POLISH STRIKERS:
'We must be masters of the factories'

By Ernest Harsch

AUG. 27—The massive workers' upsurge in Poland continues to gain momentum, spreading across the country and forcing the government to retreat.

From the Baltic port cities of Gdansk, Gdynia, Sopot, and Szczecin, the strike has expanded to encompass some 250,000 workers.

"In Lodz today, municipal workers walked off their jobs," reported an August 26 dispatch in the New York Times. "In Wroclaw seven factories were struck. A rubber plant in Olsztyn closed, as did a truck factory in Rawicz. Transport workers also went on strike in Koszalin."

Times correspondent John Darnton reported a "mood of victory" at strike coordinating committee headquarters at Gdansk's Lenin shipyard.

"Soon we may have delegates here from all over the country," one workers' leader declared.

On August 25, the government met the workers' demand that telephone links be restored between the Gdansk-Gdynia region and the rest of Poland.

In an August 24 speech before a meeting of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party (the Communist Party), party chief Edward Gierek claimed, "We are making basic shifts in party and government policy." He offered the strikers some significant concessions.

The official Central Trade Union
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Strikers at Lenin Shipyards in Gdansk. Their militancy, confidence, and democratic organization set example for workers of world.

Revolutionary Grenada appeals for solidarity

Interview with
Prime Minister Maurice Bishop

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Poland: example for U.S. workers

The boldness of the Polish workers' strike wave has captured the imagination of U.S. workers. It's no wonder.

Workers in this country, under unrelenting attack by the government and big business, have suffered a steady decline in living standards. Each day inflation eats up more of our paychecks, more social services are cut, and employers demand ever larger "givebacks" as the price of keeping a job.

But in Poland each day brings new reports of success for the workers and concessions by the government. With their militancy and self-confidence, with their democratic organization, with their rejection of divide-and-conquer schemes, the Polish strikers set a powerful example.

The Newport News shipyard in Virginia, where workers won a union contract this year after a long battle, is one place there is a strong feeling of solidarity with the Polish fighters. "Just think if our strike had gone that far," remarked one unionist there, "we could have forced Governor Dalton to resign."

In Seattle, 111 members of Machinists Dist. 751 at the huge Boeing plant signed a petition this week listing the demands of the strikers and pledging full support.

At the Tarrytown, New York, General Motors plant, a statement by Reba Williams, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress, was distributed. Campaign supporters in the plant reported overwhelming sentiment for the strikers.

One auto worker who had just returned from a visit to her home in Poland said she thought the regime made concessions "because the army in Poland just won't fight against these strikers."

There should be more such efforts to spread the news about Poland and voice support for the strikers.

Statements by Socialist Workers candidates, public forums, and sales of the Militant are good ways to begin.

Labor officials in the United States are keeping a wary eye on the Polish events. Thomas Gleason, president of the International Longshoremen's Association, ordered union members not to handle goods to or from Poland. This is not first for the ILA tops. They've also ordered boycotts against revolutionary Iran and against the Soviet Union.

Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO, has appealed to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to join the ILA action.

The boycott of Poland is no act of union solidarity. There has been no request from the Polish workers' organizations for any boycott of goods or interference with trade. This is in contrast to Black workers' organizations in South Africa and workers' groups in Chile which have asked for sanctions against those dictatorial regimes—requests which the AFL-CIO tops ignore.

The boycott of Poland just extends Gleason and Kirkland's policy of supporting U.S. imperialism abroad. It's the same anticommunist policy that led them to support the Vietnam war and now draft registration, and that has the AFL-CIO officials helping to prop up a blood-soaked military junta in El Salvador.

The U.S. labor bureaucrats say they seek to further "free" trade unionism around the world. But that lie is exposed by the heavy hand they use to prevent democratic rank-and-file control inside AFL-CIO unions. The gaspertogether ILA officialdom is notorious for the brutal means it uses to block the kind of free union elections that Polish workers want.

What the AFL-CIO tops are opposed to in Poland is the fact that capitalism has been abolished there. And since the Polish workers have made it quite clear that they don't want capitalism back, they are among the targets of the Gleason-Kirkland boycott.

Polish workers know that capitalism kept Poland poor, undeveloped, and war-torn. The overthrow of capitalism brought the vast expansion of industry, jobs, education, and health care. The Polish revolution made the mines, shipyards, and factories public property instead of the property of profit-hungry capitalists.

The Polish workers have gained a profound confidence that they have the right and the know-how to be "the real masters of the factories," to solve the problems of society as a whole.

Imagine the response of Gleason and Kirkland if this brand of unionism caught on among American workers.

Other union officials have been heard from too. Douglas Fraser, president of the United Auto Workers, released a statement expressing the UAW's "admiration and moral support" for the Polish strikers. He goes on to claim that "unlike strikers in the democratic countries, Polish workers and their rank and file leaders face not only economic deprivation but government repression and probable jail sentences."

As though strikers in this country haven't suffered violence and bloody repression from our "democratic" capitalist government right down to today.

Fraser might well be asked, why aren't workers here making the kind of gains that the Polish workers are? Why has the UAW been unable to stop plant shutdowns or keep 300,000 UAW members from losing their jobs?

Why have the gains of four decades of struggle been signed away to "save" Chrysler?

Fraser never even hints that the militant fight of the Polish workers may hold some lessons for our struggle right here.

Instead, evidently speaking in his capacity as a Chrysler board member, Fraser says he can "sympathize with the plight" of Polish authorities.

Millions of American workers are rooting for the Polish strikers. The AFL-CIO's top labor bureaucrats are insignificant compared to the lessons of the class struggle being played out in Poland.

We should organize solidarity with our Polish brothers and sisters. And we should learn from them. They are teaching a simple, all-important lesson.

Workers don't need the bosses! We don't need the bureaucrats!

We, too, can be masters of the factories!
Polish strikers are "not against the socialist system," says Lech Walesa, head of the strike committee at the Gdansk shipyard. "They don't want to change the socialist ownership of the means of production, but we want to be the real masters of the factories."

They were promised that many times before. We have now decided to demand it by strike... We want free, independent, self-managing unions," insists Walesa, who has emerged as the main spokesperson for the Interfactorystrike Committee in Gdansk, Gdynia, and Sopot.

The workers democracy that Walesa is advocating is evident in the way the strike is being organized by democratically elected committees. Rank-and-file control is further strengthened by holding negotiations in public.

When discussions between the government and strike leaders opened again August 26, a New York Times dispatch from Gdansk reported: "The proceedings... were broadcast over the shipyard's public-address system so that every word was heard by thousands of workers lounging outside, by 800 delegates from more than 400 strikebound factories inside, and by an expanding corps of foreign reporters."

This democratic procedure is in sharp contrast to the secret negotiations preferred by Polish officials—

And although Gierke refrained from any mass repression against the strikers, police did detain a number of prominent dissidents who were allied with the workers, including Jacek Kuron, a central figure in the Committee for Social Self-Defense, the KOR.

"All this failed to have much of an impact, reflecting the tremendous social power of the workers' upsurge, the best organized and most massive one in Poland since the end of World War II."

Within a little more than a week after the Lenin Shipyard workers first walked off their jobs on August 14, strikes and factory occupations had spread to thousands of workers in several other factories, including the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, Sopot, the chairman of the Interfactory Strike Committee in Gdansk said later, "These changes were a victory for us. But he added, "It's a patching up of holes. We want something new."

"Only free trade unions can make us happy, can give us a victory. The government will not be able to cheat us—we do not give it that opportunity."

Anna Walentynowicz, another member of the strike committee, told the workers, "We have to continue our struggle."

A mighty upsurge

Gierke's decision to back down followed the failure of his various attempts to divide and intimidate the workers.

In an effort to break the solidarity of the strikers, government negotiators initially attempted to arrange settlements on a factory-by-factory basis, while sparing the joint strike committee and other unions were coordinating the strikes and formulating the workers' demands. The workers stood firm, and refused to go along with this ploy.

The powerful Roman Catholic Church attempted to give Gierke a hand, calling on workers to return to their jobs. In an August 22 statement, it claimed that "prolonged stoppages" were "against the good of the country."

"Although many of the strikers are practicing Catholics, the plea went unheeded."

In an attempt by the management to shut down some 400 factories, enterprises, and cooperatives by bypassing the official trade unions, the workers elected their own strike committees to negotiate their demands. The thirteen-member Interfactory Strike Committee was elected to coordinate the activities of the strikers throughout the area. A similar joint committee was established in the western port city of Szczecin, representing about 100 factories and 50,000 strikers.

Periodic walkouts have hit the giant Lenin steel mill at Nowa Huta, near Krakow. Thousands of workers in various enterprises have also struck in Elblag, Torun, Krakow, Plock, Slupsk, and other cities.

This most recent strike wave has been even more massive than the two that hit the country in July in response to sharp increases in the price of meat.

How strike began

The August 14 walkout at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk was sparked by an attempt by the management to dismiss Anna Walentynowicz, a crane operator who had participated in the 1970 and 1976 labor upsurges and who had been part of the small workers' delegation that met with Communist Party chief Edward Gierke during the 1976 July-August conference.

The management claimed that she was dismissed for disciplinary reasons. Walentynowicz charged that it was in retaliation for her political activism. Shortly after the announcement of her dismissal, leaflets appeared at the shipyard explaining her case.

At 6:00 a.m. on August 14, workers at two of the shops in the shipyard walked away from their machines, handing placards with her name. Banners went up in the yard. Lech Walesa, a labor activist and continued on page 22
S.F. Black weekly spotlights SWP ballot fight

By Sara Gates

The ‘Sun Reporter,’ San Francisco’s leading Black weekly, carried a story in its issue of August 21 about the fight of the California Socialist Workers Party for a place on the state ballot. It appeared before the state officially notified the SWP it would not certify its petition for a place on the ballot, and that signatures of those qualifying petitions had been improperly invalidated.

The suit is scheduled for a superior court hearing in San Francisco this weekend.

The party filed more than 157,000 signatures in fourteen California counties, about 52,000 more than they needed to place their candidates for president and vice-president on the ballot. Additional petitions were filed in some counties on behalf of Socialist Workers Party candidates for other offices.

Under California law, county registrars have to notify petitioners if how many signatures are valid and how many invalid within ten days of the filing of the signatures. Party officials say the party has been notified in any of the counties in which they filed and that invalid signatures were not marked.

The deadline for qualifying for the November ballot is September 3. Party spokesmen said they filed early in order to make use of the ten-day rule and launch a drive for additional signatures.

The SWP campaign workers have found substantial evidence of illegal tampering with their petitions by election officials, and this is being extensively documented for the court action. The party will be represented by noted civil rights attorney Howard Moore.

The SWP filed more than 133,000 signatures for its ticket, the SWP Senate and House candidates, and the ticket of Gus Hall and Angela Davis. The SWP has also been notified that it too had been denied placement.

'People’s World’ reports suit

Oakland—Striking a welcome note of solidarity, the August 16 issue of the People’s World reported the suit of the California Socialist Workers Party against the efforts of Gov. Edmund Brown’s administration to keep the party off the ballot. A West Coast weekly associated with the Communist Party, the People’s World reported the SWP ballot fight the week that it announced nominating petitions had been filed for the CP’s presidential ticket, Socialists for the People, with Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann and 130,000 for George Johnson, its senatorial candidate.

The Communist Party filed more than 133,000 for its ticket.

Mark Friedman, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the San Diego area 43rd District, was also declared disqualified for the ballot. Friedman’s opponent in the race is Thomas Metzger, the Ku Klux Klanner charged ‘illegal and arbitrary use’ of random sampling to count signatures.

The August 14 Daily Re­porter filed suit against the state charging massive irregularities in the signature verification process.

The SWP has gathered about 152,000 signatures, and in one county has been given media coverage around the state.

