to the heat wave (*Militant*, August 1) is the kind of article you should have stuck to instead of going all out on the unsympathetic causes of Iran and Afghanistan.

You also had some good articles on human suffering and the oppression of the poor during the cold wave of 1977.

I hope the inhumane revolutionary regime in Iran is overthrown and that the Afghan freedom fighters expel the Soviet invaders.

In any case you shouldn't waste your limited resources on unpopular causes that cannot possibly win mass support.

Ronald H. Harner  
Hyattsville, Md.

### 'Bad' ideas

The company for which I work, Cleveland Crane and Engineering, claims that rising costs, and our increased twenty-two-cent cost of living cap, has really put a squeeze on the company. So over the last month they initiated a

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SWP, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

## JOIN THE SWP



# Learning About Socialism

campaign called BAD (Buck-A-Day), which they say was "designed to be some fun for all of us, but can be good for the company."

All month we've seen BAD footprints and other mysterious signs around the plant urging us to be BAD Guys. BAD Guys turn in ideas that will save a dollar a day in our work areas. It's no surprise they received 800 ideas, which amount to a \$100,000 per year savings. Workers know best how to run the plant, since we keep it running every day.

But what about *our* rising costs, and where's the fun? Well, one idea got you a BAD coffee cup. Two ideas got you a rubber dollar. And a weekly drawing for a vest was held for three ideas or more. Fair enough?

Now, another communique reports that the company has not been affected by the recession yet. What are we to believe? The only way to know the truth is for them to open their books to all employees for inspection so we can see where the money is really going. I suspect we would find a lot of really bad ideas of which we could dispose.

Pat Wright  
Cleveland, Ohio

## Truth about Haiti

I'd like two copies of the June *International Socialist Review* [featuring articles on Haiti and the new rise in the world class struggle]. I've been having a debate with my congressman about Haiti and am going to send my copy to him along with a letter.

I'm going to send one to a Yemeni I went to college with twenty years ago. I hadn't heard from him for five years but got a letter today. He taught me a lot about Marxism.

M.U.  
Roxton, Texas

## Baker strike

In the July 18 issue of the paper, there is a small mistake in the article on the Baker strike. The article reads, "A special representative from the local was sent to the UAW convention in California to gain support for the strike." No such representative was sent. However, our two elected convention delegates spent a good portion of their time in California talking with other delegates from Region 2 about our strike to get their support.

John Powers  
Cleveland, Ohio

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

# Marx on length of working day

## A reader's question:

I can sort of see why the capitalists close plants and throw people out of work when they've produced too much to be sold.

But why do they still work other people overtime? Is it plain meanness? Why can't they at least stick to forty hours for those working when so many are laid off?

K. J.  
Lawton, Oklahoma

## Caroline Lund replies:

At the General Motors assembly plant in Tarrytown, New York, we work, as a rule, nine hours a day Monday through Friday and eight hours most Saturdays.

On the surface it seems crazy. Three hundred thousand auto workers have been laid off across the country, and here we are at GM-Tarrytown working like slaves with only one day a week to recuperate and have some kind of a personal life.

A good place to start in thinking about this is the chapter called "The Working Day" in the first volume of *Capital* by Karl Marx.

Marx takes a look at what actually happened as capitalism first developed to its maturity in England back in the 1700s and 1800s. Marx was able to find a lot of facts on which to base his conclusions because England was the first country to keep statistics on conditions in industry and to employ government inspectors of factory working conditions.

Marx notes that prior to the development of capitalism, the working day was based on natural factors, like the presence of sunlight. People had to work hard to survive, but there was no shift work, double shifts, or backbreaking long hours such as flourished later under capitalism.

As the capitalist system developed from the fourteenth century up to the end of the seventeenth century, the factory owners slowly forced working people into accepting longer hours. The employers used their growing control over government to force legal extensions of the working day, up to twelve hours. (These were not *limits* on the workday, but *minimum* hours.)

## Orgy of profit-making

But even this wasn't enough. As large-scale industry arose toward the end of the eighteenth century, the bosses went into an orgy—as Marx put it—of devouring the lives of working people through unbelievably long hours. This was not only for men and women, but for children as young as five and six years old. The workday went up to fifteen and sixteen hours and more.

This orgy of profit-making took its toll. One reflection appeared in statistics on the physical fitness of army conscripts. More and more young people were so worn down by working long hours that they couldn't meet previous years' standards of height, weight, and strength.

Resistance by working people began to grow. The fight for the ten-hour day, and then the eight-hour day were the first big struggles that developed.

Marx takes special note of the importance of the struggle for the eight-hour day in the United States, which arose after the Civil War.