The August 20 San Francisco Chronicle quoted SWP campaign director Jeff Mackler as charging, “We found a systematic attempt to keep one of the five biggest counties to keep us off the ballot, and that was politically motivated. We’ve been ripped off, legally, mechanically and technically.”

The August 14 Daily Re­porter reported the SWP had asked: “Alameda County Registrar of Voters Jim Riggs admitted there were mistakes in verifying signatures in the county. He said he is not only looking into why they occurred, but also is having the petition office handled in a different way.

But, despite this show of objectivity, Riggs and his aides have not canceled the signatures.

The SWP, according to Jeff Mackler, said the signatures would “rise substantially” as a result of his efforts.

The August 22 San Diego Union
reporting the SWP charges as made by senatorial candidate George Johnson and congressional nominee Mark Friedman.

The paper also ran a denial by county registrar Ray Ortiz to an asserted statement by Friedman that he was 'surprised that no one had been challenged.'

A national protest is needed against the moves by the Democratic Party machine to exclude the socialist ticket. In the first nine days of petitioning, more than 24,000 signatures were not obtained for the presidential slate, as well as Victor Nieto, New York nominee for U.S. senator.

At August 24 Harlem street rally for Robert Mugabe, prime minister of Zimbabwe, 300 people signed for the socialist ticket.

Campaigners are also near, or beyond, the signature requirement to place three congressional candidates on the ballot.

These are Keith Jones and Reba Williams Dixon in the New York City area's 14th and 19th congressional districts, and Patricia Mayberry in the Albany area's 29th district.

A veteran campaigner, she was enthused by the continuing growth of interest in socialist ideas. As she talked with one young Puerto Rican, it was apparent why she felt this way.

She turned out he was a Vietnam veteran who had learned a valuable lesson about the American military.

"Whenever the government thinks people in other countries are getting too big for their britches," he observed, "they send in the CIA and the army."

He also noted that in Harlem, political promises never result in material gains for ordinary people, but in Cuba the Castro government has succeeded in building schools and hospitals, "even out in the woods."

During the week, socialist shipyard workers at the Brooklyn Navy Yard signed up more than a hundred of their co-workers outside the gate after their shift.

Socialist workers are also meeting more co-workers as a result of the campaign activity. One Chicano sailor, on a ship in drydock at the yard, joined Brooklyn petitioners on Saturday.

Socialist auto workers at the General Motors Tarrytown plant have also obtained more than a hundred signatures from co-workers.

Wells Todd, an assembler on night shift, petitioned during shift change. "Workers from day shift that I hadn't met before signed," he said. "They hate Reagan and Carter, so they like seeing another choice."

With New York's big Caribbean population, petitioners have met Grenadians, Jamaicans, Dominicans, Bahamians, Trinidadians, Haitians and others who are excluded from participating in U.S. elections but are intensely interested in Washington's policy toward the Caribbean. Many of these have expressed interest in learning more about the SWP and working with it.

In Brooklyn, petitioners invited people to a class offering an introduction to socialist ideas. Among those attending were a Dominican, a Bahamian and a Trinidadian. During the first two weeks of the petition drive, six people have joined the New York Young Socialist Alliance. Of these, three are Dominicans.

By Judy White

SOUTH BEND—The Democrats may be a bit embarrassed that their candidate for Congress here is a leader of the Ku Klux Klan. But they did nothing to prevent this racist from winning their party nomination, and they have moved vigorously to bar his socialist opponent from the ballot.

This charge was made by Socialist Workers congressional nominee Mark Friedman at a press conference here August 17. Friedman was joined by George Johnson, the party's senatorial nominee.

As elsewhere in the state, significant evidence has already been found here of illegal handling of the SWP petitions.

With 11,000 signatures needed to qualify for the congressional race, Friedman's backers filed some 18,000 in his behalf. Yet on the basis of an alleged random sample, officials here asserted there are not enough valid names.

Campaign supporters told of going to the registrar's office and checking a batch of 400 which assertedly contained a negligibly low validity rate of 29 percent, according to the 5 percent "random" check.

Checking out 220 of these names with the incomplete records made available to them, they were able to establish a validity rate of better than 70 percent, more than enough to qualify.
Six years in jail for frame-up
Court orders new hearing for Gary Tyler

By Jane Van Deusen

NEW ORLEANS—Gary Tyler, a young Black man who has spent the past six years in jail for a crime he did not commit, will receive a new hearing.

The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in July 31 that Tyler's conviction was unconstitutional and ordered a hearing that could lead to a new trial.

Tyler was framed up on charges of killing a white youth while having a racist mob attack on a school bus carrying Black high school students. Tried by an all-white jury and convicted of first-degree murder on November 18, 1975, Tyler was put on death row at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola.

As the bus carrying Tyler and other Black students left Destrehan High School in St. Charles Parish, it was surrounded by a brick-and-bottle-throwing white mob. Spotting a white man in the crowd with a shotgun, the students ducked under the seats for cover. A shot rang out and thirteen-year-old Timothy Weber fell dead.

Forcing Black students to lie on the ground, the police searched them and the bus for three hours.

During a second search at the police station, women were forced to strip and several men were beaten. No one from the white mob was arrested or searched.

Tyler protested the police harassment. For this he was arrested for "disturbing the peace."

Police severely beat Tyler trying to get him to admit seeing the white man who fired the shot. He was later charged for the murder of Weber.

Natalie Blanks, one of sixty-five students on the bus, was the only witness against Tyler.

Since the initial trial, Blanks has refused to give her testimony. In 1976, she testified at an appeal for a new trial that police and prosecutors coerced her into giving a false statement and that she had not seen anyone fire a gun.

No fingerprints were found on the gun allegedly used in the murder. Since then the gun has been "lost."

Because Tyler was a juvenile at the time of the trial, he could be tried for first-degree murder only if it could be proved there was intent to kill or do great bodily harm to more than one person. One person claimed that his right index finger was broken by the same bullet that killed Weber.

Trial Judge Rache Marino informed the jury that they must presume Tyler intended to kill two people.

The jury deliberated only two hours before agreeing on a guilty verdict, and Judge Marino imposed the death penalty.

Tyler's death sentence was vacated in 1976 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Louisiana's death penalty unconstitutional. He was given life imprisonment without parole, probation, or suspension of sentence for twenty years.

Tyler's fight for freedom won broad national and international support. Rallies, marches, and meetings have been organized during the past six years.

The case has gone through many appeals and lost. But the recent appeal calls for a new opportunity to prove Tyler's innocence.

The court said that Judge Marino's instructions to the jury were unconstitutional and denied Tyler a fair trial. The court, however, raised the question of why Tyler's attorney did not object to the judge's actions.

Jack Williams, Tyler's attorney during the first trial, has testified he did not know the judge's charge was illegal.

If the court agrees, a new trial will be granted.

If Tyler is retried, the prosecution will be without a witness and a murder weapon.

N.C. governor reveals plan to spy on radicals

By Steve Crane

GREENSBORO, N.C.—North Carolina Governor James Hunt announced August 21 that he is introducing legislation giving the state a free hand to infiltrate "radical" groups with undercover agents.

Hunt's pretext was several protests staged recently by members of the Communist Workers Party, CWP supporters who also figured in their number of bombs and arson since January.

Send letters to: Gary Tyler, 736 Meckingbird Lane, Destrehan, Louisiana 70047.

Funds needed

"We want to thank everyone who's helped Gary," said Juanita Tyler, Gary Tyler's mother and head of his defense committee, told Millitant. "We're so happy with the new prospects for freedom."

She also has asked for his supporters to write Gary and to contribute toward his legal expenses.

Send letters to: Gary Tyler, #B4156, Louisiana State Peniten­tiary, Greensboro, N.C., 27402.

Send contributions to: Gary Tyler, Defense Fund, c/o Juanita Tyler, 736 Meckingbird Lane, Destrehan, Louisiana 70047.

By Lynda Joyce

CLEVELAND—During recent weeks, a bombing and two incidents of arson here have gutted or caused extensive damage to several major institutions in the Hispanic community.

In the last two governments, the Hispanic community has been plagued by repeated bomb threats. Swastikas have been painted on walls and residents on the Westside have been subjected to racist harassment.

In response to these attacks, a community meeting was organized August 17 by the Hispanic Coalition. Nearly eighty people gathered at the San Juan Bautista Church to discuss the incidents and a plan of action.

Raul Vega, executive director of the Spanish-American Committee, explained that the police bomb squad issued to test bombs was instructed to make bombs and illegal automatic weapons.

The committee, in turn, staged several protests of champions of encouraging them to carry guns to planning meetings on November 1 and 2.

Police claim they gave them no information on what was discussed. Nazis who are now standing trial claim that the police fabricated some of the incidents and planned meetings on November 1. They also accused the police of encouraging them to carry guns to the November 3 rally. He did not show up for the morning of November 3.

The other information who has been exposed is Edward Dawson, a former FBI agent who was active in the Greensboro Ku Klux Klan for fifteen years. Klan sources state that he was instrumental in making arrangements to bring Klannists from around the state to Greensboro on November 3.

Police admit he gave them information as late as one hour before the shooting, but they claim his information was misleading.

Douglas Cooper, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, denounced Hunt's infiltration scheme. "Governor Hunt insists he

Racists hit Cleveland Latinos

Joe Peña, editor of Ecos de Cleveland, the city's Spanish language weekly, pointed to the recent success the Socialist Work­ers Party had in forging the city to provide police protection. The Hispanic community should get the same response, he said.

He was referring to the repeated threats local Nazis had made against the July 30 SWP campaign rally here. The socialists organized

informers will be used to prevent vio­lence. But the events in Greensboro, like the whole history of government infiltration, has been to promote racist, antiblack violence."

a broadly endorsed public defense campaign, placing demands for protection on the city government. The Nazis didn't show up at the rally.

As the news conference August 20, Mayor Voinovich announced the city would try to arrest and prose­cute the perpetrators of the racist attacks.

By Lynda Joyce

Several buildings like one above have been targets of racist firebomb­ings.
‘Cops treat us like animals’

Behind the Black rebellion in Wichita

By Bob Kutchko and Isabellia Listopad

WICHITA, Kan.—Kansans curse police brutality, high unemployment, and racist discrimination with an isolated Midwestern industrial city and you get Wichita, Kansas.

Although it has not hit the headlines like the Atlanta and Watts brawls, the Black community here has also been fighting back against the years of disturbance in the northeast area, task force.

"Nothing. A lot of people get hurt, and it seems like we always get blamed for fighting back against the years of racist discrimination with an isolated Black community here has also been suppressed."

"A year ago the office of the Northeast Task Force was firebombed. Since then the northeast task force has the same old occupation of the old Black community been cut off. And police continue to roam the northeast part of town.

A modern industrial city, Wichita is the home of major aircraft-related concerns such as Boeing, Learjet, and Cessna. But recent layoffs have hit Black workers the hardest.

Speaking of job opportunities for Blacks, who comprise 40,000 of the city's 273,000 residents, Linda Parks commented, "They aren't going to let the teenagers get a job. And those of us who do have jobs, they try and put us in a position where we better not say anything. It is a deliberate set-up. We are merely being discriminated against.

Parks was recently fired from her job for reasons which supposedly had nothing to do with her willingness to speak out against injustices.

Colo. Chicanos protest police murder of youths

By Greg Hollenbeck

LONGMONT, Colo.—Racist cops killed two Chicoan youths here August 14. The angry Chicoan community responded with a rally of 150 people August 17 and a meeting of 500 protesters August 18. Six hundred attended the funeral on August 20.

Participants in the August 18 meeting, at which city officials were confronted, said it was the largest protest action in the history of Longmont.

Longmont, a seemingly peaceful town of 25,000, has a long history of racist abuse of Chicanos. It's reputed to house the largest chapter of the John Birch Society in the state.

Chicanos tell how systematic discrimination against them begins in the schools, where they are generally pushed out by age and ability.

Jobs are hard to find. Police harass- ment is frequent. At night, Chicanos have the choice of staying indoors or risking arrest. Or their lives.

Jeff Cordova and Juan Luis Garcia were twenty-two years old. Cor- dova was recently discharged after three years in the army's airborne division. His mother was a nostratoan and received a citation for his service in the Pacific Canal Zone.

Garcia was remembered as a person who would go out of his way to help out a friend. Both young men were unemployed.

Cordova and Garcia left their homes at 10:30 p.m. on August 16 to go to a wedding reception for Cordova's brother. At 10:51 p.m., according to District Attorney Alex Hunter, the unarmed youths were shot and killed by police officer Glen Henner. Garcia was shot in the chest and Cordova in the back.

Cordova and Garcia had been in a car with friends Bruce Hamner and Dorothy Martinez and driver Ralph Grimaldo. According to Grimaldo, they passed Henner, who had pulled another car over. Hammer shouted something as they drove by.

A few blocks later, Henner pulled them over. After calling for "reinforcement," another cop, John Davis, ar- rived. Moments later, after the youths had told the cops they were not armed, Henner shot and killed Garcia and Cordova.

The official coverup began imme- diately. Undisclosed "sources" told reporters the vehicle the youths were driving was speeding. A knife was supposedly found next to Cordova's body. Later it was found that Cordova was the fire fighter who tried to revive Cordova. "Sources" said the car was searched for weapons, that the youths used a police flashlight as a weapon, that one of them grabbed the officer's night- stick. The district attorney said the cop stopped the youths because he thought they were doing something he thought warranted him to stop the car.

Chicoan leaders called a meeting and the angry Chicanos came from Longmont, and also from Pueblo, Brighton, Greeley, Denver, and as far away as San Luis Valley in the oppo- site corner of the state.

At first city officials tried to have a closed-door meeting with several repre- sentatives from the Chicano commu- nity. But the militancy of the crowd forced them to back down.

Victor Vela demanded of the so-called director of public safety, "What do you call the shooting last week?" The crowd shouted, "Mordor!"

The director replied, "I have no answer."

Ben Cordova, who recently chaired a countywide task force on problems facing youth, then spoke. He said that in Longmont arrests among Hispanics are three to four times greater than those of Anglos. "I refuse to believe that Chicano are three to four times as criminally inclined as Anglos," he said. His call for a citizen's review board was applauded.

The mayor was denounced for an anti-Chicano rally last Saturday, the city govern- ment issued the morning after the shooting. The Indian community believes that "last night's incident" requires a "hard crackdown on frivolous behavior on Main Street."

The meeting ended when the city agreed to have weekly meetings, open to the public, with city leaders and to appoint an Hispanic to act as liaison with the community.

Hines out on bail

BIRMINGHAM—Tommy Lee Hines, a young mentally retarded Black man who was gunned down and convicted in 1978 for raping a white woman, was released Aug- ust 15 on $10,000 bail from an Alabama state mental hospital.

Hines' conviction was overturned in June by the Alabama Circuit Court of Appeals and by the state supreme court in June.

The state said that Hines was mentally incapable of understand- ing his constitutional rights before confessing to police on the rape charge.

Hines' lawyer, Oscar Adams, Jr., filed for his release because he was being held illegally.

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Interview with Grenada's Maurice Bishop

'My tour of Grenada offers the opportunity to use my campaign to tell the facts about the revolution that the truth be told to working people... It is particularly important now, because of the U.S. war threats against the Caribbean, that the truth be told to working people and the Black community here about Grenada and the great strides the Grenadian people are making....'

Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, conducted a week-long fact-finding and solidarity tour of Grenada during July.

"My tour of Grenada offers the opportunity to use my campaign to tell the facts about the revolution there," Pulley declared. "It is particularly important now, because of the U.S. war threats against the Caribbean, that the truth be told to working people and the Black community here about Grenada and the great strides the Grenadian people are making."

Pulley, along with Steve Clark, managing editor of Intercontinental Press/Inprecor, and Diane Wang, a steelworker and member of the Socialist Workers Party, conducted the following interview with Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop July 15 in the capital city of St. George's.

Andrew Pulley: What can supporters of the Grenadian revolution, antiwar activists, and Black activists in the United States do regarding the U.S. government's war drive and slander against Grenada? How can we help combat that?

Maurice Bishop: I think there are a number of areas. Certainly the question of mobilizing the population, particularly the Blacks, the deprived minorities, progressive forces, the working class, around the importance of world peace and détente. There might be some concrete ways of getting that message across. Certainly, for example, using the Vietnam experience and what it has meant concretely for people—not only for those who died, but those who are now permanently crippled or those who have come back heroes but still cannot find jobs.

Secondly, I think it is very important to try to organize around one or two key slogans that could dramatize and really focus in a very concrete and spectacular way on this war drive. What I'm getting at is this, for example:

Everybody knows, but most people cannot quite articulate, that the reasons for war, the reasons for any warmongering right now, have to do essentially with the developing crisis in international capitalism. The economic problems in the United States even more so.

Witness the $142 billion defense budget or whatever it is. Fifty million dollars cut back on school lunch programs. The retrenchment, the general cutback in social expenditures.

Yet at the same time, it is equally clear that while they are cutting back in those areas, they are stepping up on defense spending. And inciting the countries of NATO, for example, to do likewise.

At the end of the Windward Islands in the Caribbean lies Grenada, a country of 110,000 people whose revolution of a year ago is having a political impact throughout the region.

On March 13, 1979, a popular insurrection led by the New Jewel Movement toppled the repressive regime of Eric Gairy and established the People's Revolutionary Government.

Almost immediately, the new government instituted social measures that provided jobs, increased wages, improved and expanded health care, and implemented a literacy program.

The government eliminated taxes for the lowest-income people and increased taxes on big companies. More than a fifth of the 1980 budget will be allocated for health and education.

Mobilizing workers and small farmers, the PRG has greatly expanded their rights. The Trade Union Recognition Act compels employers to recognize any union that has the support of 50 percent of the workers they employ. Unionization of urban workers has increased from 90 percent under the Gairy dictatorship to 80 percent today. Agricultural Workers Councils have been organized on government and private estates across the island.

Although a small country, Grenada's revolutionary developments are affecting the rest of the Caribbean islands and are of special significance here. Grenadians are Black and English-speaking. Thousands of Grenadians—as well as other West Indians—live and work in the United States.

The U.S. government has been hostile to the Grenadian revolution from the start. The Carter administration threatened Grenada for establishing relations with Cuba and has provided a haven for Gairy to organize right-wing mercenary forces to invade the island.

Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, conducted the following interview with Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop July 15 in the capital city of St. George's.

Andrew Pulley: What can supporters of the Grenadian revolution, antiwar activists, and Black activists in the United States do regarding the U.S. government's war drive and slander against Grenada? How can we help combat that?

Maurice Bishop: I think there are a number of areas. Certainly the question of mobilizing the population, particularly the Blacks, the deprived minorities, progressive forces, the working class, around the importance of world peace and détente. There might be some concrete ways of getting that message across. Certainly, for example, using the Vietnam experience and what it has meant concretely for people—not only for those who died, but those who are now permanently crippled or those who have come back heroes but still cannot find jobs.

Secondly, I think it is very important to try to organize around one or two key slogans that could dramatize and really focus in a very concrete and spectacular way on this war drive. What I'm getting at is this, for example:

Everybody knows, but most people cannot quite articulate, that the reasons for war, the reasons for any warmongering right now, have to do essentially with the developing crisis in international capitalism. The economic problems in the United States even more so.

Witness the $142 billion defense budget or whatever it is. Fifty million dollars cut back on school lunch programs. The retrenchment, the general cutback in social expenditures.

Yet at the same time, it is equally clear that while they are cutting back in those areas, they are stepping up on defense spending. And inciting the countries of NATO, for example, to do likewise.
Now it seems to us that it should be possible to get a genuine exchange across in a concrete way. To point out that really what the war drive is all about is a means of creating the national corporations, the elite in America, to try to revive their super profits, which have been falling so dramatically. And the best way always of doing that is by getting a war economy moving—step up spending in the area of the military

So the slogan, for example, that makes the point: "We don't want a war,..." General Motors go fight." I'm saying that it should be possible to step up spending in a very concrete way so that people can understand.

Because I get a feeling—certainly the last time I was in America—last year at the United Nations—that this war-making was beginning to seep through to the population in general to some extent. I wasn't there long enough. I failed to encourage people or to an especially wide cross-section to be sure that what I'm saying is right. But certainly listening to the radio, watching the television shows, and just talking to people here and there, it seemed to cross very strongly.

I don't think there's any need for that to happen in the United States. I certainly feel that a carefully worked-out program aimed at getting the message across that war is not in the interests of the American masses, that it's really only a very tiny minority who wants this war, essentially for economic reasons. Therefore, if they want the war, let them go and fight the war. Why should we go and die for them? It's not helping us.

Third, I think precisely what your party and your newspaper have been doing, and we certainly appreciate it. Focusing on the actual reality in the region and the efforts being made by progressive and revolutionary organizations and comrades to try to get a better life for their people. And doing it in a concrete way, in a way that one can see in terms of focusing on the basic needs of the population— jobs, health, housing, food, clothing. The concrete evidence to bring these about and therefore the developing perception in the minds of the Caribbean masses that really is a way to measure progress. Not in terms of how many industries you have or how many hotels you have when the profits are going to a very tiny elite, but in terms of what benefits are truly getting to the masses.

Getting across the point, too, that there is absolutely no doubt that for all of us in the Caribbean who are trying to develop new paths and new processes, our concern is not with America. We have no axe to grind. All we want is to be able to live in peace. To have the opportunity to develop our own processes from all forms of outside interference, from imperialism, from the><!-- EndFragment -->

This is the way we want to join. This is the way we want to build a better and more unfree media than the American media.

Pulley. One big lie that they are perpetuating is that Grenada is an armed camp where every single person walks around with carbines and, therefore, you feel fearful for your safety, you should not go there as a tourist. The truth is that you see more people walking around the block area of Chicago, especially police men, than I've seen here. Do you have anything you want to say in the New York Times? The other line is that the new international capitalism is that you are building a better world here is simply a military base. It's a very vicious line. It's a very self-serving line put by the people that are trying to wreck the tourists coming here, in particular. To make tourists generally afraid to come to the country. And they are really pushing that very viciously over the past sixteen months.

Within the first few weeks, they were saying that we had cut down the forests in the middle of the island, in the Grand Etang region, and had mislaid aimed at neighboring islands. Then there was another story saying that we had burrowed all the earth from under the island and established pontoon and U-2 base so that the Soviets could attack. Another one said that there was a Soviet naval base on the offshore island of Carriacou. Obviously that kind of propaganda cannot affect our people. The island is so small that in a quarter of a second everybody gets to hear what's happening. I mean, I can't think of a more unfree press, a

We really have been having that from day one. Obviously the aim of that is to wreck the tourists coming here, in particular. To make tourists generally afraid to come to the country. And they are really pushing that very viciously over the past sixteen months.

As you know, they have been moving guns in the streets. Obviously the aim of that is to wreck the tourists coming here, in particular. To make tourists generally afraid to come to the country. And they are really pushing that very viciously over the past sixteen months.

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don't say that they have lifted all surveillance—on Gairy—something that they kept saying that they were doing to some extent within their limited resources and whatnot. And that, so far as they were concerned, the Gairy question was a dead letter.

So it has now come to the point where they have admitted openly that they are not going to bother with our request for extradition.

Carter harbors Eric Gairy

Obviously, this is going to be one of the main stumbling blocks to having any kind of reasonable relations with the United States. Because it is not possible to accept that any country, and one that deems itself to be a friendly country, has the right to harbor fugitives from justice from our country—criminals, people who are using the territory of this other country to incite aggression against our country, to actively plan counterrevolution, to plan for mercenary invasion and all that sort of thing.