The capitalists were restrained through powerful resistance by the workers movement. Sections of the capitalist class also saw that some regulation was necessary. Therefore rules had to apply to all capitalists equally so that none would have an unfair advantage in their cutthroat competition.

What is at the root of the capitalists' drive to lengthen hours?

Marx explains the capitalist exists to make profit off his capital. To do this, he needs raw materials, machines, and labor power to turn out the product.

## Labor creates all wealth

Labor is the key to the process. Labor is already embodied in the raw materials (workers extracted them from nature and processed them) and in the machines (workers built them). It is labor that creates all wealth in the world.

However, Marx points out that labor is not paid according to how much it produces. For example, when they speed up the line at General Motors, our wages don't go up even though we're producing more. Even in the case of piece work, the worker's wage per piece is only a small portion of the value of the product.

The capitalists only pay their workers the minimum they need to feed, clothe, and house themselves and their families. This amount has increased in absolute terms as humanity has progressed over the years, and varies between the imperialist countries and the former colonized countries. But while workers today have a seemingly better life than they did in the 1700s, they still make only enough to get by. They can never save up enough to become capitalists or have any significant property.

The capitalist's profit depends on how long he can keep his labor and machines in operation each day. After his workers have reproduced the value of the raw materials, machine wear and tear, and their own subsistence wage, everything else produced through the rest of the day goes to the boss's profits.

This is the reason for the fanatical resistance to stopping the assembly line or the machines. This is why they brought in night shifts, so their machines could be kept busy twenty-four hours, absorbing labor power and churning out potential profits. This is why they hate it so if workers manage to grab a few minutes on the job to talk with each other, or to read a newspaper—the boss considers that you are stealing work time from him that could be turned into profits.

Limiting the workday concerns the most basic of human rights: to proclaim before all of society when the time workers sell to their boss is ended, and when their own time to live for themselves begins.

This urgent struggle for human rights continues today, with the fight against compulsory overtime, and the demand for thirty hours of work for forty hours' pay to provide a livelihood for the growing numbers of unemployed out of the wealth that labor alone creates.

Please send questions you would like to see answered in this column to: Stu Singer, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.

## If You Like This Paper, Look Us Up

Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and socialist books and pamphlets

**ALABAMA:** Birmingham: SWP, YSA, 1609 5th Ave. N. Tel: (205) 328-9403. Send mail to P.O. Box 3382-A. Zip: 35205.

**ARIZONA:** Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 1243 E. McDowell. Zip: 85006. Tel: (602) 255-0450.

**CALIFORNIA:** East Bay: SWP, YSA, 2864 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Zip: 94608. Tel: (415) 763-3792. Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2211 N. Broadway. Zip: 90031. Tel: (213) 225-3126. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (714) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 824-1992. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 201 N. 9th St. Zip: 95112. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

**COLORADO:** Denver: SWP, YSA, 126 W. 12th Ave. Zip: 80204. Tel: (303) 534-8954.

**FLORIDA:** Miami: SWP, YSA, 8171 NE 2nd Ave. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-8358.

**GEORGIA:** Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 509 Peachtree St. NE. Zip: 30308. Tel: (404) 872-7229.

**ILLINOIS:** Champaign-Urbana: YSA, 284 Illini Union, Urbana. Zip: 61801. Chicago: SWP, YSA, 434 S. Wabash, Room 700. Zip: 60605. Tel: (312) 939-0737.

**INDIANA:** Gary: SWP, YSA, 3883 Broadway. Zip: 46409. Tel: (219) 884-9509. Indianapolis: SWP, YSA, 4850 N. College. Zip: 46205. Tel: (317) 283-6149.

**IOWA:** Cedar Falls: YSA, Box 352. Zip: 50613.

**KENTUCKY:** Louisville: SWP, YSA, 131 W. Main #102. Zip: 40202. Tel: (502) 587-8418.

**LOUISIANA:** New Orleans: SWP, YSA, 3319 S. Carrollton Ave. Zip: 70118. Tel: (504) 486-8048.

**MARYLAND:** Baltimore: SWP, YSA, 2913 Green-

mount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Amherst: YSA, P.O. Box 837. Zip: 01002. Tel: (413) 546-5942. Boston: SWP, YSA, 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Zip: 02215. Tel: (617) 262-4621.

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45206. Tel: (513) 751-2636. Cleveland: SWP, YSA, 2230 Superior. Zip: 44114. Tel: (216) 579-9369. Toledo: SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

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**VIRGINIA:** Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 111 28th St. Zip: 23607. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699.