Therefore, that certainly is going to be one of the major stumbling blocks to the development of any reasonable relations.

Clark. Going back to a point you made earlier. One of the slogans that very quickly has developed into probably the most popular antigovernment slogan is, "We won't fight for Exxon." This relates most directly to the war dangers in the Middle East rather than in the Caribbean. But it shows the beginning of a movement among those activists, who are the backbone of the growing antigovernment movement, of a consciousness of the cause of war. In the early stages of the Vietnam War, there were many antiwar activists who thought this was just a simple mistake on the part of the U.S. policymakers. It took quite a while into the war before the consciousness of the role of big business, the consciousness that the war was being fought for a specific reason, the interests in a tiny handful, began to develop. But that's there now right at the beginning of this new fight.

Bishop. That's fantastic.

Clark. We think that another very positive thing in terms of mobilizing solidarity not only with Grenada but with Nicaragua, El Salvador, and the Caribbean against the CIA destabilization efforts in Jamaica, is the fact that Grenada is the first revolution of this power and scope in an English-speaking country with a largely Black population. So it makes it much easier for at least that segment—which is a large and important segment of the African-American population—to identify with the revolutions in the Caribbean and Central America.

Example for U.S. Blacks

Bishop. I agree fully. I have absolutely no doubt about any of the major factors responsible for all of the aggression and hostility against the revolution in Grenada being shown by the United States government is precisely that fact that Grenada is a small Black country, with a large Black population, and as you say English-speaking. This is a lot easier for Blacks and other oppressed nationalities in the United States to identify with and extend our aspirations. And that must be a real problem for them. It must be.

Bishop. We who have in America with the Black situation is already a situation of isolation. And they have not been able to find any solutions by the usual methods of political prisoner and continued shootings of people, like happened in Miami recently. And to have added to that the example of a Grenada-like revolution must be a frightening thing for them—particularly since they see this place as being in their backyard. And they understand only too well that more and more Blacks are going to hear about Grenada, about what we are trying to do. Many of them are going to join any movement that is opposed to trying to turn back our revolution. I think your point is a key one. Extremely important.

Radio Free Grenada

Pulley. I'm looking forward to being able to pick up Radio Free Grenada soon in Miami. It will be a very powerful development when its beam is strengthened, especially for the English-speaking Caribbean, of course, but also for the average person in the United States, in order to help refute all the lies. The American people are already suspicious of anything the government says about anything. Their first thought is whether the government is lying.

The more people discover that just out and-out lies are being told about Grenada, Nicaragua, and Cuba, the more the U.S. government will have a tremendous problem trying to get away with its war drive. As people in the Black movement become aware of what your government and country is up against, they will be outraged. Because they will see it as a racist injustice, just as they have seen with regard to Haitians, the Haitian immigrants.

It was largely pressure from the Black community that forced Carter to change, at least in words, his discriminatory double-standard toward Cuban and Haitian immigrants.

A similar consciousness can be developed with regard to this revolution, the more that Black leaders, activists, and others are aware of it.

Clark. What are some of the gains of the revolution over the past year and four months that you are most pleased with? And what are the biggest challenges that you see ahead in terms of social programs and economic development and reconstruction?

Bishop. Answering that question is not the easiest thing, because people's perspectives on that really differ very dramatically. If you want to go out into the countryside and you spoke to an elderly sister, her response to a question like that might be something like, "I feel free. I feel good. I feel like a Grenadian for the first time." Intangible things.

Community mobilization

As for those of us in the party and government, our view is that the greatest single achievement, the thing that we are happiest about, is the community mobilization, community involvement, community participation. That has really impressed us most.

I can tell you, over and over again, month after month, we keep saying, "It can't continue." [Laughs.] And then month after month, you make a call and people still come out.

When the rains came in November last year, it did cause tremendous damage, more than $30 million worth of damage to the economy, twenty-three inches in one month. Before those rains came, there were some weekends when we had 80 percent of the villages around Grenada involved in community efforts. That's an extraordinary development. I tell you that in other English-speaking Caribbean countries, I don't think they'd get 2 percent of villages to be involved. And I'm not saying this in a boastful way. I'm saying it in a factual way.

In January, we closed down the schools for two weeks so as to hold seminars for all the teachers to talk about the work-study approach, curriculum reform, and so on. And during those two weeks, we asked people to organize themselves to repair, repaint, refurbish all the schools, because they were in disastrous condition. And sixty-six primary schools got refurbished and repainted in that two-week period as a result of that drive, saving the country a tremendous amount of money. Really quite extraordinary.

We see it also in the area of the village health committees that are emerging as part of our drive to move toward a primary health system. Our aim is that doctors, nurses, paramedics, and technicians working as teams will go out into the country and bring medical attention to people where they live and where they need the attention.

The diisproportion in the health budget is really quite staggering. In 1978, the last year of Gairy, 70 percent of the health budget was spent on the three hospitals in Grenada and Carriacou. Those three hospitals, in turn, attended to about 25 percent of the sick. But under Gairy only 30 percent of the health budget was spent in trying to keep together the thirty-five health centers and medical clinics around the country where the people actually went for attention.

If you understand the situation in this country in terms of poverty, in terms of the high cost of transportation, in terms of the inaccessibility of many of these health centers and

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1. One East Caribbean dollar is equivalent to US$1.00.
medical clinics, then you can see the problem, but they really cannot move. Even if they manage to go once, they cannot return two days later, because of the distance.

Health care
So we see the primary health system as being key. And getting the masses involved in that through village health committees, because there is a lot of information. One, involve themselves in public health work, two, deal with overwhelments, deal with unblocking drainages, which is one of the main problems now, among others, which means yellow fever and so on.

Third, monitoring the quality of health. Because doctors, naturally, came out of the system of 300 years of colonial oppression and thirty years of Gairy’s mire and neo-colonialism. Their education system was preparing a tiny elite and one that was not really involved in service but to dollar bills and to migrating as fast as they could. And even when they stayed here, they either moved to private practice altogether or insisted on their right to earn their parents’ and others’ money, to practice privately at the same time, using hospital facilities to do so.

Now that kind of doctor is not going to join up as part of any medical team of doctors and technicians. So it’s a real problem getting that struggle, that program going. We have had some impact, but we have a long way to go. But we’re sure it can be developed because it has an identity involvement and a new sense of oneness and unity in the country.

Concrete benefits
The thing we can look at the question you asked is to try to identify a little more concretely and specifically the benefits that have come to the people. More jobs, for example, 2,500 in the first year, and 5,000 more in the second, which are very small data, really in the overall unemployment rate of 90 percent, which we inherited. But clearly, even a data like that has made a difference. It has helped, reduced it to about 35 percent.

Secondly, in the area of education. Before the revolution, the last year of Gairy’s government was a six-month period, in which there were one hundred and ninety schools, one hundred and ten people are able to go abroad to study.

We’ve been able to reduce secondary school fees from $37 to $12 a term. Next year, we intend to make it entirely free.

We have been able to increase greatly the number of scholarships in the three areas to the point so that more children can get in.

We have started a breakfast and lunch feeding program in the schools, so that more children can get in.

In the area of health likewise. We inherited a situation where there were eight doctors working in the government service virtually all of them concentrated in the hospitals, one or two even in the clinics, but mostly doing a few hours every week, once a week for a few hours.

And then six months again, we were able to get seventeen new doctors to come to Grenada. In other words, there is some progress that we had before were added to the system. And that has an enormous difference in the quality and quantity of health care available.

As a know, the two of these seventeen doctors and dentists came from Cuba on loan to us and that, of course, has been an extremely important contribution, one of many they have made to the revolution.

So you have jobs, you have education, you have health. Also you have the question of struggling with the infrastructure. The water has been greatly increased with the opening of the new Mardigras water project, and several others are about to be completed. That should ensure water for the whole of St. George’s. There are pipes in some parts of St. George’s that have not seen water for four and five years—not days or weeks, but literally four and five years, just rusted up.

We’ve been struggling with new federal revenue sources, for example, to get timber. Right now Grenada supplies something like 4 percent of our overall timber needs locally, when there’s a lot of forest land just going idle. Without doing any great amount, just cutting a feeder road, not even paving it, just enough for a vehicle to get in using four-wheel drive, buying a sawmill for $30,000, that’s all. And doing this now, we expect that in five years, we will be able to supply 80 percent of our timber needs.

There’s a lot of little, relatively small things that overall have made quite an impact. These are some of the achievements.

Dependent economy
In a situation like ours, given our inheritance and dependent economy, we have an economy that was accustomed to looking outward for solutions rather than towards our own needs and problems. We have a country that was misused for so many years under colonialism and today continues to be exploited by imperialism. The inheritance, the legacy of not just waste and corruption, but of the lack of physical infrastructure and the lack of economic development.

Three hundred and fifty years of British colonialism, for example, gave us one public secondary school. That’s all they could build in 300 years! The other eleven were built by the churches.

When you come into that sort of situation, you obviously have to set yourself goals and targets for the revolution.

As you know, this year in Grenada is the year of education and production. And the two main things involved would be the CPE (Centre for Popular Education) and the land reform program.

The land reform commission has been established and is laying the basis for eventual agrarian reform. At this point we are mainly trying to identify the idle lands in the country, and how many of the people are willing to work in cooperatives, so as to bring about that marriage.

Clark. And that also involves the development of a fishing industry?

Bishop. Right.

Clark. What are some of the main political features of the Grenadian revolution?

Three pillars
In short, I would say that there are three main pillars of the revolution. First, the organization and mobilization of the masses. That is very key. To try to get sickness, to get other illnesses out of what we are trying to do, to keep them fully involved, to ensure that they understand what the problems are and where we are trying to go.

Secondly, the question of national security and defense—consolidation in those areas.

Thirdly, the question of building a sound national economy and bringing more benefits to the people, improving the quality of their lives.

Those to us are the three key pillars.

And we believe that all three have to be worked on at the same time. We cannot afford to let any drop or lag behind.

In any revolutionary situation, in any progressive situation, the question of finding the right mix between the people of the country is key. The people without the guns, after all, is Allende, and we know what happened to Allende. The guns without the people, on the other hand, is Pinochet, and we know what will happen to Pinochet.

So it’s a question of striking that balance, ensuring that our people understand the importance of being ready to defend our country from external attack, understand why it is that imperialism must attack us—why it is, therefore, that assassinations, terrorism, destabilization, mercenary invasions, must be a part of their agenda.

That’s something that is not as easy as it sounds in our context. Generally speaking, the historical tradition of the English-speaking Caribbean has not been one of a great deal of state violence, as other forms of violence really against the people. It’s much easier, I think, for people in Latin America, for example, to understand that. That’s the case.

Secondly, remembering the way we took power. While there was an long history of repression by the state, by Gairy, in the days leading up to the revolution, to some extent the people themselves were not really involved in receiving that violence on a personal level.

We don’t have, in other words, a situation let’s say of Nicaragua, where since World War Two people have been fighting with arms in hand from time to time to try to unseat the various Somoza.

So there is a situation like Cuba. The Platt Amendment in 1902 and the constant struggle since then, year after year, the tides in the Sierra Maestras. You have that kind of situation here.

What people’s consciousness is, in other words, did not come out of that objective situation that makes it fairly easy to understand what is possible at the hands of imperialism.

In addition, we didn’t have the situation where the Cuban and Nicaraguan governments had, where there is a whole lot of land tied up in the latifundias, in the hands of one or two big exploiters, that you can take and just hand over, making easier the objective basis of proceeding on that objective level. That is a neat situation.

You talk about a big landowner in Grenada, you’re talking about somebody with seventy-five acres of land.

So we have had right from day one this tremendous difficulty of getting across to our people, getting them to internalize in their bellies the fact that we are going to be attacked, the fact that economic destabilization is going to continue, that the propaganda war will continue, that they are going to move even more to assassinations and to mercenary invasions. The objective conditions for getting that message across were not there from before. People did not have that period of socialization, and therefore internalizing this was not the easiest thing.