**WASHINGTON:** Olympia: YSA, Room 3208, The Evergreen State College. Zip: 98501. Tel: (206) 866-7332. Seattle: SWP, YSA, 4868 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Morgantown: SWP, YSA, 957 S. University Ave. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

**WISCONSIN:** Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 3901 N. 27th St. Zip: 53216. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

## Major unions call antinuke meeting

By Stu Singer

PITTSBURGH—Nine international unions have issued a call for a National Labor Conference for Safe Energy and Full Employment in Pittsburgh October 10-12.

Keynote speakers confirmed so far are Sam Church, president of the United Mine Workers, and William Winpisinger, president of the International Association of Machinists.

Sponsors of the antinuclear conference as of August 1 were the United Auto Workers, United Mine Workers, International Association of Machinists, Graphic Arts International Union, United Furniture Workers, Service Employees International Union, International Woodworkers, International Chemical Workers Union, and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, along with the Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment.

Plans for the national conference were made at an August 17 meeting here of the Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment. About 130

trade unionists attended the meeting from twenty-three different unions.

At a well-attended news conference August 18 in the UMWA District 5 office in Pittsburgh, committee coordinator Jerry Gordon said, "The conference will focus on the menace of nuclear power; the availability of abundant, alternative safe energy sources including coal; . . . and the urgent need to provide jobs for American workers that will promote and not imperil their health and safety."

"This conference is of great significance," Gordon said. "It will mark the first time a broad range of international unions have united to express their concern and anguish over the use of nuclear power when other forms of safe energy are available in almost inexhaustible supply to satisfy the nation's energy needs."

The Sunday planning meeting heard a report on the "continuing accident" at Three Mile Island by Dr. Judith Johnsrud.

The way the government covers up for the nuclear industry was illustrated by an example she used. While surveys show the infant mortality rate in the TMI area has sharply increased, the state of Pennsylvania released a report claiming the rate declined. But the state admits it excluded the city of Harrisburg, which is within ten miles of the plant, because it has a large Black population and the infant mortality rate for Blacks is significantly higher than for whites.

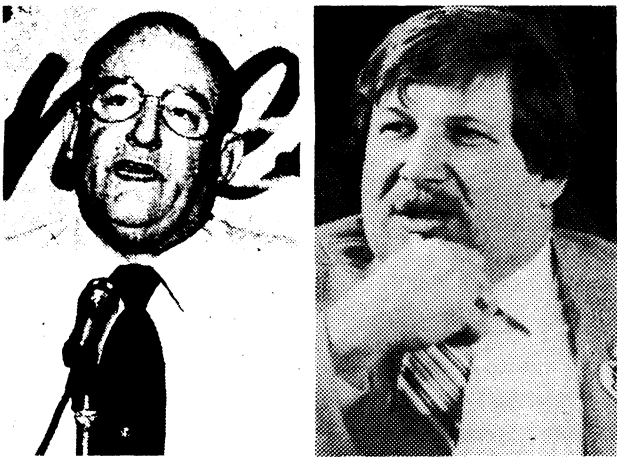
The planning meeting included a discussion on the character of the October 10-12 conference. It was decided to organize it as a conference of union members.

Unionists here also discussed plans to bring in a speaker from the Australian labor movement, which has led the antinuclear fight there.

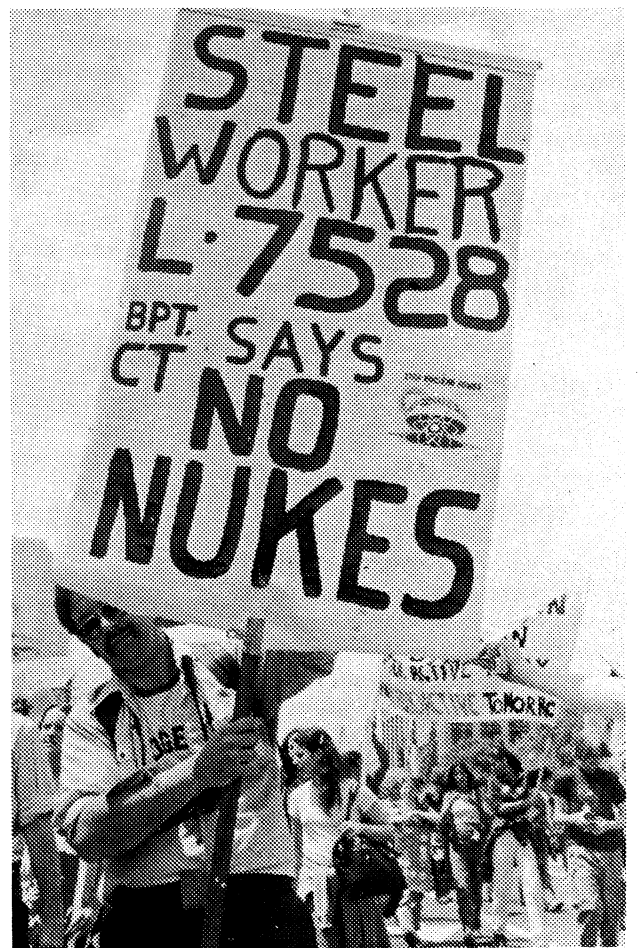
The labor committee has printed 20,000 copies of the call for the national labor conference, and the leaflets are being mailed throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The address of the Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment is: 1536 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. Telephone (202) 265-7190.