To that extent, the recent [June 19] events, unfortunate as they are in terms of loss of life, have gone a long way towards helping to raise consciousness. Because people are now able to say, “Right. From day one the comrades were talking about that.”

They now see that on June 19, even while the [terrorists] moved to wipe out the entire leadership, they did it in such a way that it didn’t matter that hundreds of innocent women and children could get wiped out at the same time.

That has made a qualitative difference in the people’s perception of what imperialism, what counterrevolution really means.

From that point of view, it has been an extremely important experience. That certainly is one of the biggest challenges that we have to face, to get that across, trying to get our people to understand that we need to remain constantly alert, constantly vigilant. To understand that the threats are not there in theory, but have to be in practice. We have to be ready and prepared to meet that.

You read about Allende, and you know that three months before September 11, 1973, was the last attempt on his life. So that last assassination attempt was a prelude to an actual coup. So we make the point that, in much the same way, an assassination attempt here can easily be a prelude to a mercenary invasion.

What imperialism is admitting now by moving to terror tactics and moving toward assassination attempt is that

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A new civilization

That is really what they have been trying to do and miserably. Even their attempts to isolate us in the region, that has been a massive failure, utterly. They cannot produce propaganda against Grenada. While undoubtedly several governments are hostile to Grenada and probably to become hostile; they were hostile from day one—the masses in the Caribbean understand well what we are trying to do. They understand that this is a genuine process. That we are really trying to do something that may become a new civilization, that may become a different relevance as a model to their own lives.

And therefore they have not been put off, and imperialism has seen that. They have seen, too, that their attempts at economic sabotage have not bitten deep enough, partly because America is our number seven trading partner. We get virtually nothing from America in terms of our shops and stores. So they have had problems crippling us in that way.

The key question now is to move to the top of the pyramid. At the top of the pyramid, of course, is the terror of the assassination of liberation leaders. And I think that's one of the major challenges that we have to stand. Certainly in the last four weeks, that message has gotten across a lot more.

People now see the importance, for example, of joining the militia in large numbers. The figures relatively speaking were small; you were talking about the vanguard really in the militia. Now quite a few, a few thousand have joined up.

People now begin to get a deeper appreciation of the surrounding that really the FRA [People's Revolutionary Army] and the small militia that we had were militarily able to defend the country in a situation of all-out attack. That's why we only do that through a people's war, to be able to fight on that front. So that when the massacre happened, and they are at what appear to be innocent children and women bathing in a river, as they get cut off from the people in their back. I think our masses are getting to understand that better now.

Recent events

And a lot of that consciousness has certainly been stimulated by the result of recent events, and not just in Grenada. There are the assassinations of Archbishop Oscar Romero in El Salvador and Walter Rodney in Guyana; the
destruction of the Eventide old people's home by fire in Jamaica on exactly the fourth anniversary of the similar destruction of Orange Lane in 1976; the recent attempt on [Prime Minister Michael] Manley's life and the coup d'état attempt over there. And then, of course, in Grenada, the June 19 bomb- ing coming right after the April 26.

When you think of it, after just fifteen months, four plots—the October plot, the November plot, 4 April 26 plot, and a few weeks later, June 19. And each of the plots, what is central is wiping out the leadership. So I think we are beginning to get that clarity a bit more now, and that certainly has been a very important development from our point of view.

At this point, our feeling very strongly is that what is happening in Grenada is really part of a regional plan that imperialism has devised for dealing with progressive forces and revolutionary processes in the region. It's more than regional, it's clearly worldwide—the attempts to roll back the Afghanistan revolution, the continued search for bases in that area, the invasion of Iran and the Soviet attempt to invade that country a few months ago, the military presence in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf area, the floating arsenal at Diego Garcia. We are their own region, Carter's first foreign policy force last year, Solid Shield '80 this year, artificial Cuban crisis in Peru, artificial crisis in Nicaragua over the two members of the junta who resigned, continued destabilization attempts in Jamaica. It is quite a pattern.

Cuba in the vanguard

We feel that there are a series of concentric circles that imperialism has drawn up.

Into their first circle they have certainly put Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada as being the key countries to get at.

Cuba for obvious reasons. It is obviously the vanguard in this region.

3. In May 1976, at a time of U.S.-backed destabilization efforts against the Jamaican regime, fifty armed men attacked a tenement section in central Kingston that was a stronghold of Michael Manley's People's National Party. They set fire to it, killing over ten persons. Four years later, in May 1980, a similar fire was set at the Eventide nursing home in Kingston, killing 14 elderly women.

4. In late April 1980, Kennedy Buchi of the opposition and a large-scale marijuana trader—was arrested along with several others for planning to overthrow the government on April 20.

5. In late October and early November 1979, a number of counterrevolutionaries were arrested on charges of plotting to overthrow the government, including Winston Weyne, former head of the right-wing United People's Party; Rupert Jagel of the bourgeois Grenada National Party; and Willo De Ravines, a former police corporal.

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They have failed. Because all the attempts to build a popular base [for counterrevolution] have failed. Their attempts to put Richard Scowen Whyte and his so-called UPP—the United People's Party. The attempts to revive Herbert Blansett of his GNP [Grenada National Party], when the masses literally ran them off the streets; they didn't want to hear what they were saying. The attempts to use the Torchlight, the local media, to try to assist them in their propaganda in much the same way as they used El Mercurio in Chile before Allende.

The attempts to try to find a popular base, using elements in the country who are trying to exploit genuine grievances of the masses. In other words, conditions are bad. There is a lack of representation. There is a lot of poverty. They get these people, therefore, to try to incite strikes, to try to whip up the mass of the population around issues that are pressing issues, that we are concerned about, that we are trying to do something about. But making them at the same time feel that revolution is like instant coffee; you just throw it in a cup and it comes out presto. That you can negate the 300 years of British colonialism and thirty years of imperialist and neocolonialism overnight.

What you have in America with Blacks is a situation of great oppression. . . . More and more Blacks are going to hear about Grenada, and many are going to join any movement opposed to trying to turn back our revolution.

Artificial Cuba crisis

Clark. The U.S. propaganda around the Cuban emigres has backfired on Carter, especially following the opening of the port of Mariel, the massive anti-imperialist marches in Cuba, and the racist treatment of the Cubans in the United States. What was the impact here in the Caribbean?

Bishop. Was it in the Militant that I saw the Fidel interview with Lee Lockwood from way back in 1965? Did you repeat that in the paper? [See April 18, 1980, Militant.] That found to be an extremely important interview, particu-

larly as it was fifteen years old, in tracing the history of this whole emig-

ration question.

It was really quite succinct, the way Fidel put it. Pointing out that from the word go it was an artificial crisis being created. That people, of course, when they were able to leave freely were leaving freely, nobody was blocking them. It became more convenient even-tually for the Americans to force them to escape and then treat them as how they can get propaganda out of it.

It was really quite an important amount of support for the time able to especially as it was done such a long time ago.

Propaganda has really done damage, there's no question about it, in the English Caribbean. Given that the U.S. propaganda about "people running from Communism" and so forth. I think a lot of the Caribbean masses have had difficulty in compre-

hending what is really happening and putting it in a full context.

Because what's the reality? If any of those islands had America's doors opened tomorrow morning, there would be six people left on the island. That's the reality. But they make this song and dance.

The imperialist-controlled media have the resources, they have the technology, they've said that there has been a marked improvement in imperialist propaganda throughout 1980 on virtually every issue. First of all, the speed with which they respond and the amount of ammunition they throw into it has been quite extraordinary.

U.S. propaganda

Consider Afghanistan, in December of last year. Just think of the speed with which they moved and how quick that propaganda built up and therefore how difficult it was to combat and counter it.

But really on every issue. Within seconds of the bomb attack here in Queen's Park, the United States embassy in Bridgetown [Barbados] was already sending reports out. Interest-

ingly, their first reports were saying there was no word that the leadership had been killed. Very interesting. We want to know, how did they know that?

Or take Iran, the question of those fifty-three hostages. Again, the speed they moved on that question, and the amount of support they were able to muster, made it difficult for people to put it in a full context in terms of the twenty-seven years of oppression under the shah, armed by American guns, and the very deep feelings of indignation as a result of all that by the people of Iran. The feeling that if
and it leads many democratic, even You hundred thousand, the back rows by a putting it in any kind of context. You never hear talk of sanctions about that, but they want sanctions for fifty-three. It’s difficult, because they come over with this powerful emotive line. They put it in the context of the need for international security of all em­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­…
Socialist conference links struggle of workers in U.S., worldwide

By Fred Feldman

Wendy Lyons, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, Political Committee, opened the last day of the week-long Socialist Educational and Activists Conference by declaring, "Something fundamental has happened here this week. We are a stronger and more self-confident party.

"There are some radicals who won't be able to understand this confidence. After all, Reagan is ahead in the polls. A Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan is the Democratic Party's candidate for a congressional seat in California. And the economic squeeze on working people is increasing.

"But our confidence is based on working-class realism. It doesn't assume easy fast gains for our party. It doesn't assume that there won't be more setbacks suffered by the working class in this country."

"But what we're inspired by is real. The workers and farmers are on the march in this hemisphere: Cuba, Grenada, Nicaragua. What Fidel called the 'three giants rising up on the doorstep of imperialism.' El Salvador is fighting a revolution, and the American working class is part of this process and is beginning to wake up.

"During the week of August 2-9, the 1,300 participants in the Oberlin, Ohio, conference—for the most part workers in auto, rail, steel, aerospace, mining, electronics, garment, and other industries—deepened their understanding of the consequences of the political and economic weakness of U.S. imperialism at home and abroad. They analyzed the increasingly favorable relationship between the working class, forces by imperialism's main foe, the imperialists. They had to try to improve their position at work and home. They had to try to con us into providing cannon fodder for new Vietnam wars— in Central America, the Caribbean, or the Persian Gulf.

"This offensive makes life more difficult for all American workers. It is spuriously radically changed thinking and growing militancy. Without the American working class in the minds of workers, Washington would have been able to bring much more of this country's vast military power to bear against the revolutionary struggles in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Looking for answers

In a talk on socialist tactics and strategy in the unions, SWP Political Committee member Tom Leonard noted one manifestation of the changes—confusion and a search for answers.

"The position a worker takes one day may not be his or her position the next... The cause of the confusion and contradictions that workers often express today is that the attacks coming down on them do not correspond to what they have been taught to believe about American society. That is what they are confused about. This confusion means they are looking for fresh answers.

"The confidence and enthusiasm generated by the conference took shape in the course of a packed schedule of major talks, educational series, workshops, meetings of union members, as well as concerts, films, sports, dancing and other recreation.

The socialist campaign says to young people, don't register. Draft registration is immoral, illegal, and downright unconstitutional. Let's tell the militarists, the Carters and Reagans, where to go. —Andrew Pulley

Young Socialist Alliance members

By Vivian Sahner

More than 200 members of the Young Socialist Alliance, the revolutionary socialist youth organization, attended the 1980 Socialist Educational and Activists Conference.

Included by the Young Socialists of Nicaragua and Grenada, who were the leaders and shock troops of their revolutions, YSA members spent the week in study and discussion, organizing to be better, bolder fighters for a socialist revolution in the United States.

The YSA has been growing in recent months. In New York City twenty-five young people, half of them Spanish-speaking, have joined since January. Nationally the YSA has won more than 300 new members in the last five months and an additional twenty-two joined during the conference.

Many of the new members first heard about the YSA through the campaign of Andrew Pulley and Malinda Zimmerman, Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice president of the United States.

Winning new supporters to the campaign has been the YSA's top priority during the last few months. Members spent many weeks traveling across the country petitioning to get Socialist Workers Party candidates on the election ballots in over twenty states. They met opponents of nuclear power, the Equal Rights Amendment, and thousands of unem-
'In the 1980s, revolutionary perspectives are the only realistic perspectives throughout the world and right here at home.'

Second are the revolutionary victories in Nicaragua and Grenada, which brought to power political entities that look to the socialist revolution in Cuba and to its leadership.

The fact that working-class leaders committed to defending the interests of the workers and peasants, and to advancing the world socialist revolution of now hold power in three countries in our hemisphere is a fact of historic importance. It provides the biggest opening in decades for establishing political and economic ties between revolutionary Marxists on a world scale. And it provides workers around the world with very limit resources.

Third is the deepening of the Marxist education of SWP and YSA members. Experience as participants in the new struggles of workers at home and abroad is impelling socialists to go back to the writings of Marx, Engels, and Lenin.

'Hello no, we won't go!'

The draft registration fiasco was examined at the conference—as it is being examined in Washington and Wall Street—as an important test of strength between the employers and their government on one side and working people on the other. The mass antidraft sentiment clearly demonstrates the complete interdependence between the struggles of workers and farmers abroad and at home.
Continued from preceding page

A striking aspect of these rebellions, which stand in contrast to those of the 1960s, is that many more while working people are in sympathy with the tasks of the revolutionary working class. Most saw the acquittal of the cops who murdered Arthur McDuffie in Miami as a victory for the working class.

Each of these events showed American workers to be powerful allies of the peoples fighting for liberation around the world. The examples of the revolutionary movements in Cuba and Central America is not limited to Latin America alone, or even to the Americas. This, as Jack Barnes pointed out in the talk “Marxism and the Class Struggle Today,” is the kind of opportunity that the Fourth International—SWP—Party of Socialist Revolution—was founded in 1938 to prepare for.

Model for U.S. workers
Barnes stressed that what the government and working peoples of all of these countries are doing is a model for American workers to emulate. “Coming to grips with the task of building unity in the United States, Nicaragua, and Grenada are economically backward, but their workers are united in a determination to create a new society. When the United States teaches us that a revolution is like the Soviet Union...”

From Grenada to Zimbabwe, and from Miami to Warsaw, the new challenge presents itself in the form of revolutionary trade unionism, characterized by the decisive role of the working class.

The working class is helping to create the conditions of society, the environment in which the working class and the petty bourgeoisie, the class that rules the country, can workers to be powerful allies of the people fighting for liberation around the world.

The working class is doing it in Nicaragua and Grenada, under a government that is not only the enemy of the working class, but the enemy of humanity.

‘By saying no to war and the draft, by fighting back against joblessness, police brutality and racist discrimination, American workers are tying the hands of U.S. imperialism, the deadly enemy of humanity.’

The Cuban, Nicaraguan, and Grenadian revolutions have exceptional importance for revolutionaries around the world.

The working class didn’t lose its fighting spirit in the 1960s. It’s very much alive in the United States, Nicaragua, and Grenada, in the struggle for economic and political freedom for all people.

Constrcuting new society
And that is shown by these leaderships meeting the challenge of being able to mobilize and organize the people, and to march as the only road out of the ruin of capitalism.

The tone for the next months of campaigning was set at a rally on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley, where $52,000 was raised for the SWP ticket. A high point was the prolonged and mass actions that have recently surfaced as a Wall Street stockbroker.

In an article about his conversion, Barnes stressed that what the “Socialist Workers Party of the United States, the SWP, and the Young Socialist Alliance, one of the newest and fastest-growing chapters.

Some of the themes of the conference were brought up by Andrew Pulley, the Black Chicago steelworker who is the SWP candidate for President of the United States.

"We must continue to build protests, disseminate the real reasons for this draft. And we must continue to simply refuse to register.

'That's why the SWP campaign says to young people, don't register. Draft registration is immoral, and it promotes the war.

'Let's tell the militarists, the Carterites, there is a way to go. And if the government of the oil companies to prosecuting the youth who exercise their legal right to uphold the constitution and refuse to register, if they want to try us like they did in the way to spewing out the Saigon Deba in World War I, I say just try it!’

Pledge to spread truth

"Now when I was in Grenada, I met with Prime Minister Michael Manley who heads the New Jewel Movement government. I pledged that my party was going to get these same people who have spoken the truth about Grenada to working people and to the Black communities around the world.

"The revolution in Nicaragua, like the revolution in Grenada, is having a big impact in this country. When Black and white workers, when they hear what Black Grenada has done, they are not only going to identify with the people of those countries, they are going to want to be like the Grenadians.

"The Black youth, fighting for jobs and justice for three weeks in the case of Grenada’s example. Parents and teachers in U.S. public schools are planning to take the youth out to Latin America, to see what Black Grenada has done, they will be inspired to speak the truth about Grenada to working people and to the Black communities around the world.

'Union members will want to emu-

Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada are headed by revolutionary leaderships, consciously and systemically fighting for the interests of the workers and poor farmers. They stand in sharp contrast to the bureaucratic castes that rule in the Soviet Union and China.'
Workers Party leader. The week began major talk was given by a Socialists' and Activists Conference, one included more than 100 classes and some two dozen workshops. Teachers ranged from veteran Marxist educators to young leaders in the factories today.

Eleven classes were led by the graduates of the first session of the SWP leadership school, which ended its intensive five-month study of the basic writings of Marx and Engels right before the Oberlin conference.

They conducted one series that focussed on the 1848-1852 period, showing the leadership in the Minneapolis Workers' Strike. More than 1,300 people attended the conference, bought record quantities of Marxist literature, took part in 100 classes and two dozen workshops, and relaxed at benefit jazz concert by Thiago de Mello & Friends.

By Harry Ring

The serious attitude of conference participants toward Marxist education was reflected in the Pathfinder Press literature tables, where a record $24,700 in books and pamphlets were purchased.

Pathfinder's Don Rechler reports that interest was greatest in two areas: Cuba and the Latin American revolution, and writings of Marx, Engels, and Lenin.

Jonathan Kozol's Children of the Revolution, an outstanding account of education in Cuba, became a conference collector's item. Pathfinder sold its eighty copies in the first day and a half and took orders for fifty more. A local bookstore in Oberlin sold out its entire stock, got another shipment, and promptly sold them out too!

Joseph Hansen's Dynamics of the Cuban Revolution, with its bright yellow cover, was conspicuous in the hands of participants going to classes on related topics.

A thick new Education for Socialists booklet on Revolutionary Cuba Today, with documents from recent SWP discussions, sold 241 copies.

Fourteen volumes have now been published of the Collected Works of Marx and Engels, and Pathfinder was offering the first thirteen as a set for $100. Twenty-four people bought it, and many individual volumes were sold.

More than 100 people took advantage of a special package offer on five books by Marx, Engels, and Lenin.

Among new Pathfinder titles, the top seller was Tom Kenny's Workers, Bosses, and Bureaucrats, which sold nearly 400 copies. More than 200 each were sold of The Chinese Communist Party in Power by P'eng Shu-tee, South Africa: White Rule, Black Revolution by Ernest Harsch, Fighting Racism in World War II by George Breitman and others, and the second volume of Leon Trotsky's Challenge of the Left Opposition.

The conference was thoroughly internationalist both in the subjects of its discussions and in the person of its participants. Guests attended from (at least) Argentina, Australia, Britain, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Israel, Martinique, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, and Swjeden.

Simultaneous translation into French, Spanish, and German was provided at all major sessions, and classes were translated as needed.

SWP leaders stressed time after time the importance of English-speaking revolutionary cadres in this country learning Spanish, not only to keep up with struggles and sister parties in Latin America, but because of the growing influence of the SWP's Latin American component of the U.S. working class.

A good beginning was reported in making the SWP a truly bilingual party, as more than 250 participants—aside from international guests—indicated on registration forms that they knew or were learning Spanish.

There were additional workshops devoted to practical aspects of party and YSA building, including forums, literature sales, finances, and sales of the revolutionary press.

Most of the evening was devoted to reports from the SWP's ambitious election campaign plans for the fall, and one on the fight against registration and the draft.

Worksheets reflected the wide range of activities in which YSA and YSA members are involved.

There were several workshops on the party's ambitious election campaign plans for the fall, and one on the fight against registration and the draft.

Others took up the struggle for women's rights, Caribbean and Central American solidarity, and the movement against nuclear power and nuclear weapons.

Additional workshops were devoted to topics ranging from YSA building, including forums, literature sales, finances, and sales of the revolutionary press.

As at several previous Oberlin gatherings, the acclaimed Brazilian jazz guitarist, singer, and composer Thiago de Mello presented a benefit concert. This year the proceeds went to the Political Rights Defense Fund, which raises funds for the SWP suit against the federal secret police. The evening was devoted to original compositions by Thiago and the outstanding West Coast keyboard artist and composer, Llew Matthews.

In addition to Thiago and Matthews, the group included: Bob Auld, trumpet; Duda, duduma; Richard Lesnick, tenor sax and flute; John Philipot, tenor sax; Larry Modula, alto sax; Claudio Roditi, trumpet and trombone; Marcelino Smith, bass; and Carol Sudhalter, baritone sax and flute.

Spurred on by audience enthusiasm, the group performed for nearly four hours without a break. Commenting on the two dollar contribution to the benefit, fans agreed it was the biggest jazz bargain they had experienced.

Conference participants bought record quantities of Marxist literature, took part in over 100 classes and two dozen workshops, and relaxed at benefit jazz concert by Thiago de Mello & Friends.

There were a number of tables enlisting support for worthy causes. Activists in solidarity with the Salvadoran and Guatemalan revolutionary struggles were represented. On the U.S. front, there was a table gathering petitions in behalf of American Indian Movement leaders now the target of a frame-up trial in Portland.

Despite the heavy educational schedule, entertainment and recreation were not neglected. There was nightly dancing, and the campus gym and swimming pool were available, plus tennis and volleyball courts.

A number of outstanding films were shown, including the widely discussed Cuban film on women's liberation, Portrait of Teresa.

Accompanied by Dorothea Breitman, Claudia Hommel sang classical and modern songs, while Dean Athena and Milton Chee offered jazz duos on guitar and vibes, respectively.

On the last two nights a skit was presented. Overflow audiences watched "The Empire Strikes Out," a musical satire on the Carter, Reagan, and Anderson "choice."

Some 1,300 people attended the conference, including 125 international guests.

Some 600 of the participants were industrial workers, holding membership in about forty unions.

The largest single number, 138, are members of the United Steelworkers. Next were 92 members of the United Auto Workers. There were 87 rail unionists, 52 members of the International Association of Machinists, 49 electrical unionists, 35 members of the Teamsters union, and 15 coal miners.

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Steelworkers convention: No answers to left home

By Stu Singer

LOS ANGELES—The twentieth convention of the 1.4-million-member United Steelworkers of America was held here the first week in August. The convention was originally planned for Las Vegas but was moved to protest the failure of Nevada to pass the Equal Rights Amendment.

Of the nearly 4,000 delegates, more than 1,000 were staffers, who work directly for International President Lloyd McBride. They hold the credentials of local union leaders who cannot afford to send their own delegates to the convention.

The convention met in the middle of one of the worst downturns in the steel industry since the depression of the 1930s. Almost one in four workers in the steel industry are now laid off, according to the officers' report to the convention.

Thousands of women who fought their way into the steel industry in recent years are out of work. They face being driven out of the steel industry. Discriminatory layoffs have wiped out gains from union-sponsored affirmative action programs in hiring for minority members.

The steel companies are using the crisis to undermine union wages and concessions. Early in 1981 before the convention opened, Interlake Steel announced it would shut down two plants in northern Kentucky, just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati. More than 800 steelworkers would be eliminated. Union members there rejected a company-proposed one-year wage freeze.

Within two weeks after the convention new threats against the contract were made by Wheeling Pittsburgh and McLoath steel companies. Citing "financial problems" both companies demanded union concessions.