The organizers announced that reservations should be made by September 10 for rooms in the Pittsburgh Hilton where the conference will be held.



William Winpisinger, left, of Machinists union and Sam Church of Mine Workers are to address October conference on safe energy in Pittsburgh.



Militant/Lou Howort

## N.C. police agent helped plan Klan attack

By Steve Craine

GREENSBORO, N.C.—One of the key planners of the Klan-Nazi murder of five antiracist demonstrators was a Greensboro police informer. Two days previous to the murderous action, police provided him with a last-minute revision of the march route of the anti-Klan protest where five members of the Communist Workers Party were gunned down in cold blood.

Information about the police agent's role in the killings was disclosed August 3 by the Greensboro *Daily News*.

The story broke the day before testimony began in the trial of six Klanners and Nazis charged with the killings. Although he was on the scene of the killing and the cops knew he played a crucial role in mapping the assassination, informer Edward Dawson was not among those arrested.

Revelation of his role follows the exposure of a federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent, Bernard Butkovich, who functioned in the Nazi organization and who participated in a planning meeting for the November 3 assault.

Dawson, the local police agent, has been active in the KKK here since 1964. He has held the post of chief security guard and, at one time, was grand dragon of the racist outfit.

According to the *Daily News*, Dawson

has admitted that he helped plan and organize the Klan's presence at the CWP demonstration. This admission leaves little credibility to police assertions that they did not have advance knowledge of the slated killings.

The *News* also reports that in addition to working for the local cops, Dawson has been on the FBI payroll. It is asserted that he was dropped by the FBI in the early 1970s when the secret police agency was allegedly curbing the illegal activities of its hirelings.

In 1967, Dawson did nine months in jail on charges stemming from a racist shooting in a Black community in neighboring Alamance County.

Two days before the November 3 murders, Dawson, identifying himself as a member of the KKK, requested and received a copy of the CWP's parade permit from police headquarters.

According to an official police department report, the officer he asked for the permit "had doubts as to whether he should release a copy." He checked with the city attorney's office and then gave it to him.

The police are apparently trying to use Dawson as their out in explaining why no cops were present at the demonstration when the Klan and Nazis arrived and began shooting. The police

report asserts that a Klan source advised them that they planned to confront the antiracist demonstration at the end of their march, not the beginning.

The killers, too, are trying to use Dawson as their out, asserting that he had assured them no serious violence would occur.

One Klansman told the *Daily News* that Dawson had told them they "wouldn't be able to get near the commies. He said there would be more police than you could shake a stick at . . ."

Like the cops, the Klanners now insist that the plan was to go to the end of the march and just heckle. Instead, they said, Dawson led them to the beginning of the march.

The KKK and Nazis have not yet explained why, if they simply intended to heckle, they came so heavily armed.

Or why they agreed to start the caravan hours before the four-mile anti-Klan march could be expected to reach its destination.

Or why, if they were surprised to find themselves at the formation point of the march, they were able to so quickly and efficiently carry out their deadly barrage.

Meanwhile, in the courtroom, the details of the organized mass murder are coming more into focus.

In the initial nine days of testimony, a series of witnesses—cops, media people, community residents, and demonstrators—have provided their own pieces of the picture.

Testimony has established that the first shots came from one of the lead cars in the racist caravan—perhaps the one Dawson was in. A number of men got out of their cars, took guns from car trunks, and methodically fired into the crowd.

Witnesses also agree that until the Klan caravan arrived, the demonstration was peaceful and relaxed, with adults and children singing, playing the guitar, and just milling around.

Greensboro *Daily News* reporter Winston C. Cavin testified that when the Klan caravan arrived, the occupants of the first two cars were shouting "epithets, threats, and profanity." He said the word "nigger" was used several times, along with such threats as "We're going to get you," and "We're going to get your ass."

Laura Blumentahl, a TV reporter, identified one of the defendants, Coleman Blair Pridmore, as one of the group that attacked the demonstration with sticks immediately after the signal shot was fired from the front of the caravan.

"It was a hideous fight—to hear

*Continued on page 15*