A resolution passed by the convention referred to 35,000 other steelworker jobs lost to plant shutdowns in the last few years.

Faced with this economic crisis, no elements in the union leadership put forward any perspective for fighting to preserve jobs and working conditions.

Nor was any effective challenge made by delegates to the McBride officialdom's acceptance of shutdowns and layoffs or to its acceptance of the idea that steelworkers must tie their fate to the profitability of the companies.

Newport News victory

The high point of the convention was a celebration of the strike and organizing victory of Local 8888 at the huge Newport News, Virginia, shipyard.

Convention proceedings were interrupted Wednesday afternoon to view a film about the Newport News strike. Then the delegates from 8888, wearing union hats and T-shirts, walked through the convention hall and onto the stage.

Local President Edward Coppledge introduced the dozen delegates, describing the role each had played in the organizing effort. District Director Bruce Thrasher spoke on how the militant Newport News strike paralleled the original efforts to build the union.

Another highlight was the strongly worded resolution passed in support of the 40,000 copper workers on strike. (See page 336.)

A resolution was passed favoring more organizing drives, and there were several talks, as well as a movie and new literature put out by the union to promote union membership. But no program was advanced to involve the entire union in any of the efforts which are underway as was done to some extent at Newport News.

The convention saw a couple of incidents of intimidation against union organizers and graffiti. But union veterans noted a marked decrease from the past. Both the image and the atmospheres within the Steelworkers has changed.

On Tuesday morning a gang of about twenty goons attacked a handful of people outside the convention center who were distributing literature that urged workers to support the civilian nuclear freeze. The union party newspaper, the Socialist Worker, protested these attacks, and the goons were booted out of the building. But union officials noted a marked decrease.

The vote for Carter was not expected. But the move against the shutdowns, with little or no organizing drives. There also has been little or no opposition or direction to reopen the closed mills.

Not much left

When I was in Youngstown August 1, steelworkers I spoke with were infuriated at McBride's remarks. Responsibility for new organizing rests with the international and district offices, both controlled by McBride. The local unions had conducted an energetic fight for years against the shutdowns, with no help from McBride.

One steelworker told me, "The companies took our jobs and now the International has taken the union. We don't have much left."

The Youngstown issue came to a head in the convention when the resolution to dissolve District 26 was tabled by a McBride supporter, and the members of the local union refused to go along. The vote for Carter was not unexpected. But the move against the Youngstown district represented a blow against steelworkers who have waged a serious fight against plant closings.

Youngstown has been an important steelmaking center since before the turn of the century. Since 1977 Youngstown Sheet and Tube (now owned by Jones and Laughlin) and U.S. Steel have been closing down their operations there, claiming they are outmoded. Vigorous protests by steelworkers have slowed but not stopped the shutdowns.

Two developments provoked dissolving the district. One was the planned campaign by union staff representative Marvin Weinstock for district director. Weinstock had run on the Sadlowski slate against the McBride leadership and was associated with the fight of the local unions against the shutdowns.

The incumbent district director, Frank Lesenganich, earned the enmity of Youngstown-area steelworkers by following the international leadership in standing aloof from the fight. A second development was that Youngstown Local 1462 President Ed Mann, a central leader of the fight against the shutdowns, had petitioned and won a spot on the ballot as an independent candidate for U.S. Congress in the November elections.

Mann's campaign represents a radical departure from the union practice of only supporting Democrats plus an occasional Republican. Dissolving the union's district structure in Youngstown would weaken both these efforts.

In explaining the move, McBride was quoted in the July 31 Youngstown Vindicator as saying that "the district has been affected by plant shutdowns and little or no organizing drive. There also has been little or no opposition or direction to reopen the closed mills."

In and outside the Milwaukee convention, virtually every delegate or activist had raised the need for an activist resolution to deal with the situation. Discipline and a militant struggle against shutdowns was the consensus. But the convention was controlled by McBride and his supporters, who forced the vote to dissolve the Youngstown district. This was a vote against the unions and the steelworkers who have stood up to the shutdowns and have kept the mill going.

The vote for Carter was not unexpected. But the move against the Youngstown district represented a blow against steelworkers who have waged a serious fight against plant closings.

Youngstown has been an important
Delegates back copper strike

The special resolution "Supporting the Striking Copper Workers" approved by the delegates.

The Steelworkers convention concluded with the following pledge:

Above all, in your hour of trial, we extend our Union hearts and our bonds of solidarity to the innocent victims of this industry plot. To you, the strikers and families, we promise not to remain silent and unresponsive while you are forced to endure severe sacrifices while the industry profits richly from its market and price policies.

We pledge you our full organizational support in your proud, brave, and determined stance against these heartless mining barons.

We stand with you all the way. The only way to stop them is together, too, as it is of all labor. You will certainly again know the triumph of victory that will be yours and in which we all can rejoice.

The United Steelworkers convention did not reflect the concerns of the 1.4 million members it was supposed to represent. The delegates, on which nineteen and twenty old steelworkers protested and refused to sign up—for was not mentioned. The rebellions which Black steelworkers joined in Chattanooga and elsewhere did not come up.

The gains registered by workers and farmers in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada were ignored—except for threats against Cuba and a call for "free elections" in Nicaragua. (The illusion had not been to notice Nicaragua as long as the U.S.-backed Somoza was in power.)

The pressuring economic crisis driving steelworkers out of their jobs found no answer at any of the sessions.

The election dead-end of Carter-Reagan-Anderson and increasing attacks by the elected—"friends of labor" in Congress met no response.

"Quietest gathering"

The Wall Street Journal described the convention as the "quietest gathering of steelworkers in history."

The big business paper claimed that the "kind of spirited debates and bitter dissension that have marked past USW conventions could jeopardize the union's ability to win concessions from both government and industry."

It was a lack of militancy and absence of proposals to protect the membership which characterized the leadership at this convention. The "quiet" noted by the Wall Street Journal is what jeopardizes the ability to win concessions.

But the "spirited debates" that point the way forward are not absent from the workplaces, unemployment lines, and more and more, the local union meetings of steelworkers.

When the union celebrated the Los Angeles Convention Center they seemed to leave the needs of the rest of the members. The home offices of the union will continue to be driven down. They will eventually force a hearing—and action—from this potentially powerful union.

**Editors' notes:**

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'We may be out a long time'

Montana copper miners explain strike issues

By Robert Simms

BUTTE, Montana—Anaconda Copper and the Chamber of Commerce still bill Butte as "the richest hill on earth." More than nineteen billion pounds of copper have been mined from the ore body on the northeast side of town over the last century. That's nearly $19 billion worth at today's market price.

But the company is digging in its heels to prevent copper miners from defending their living standards in the latest contract negotiations. The national strike is well into its second month.

Anaconda Copper is now owned by the giant Atlantic Richfield oil company. "The oil companies own about 35 percent of copper in the U.S.," Butte miner Stan Blackwood said in the Militant.

"You'd think with the profits the oil companies have been pulling down they could afford to let us keep the twenty-old cent of COLA we're trying to take from them." He said at his picket station in front of the entrance to the huge Berkeley pit in Butte.

The company employs, 40,000 workers, are demanding that part of the union's cost-of-living allowance be used to pay for pensions and other benefits, such as health plans that are already in effect.

Blackwood said an important local issue is the reinstatement of fifteen strikers fired by Anaconda. Workers at Butte struck one week before the national strike began over 'safety issues, primarily," Blackwood told the Militant.

"Some safety grievances have been around more than two years. The company has put them on the shelf and doesn't plan to do a damn thing with the issues," he said.

About sixty picketers helped defend the early workout, "and the company just picked out fifteen and fired them."

There are 1,100 miners at Butte in more than twenty unions, including the various trades. The Teamsters and United Steelworkers represent the biggest units. The Steelworkers, Local A-1, is known locally as the Butte Miners Union, harking back to the long and militant union tradition in this town.

There are an additional 850 smelter workers, twenty miles west of Butte in the town of Anaconda, and 450 copper refinery and fabricating workers at Anaconda's works in Great Falls, Montana.

Harry Fleck, three years short of retirement, was sitting outside the smelter in Anaconda beside a picket sign that read "No contract, no work," when he told the Militant: "The company isn't bargaining much. We may be out a long time."

He figured this was his sixth or seventh strike, including one that lasted nine months.

Interlake shuts Ky. plants, blames workers

By Ernie Abdo and Ove Aspoy

CINCINNATI—Interlake Steel, northern Kentucky's largest private employer, shut its Wilder and Newport plants last month after it laid off 1,100 hourly and salaried employees lost their jobs for the year.

The plants were closed shortly after workers in United Steelworkers Locals 22 and 806 voted to accept Interlake's proposals for a new contract. The vote was 806 to 1.

For decades the Interlake plants had come under the same USWA national agreements negotiated with the nine giant steel companies. This year Interlake claimed it just could not afford it.

The company blames the plant closings on the rising costs of materials and energy, as well as on the expenses of pollution control. Above all else, Interlake blames the workers.

In the letter to employees, Raymond C. McDonald, chairman of the board, stated, "Before you vote, consider the alternative: Working for ourselves. Remember that a vote to reject the company offer is not a vote to strike. Instead, it is a vote that will result in the permanent closing of the plant."

McDonald went on to say that even with acceptance of the proposals, the plants might have to be closed in a year.

In response, USWA Locals 22 and 806 demanded that the company open its books to union inspection, Interlake refused, but later agreed to turn over a financial summary. It revealed a profit of $1.89 million during the first half of the year.

The company claimed millions in losses in previous years. But at the same time Interlake had been pouring more than $20 million into the Kentucky plants as part of a modernization project.

Carl Harbour has worked in steel mills for more than ten years. He was a millwright at Interlake for two years. He told the Militant that many people thought the plants would be closed regardless of the vote. He summed up their attitude: "Let's shut down now, not when the company wants to."

Like many other workers, Harbour is suspicious about the closings. He said the contracts at Interlake's two Chicago plants expire September 1. He believes Interlake may have closed the Kentucky plants to tell the Chicago workers, "we're really measurably better."

Harbour said the company only asked the workers to sacrifice. "For example," he said, "they had to fire three men in some departments with only two or three men under them."

Many workers through the company was just bluffing. They pointed to past attempts at intimidation by Interlake, including threats that the plants would be sold or shut down. But so far the company has refused all efforts to reopen negotiations. Interlake says the plants are closed and up for sale.

Some workers cited the modernization project and the reported profits this year. The Kentucky plants made specialty alloys, steel coil, and pipe. Interlake was competitive in these markets, they said.

Few workers blamed imports for the shutdowns.

For now, most workers seem to have adopted a wait-and-see attitude. Some, however, have already started looking for work.

Oh say does that Star Spangled Banner still wave?

In one sense, most American workers have considered themselves patriotic. They have generally felt that this is, or could be, a pretty good country. They would like to see things better, but, traditionally, they have considered their country.

In the past twenty years, this attitude has undergone significant change. A growing number of working people have come to recognize that they have no real voice in how the country is run. And they see more and more that the professional politicians who run things are unresponsive to their needs.

The most profound changes in attitude, of course, were brought about by the Vietnam war. As that bloody aggression continued, and more and more Americans came to recognize that it was dead wrong—illegal, unjust, and immoral. They also came to see how stubbornly indifferent the government—whether it was a Republican or a Democratic administration—was to the majority view that we should get out of Vietnam.

Adding to the deep distrust of government brought on by the Vietnam experience has been the steady deterioration in the quality of life for workers since the war.

Economic insecurity, inflation, worsening working conditions, persistent racism and sexism, pollution of earth, sky, and water, the nuclear danger, the threat of a new war, the shameless energy ripoff by the oil barons—all this and more have made masses of people realize there's something profoundly wrong in this society. Most people don't have a clear idea about what can be done. But they know the problems are real and that they're getting worse.

It's for all of these reasons that politicians are finding it increasingly difficult to manipulate the way people feel about their country. Jingoism, emotional appeals to the flag, the national anthem, don't work the way they once did.

All of which led to the report of a remarkable incident reported in a three-inch Associated Press dispatch in the August 20 New York Times.

It said that the commander of the Great Lakes Naval Training Center "has suspended the playing of the national anthem at the base movie theater because it drew catcalls, hisses, and boos."

Reef Admiral Charles Gurney III reportedly wrote in the base paper: "This is the end of the national anthem at Ross Auditorium Theater for as long as I'm commander here."

Gurney had earlier suspended performance of the "Star Spangled Banner" before the evening feature because of the jeers from the audience. However, he changed his mind, he said, after some complaints.

So he resumed the practice, urging everyone to turn in the names of catcallers. However, he said, after some complaints.

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Bolivian junta carries out reign of terror

By Will Reissner

While Bolivia is no stranger to military coups, the regime installed by Gen. Luis Garcia Meza on July 17 is already one of the bloodiest and most vicious in Bolivian history.

Gen. Garcia Meza, who seized power with the help of the Argentine military dictatorship, is openly comparing himself to Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who overthrew Salvador Allende in 1973 and instituted a reign of terror against the workers' movement.

According to Garcia Meza, his regime will stay in power "as long as it is necessary to eliminate the Marxist threat, be it five, ten, or twenty years.

In recent weeks sources placed the number of prisoners being held by the military at over 2,000, while it is believed that thousands of civilians are placed in forced labor gangs to build roads in Bolivia's eastern jungles.

There have been widespread arrests of trade-union and political leaders as well as journalists, church figures, and teachers. According to church leaders in La Paz, summary executions have been carried out against captured opposition figures.

Journalists arrested

Seventeen journalists have been arrested and the July 30 Washington Post reports that there have been numerous firings of reporters.

Mary Helen Spooner, a U.S. journalist who was held by the military for seven days for her reports that some of the top officers were involved in the lucrative cocaine trade, described the techniques used in interrogation. "I was told, 'If I failed to give them what they wanted I would be killed or mutilated.' Spooner was freed Aug. 12 due to international pressure.

New York Times correspondent Warren Hoge gave an example in an Aug. 14 article of how those without Spooner's international connections are treated by the junta. According to Hoge:

A shoemaker from the hilly slum of El Alto, who worked with the police, gave an example of how a worker might be coerced into giving the junta valuable information.

There he was beaten with rifle butts and forced into a dressing room so packed with other injured workers that he had to sleep standing up and relieve himself in place.

After two days, soldiers pinned left-wing party leaders on the chests of 15 of them, took them in a truck to a nearby cliff, and lined them up. The shoemaker, tumbling into a crevice below the precipice in the midst of the ensuing merriment, was the only one to live to tell what had happened. The Government reported that 14 men had died trying to storm a garrison.

Priests and nuns throughout the country have seen houses and church centers searched and ransacked by military patrols. Accordin to one nun in Cochabamba, "anyone who works with peasants is on the blacklist." Teachers and professors have also been forced into hiding.

Siles Zuazo's victory

The Bolivian military seized power to prevent Hernán Siles Zuazo from taking office, according to General Mejía, the former president of the Bolivian Workers Federation (COB), which included the pro-Moscow Communist Party.

The June 29 elections were the third that Siles Zuazo won in the past two years. In each case, however, the results were annulled by the military.

What worried the Bolivian military and their Argentine mentors was not that Siles Zuazo would carry out major reforms or radical changes, but rather that he would be unable to contain the growing radicalization of the Bolivian military in action and peasants. It is this fear of the toiling masses that is behind the new regime's savagery.

Following the coup, in which Argen-
tine security forces played a big advisory role, Argentine military dictator Jorge Rafael Videla promised the new Bolivian regime $200 million in financial assistance including an immediate loan of $50 million.

Videla was quite open in stating his reasons for backing the coup. In his words, "the formally correct thing would have been for a government resulting from the election to have taken power, but this represented for us a high degree of risk because of the possibility that it would spread ideas contrary to our way of life and the permanence here of a military government."

According to the Aug. 8 Latin American Weekly Report, the Brazilian military regime also had advance notice of the coup and gave its approval to Argentine participation.

General strike

The Argentine-backed coup was met by a general strike in the cities and by armed resistance from Bolivia's tin miners, who were joined in some areas by peasant forces. The military was, however, able to decapitate much of the resistance by staging a lightning raid on the headquarters of the power- ful Bolivian Workers Federation (COB), capturing many working-class leaders. The COB had been instrumenal in building the successful resistance to a coup last November.

Although Hernán Siles Zuazo escaped and remains in hiding inside Bolivia, Juan Lechin Oquendo, who is the leader of the COB and of the miners union, is among those captured in the raid.

Lechin was paraded before television cameras on July 22 to call upon workers to end their resistance to the coup, but has not been seen since. The Aug. 4 raid on the COB headquarters left Lechin "presumed by many to be dead."

Resistance to the coup lasted for more than two weeks in the mining areas of Oruro, Huanuni, Sigüi Venite, Catacui, and other areas. Troops and peasants stormed army barracks with shotguns and dynamite on July 25, fighting the regime before retreating.

Jet fighters were used to silence miners' radio stations, and assaults on the mining towns left more than fifty dead. In addition, troops surrounded the mines to prevent food and other supplies from reaching the miners.

Soldiers resist

There were a number of reports of soldiers refusing to fire on civilians. About 300 troops of one army regiment were shot for refusing to fire on striking miners in Corocoro. Near La Paz, three truckloads of soldiers deserted after killing their officers.

In addition, because of the large number of individual desertions, the regime placed the armed forces under the command of one army regiment. The forces have been refused leave, adding to unrest in the ranks.

Although open resistance to the Garcia Meza coup has largely ended, there are signs that it continues underground. On Aug. 6, the day he would have been inaugurated as president, Hernán Siles Zuazo declared from the underground that he was assuming the presidency "in clandestinity as the only and legitimate representative of the Bolivian people."

In addition to trying to crush the Bolivian masses, the new regime has signaled its willingness to do whatever it can to smash the revolutionary upsurge in Central America. Its first diplomatic move was to break relations with the Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

However, the Bolivian junta remains isolated internationally. Besides the South American dictatorships of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, the only governments that have extended recognition to the junta are those of South Africa, Taiwan, Israel, and Egypt.

From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

Charges dropped against one AIM defendant

PORTLAND—The American Indian Movement defendants facing trial here this month won a partial victory in August when a U.S. District Court Judge James Redden dismissed all charges against KaMook Banks.

She was tried with Dennis Banks, Ruaka Redner, and Kenneth Loud Hawk, had been reindicted in June on frame-up charges, a change from a 1973 charge of illegal possession of fire-arms and explosives based on an incident that occurred in November 1975 (see AIM, Aug. 6, 1980). Redden ruled that the government had "failed to dispel the appearance of vindictiveness" when it reindicted KaMook Banks, it added a charge that had not been included in the 1975 indictment, though the government had knowledge of the charge at the time.

The defense attorneys have announced that they are appealing this decision on the grounds that the charges were not dropped against her co-defendants although they too faced new charges when the reindictments were dropped.

Government attorneys have also announced that they plan to file a cross appeal challenging Redden's dismissal of the charges against KaMook Banks.

Defense attorneys will also be bringing a pretrial motion that charges be dismissed because the government has "conceived information of defense strategy. This information was obtained when a woman who previously had relations with the FBI stole Dennis Banks' briefcase from his office and turned it over to the FBI.

The FBI, after inspecting the contents of the briefcase, made a statement that it did not "condone her action in this matter," and "tacitly in nating the return of the briefcase" to Banks.

Redden has turned down a number of other defense pretrial motions and has announced his determination to begin the trial on September 3, despite the appeals.

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Poland

Continued from page 3

There is to create free trade unions independent in its relation to the state and the interests of the workers. By then the workers' demands had already escalated and the strikes were beginning to spread.

Fight rising prices

The ceremonial demand of the strikers was for an across-the-board wage increase of 2,000 zlotys (US$66) a month to offset the higher prices for meat and other consumer items. They also demanded guaranteed salary increases of 10% a year, the abolition of the system of forced savings, a single trade union charter for the country, and the right to strike. The workers also demanded guaranteed prices for essential goods and an end to the bureaucracy's interference in the workplace.

A transparent bid to buy them off

The bureaucrats' response to this demand has been especially cynical. In a meeting with the Lenin Shipyard workers, one government negotiator, in a transparent bid to buy them off, offered to also give the shipyard workers a raise of 20% a year and a 10% reduction in prices. However, the workers rejected this offer and continued their strike.

No censorship!

The strikers have also raised a series of explicitly political demands, reflecting their understanding of the country's economic difficulties. They have demanded the right to strike, the right to organize, the right to freedom of speech and the abolition of censorship, and the right to strike and to establish democratic trade unions free from government and party interference.

This last demand was particularly important for the workers. During the 1970 and 1976 uprisings, the workers wrested numerous concessions from the bureaucracy, but many of them were subsequently whittled down, since they did not have their own democratically-controlled unions to ensure their gains.

According to Walesa, "Our main aim is to create free trade unions independent of the government and the bureaucracy. The workers have their own organizations in other countries. In France, Georges Seguy, the general secretary of the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), the Communist Party-led union federation, stated that the trade unions in Poland must change. They do not correspond to the need for democratic expression and trade unionism demanded by the workers," he said August 19.

Some Western Communist parties have come out in support of the demands of the Polish workers.

Bo Hammer, the international secretary of the Swedish Communist Party, said that the strikes showed that reforms were necessary in Poland, "which needs a strong and democratic labor movement, both free and independent in its relation to the state and parties," he declared.

Santiago Carillo, the central leader of the Spanish Communist Party, declared, "I believe that the political system does not contain what a large part of the Polish working class is lacking."

It is because of the fear that such solidarity—as well as the example of the Polish strikes—could spread to the rest of Eastern Europe and into the Soviet Union itself that the Soviet government and most of the regimes in Eastern Europe have been attempting to block out accurate news of the strikes.

Despite a few self-serving claims of sympathy by the general workers, the major imperialist powers are also backing Gierok. They too are worried that the stirring example of the Polish workers could catch on.

Strikers on guard duty at Lenin Shipyard. Workers have elected committees to organize strike and keep order.
How and when the transit workers struck—calm right to strike against the city government—the imposition of heavy fines against this spring in New York criticising the Polish government. The implication, means the opposite. them. news media really as sympathetic to workers with expressions of sympathy. They believe they can better lead society than the narrow-minded corrup bureaucrats who are destroyed of any say in the government.

Socialism means a low standard of living, no freedom of speech, no rights, they state, while capitalism, by implication, means the opposite. But the Polish church hasn't regretted having overthrown capitalism and established a workers' state. They opposed the bureaucrats who misrule that state.

They have no desire to go back to capitalism and the state. They are fighting for a better society than the narrow-minded corrupt bureaucrats who are only concerned with maintaining their privileges at the workers' expense.

The U.S. rulers are playing a double game. While they praise the efforts of the Polish workers, they support the austerities which the Polish government is taking against those workers.

They harbor on the importance of the Polish government paying its $20 billion debt to capitalist banks in the United States, West Germany, Britain, and France. Big business wants the debt—including the extortionist interest rates charged by the bankers—to be taken out of the workers' hides.

Thus the Wall Street Journal complained August 21 about the Polish government's policy of "buying off workers' discontent with various subsidies" which kept the prices of meat and other necessities "artificially low relative to income." It sounds a lot like their complaints about the "excessive" wages and benefits of workers here.

In the same vein, the August 22 Christian Science Monitor praised the effort of the Polish government to "put its economic house in order."

"Raising meat prices—the issue which sparked the labor strikes—was a reasonable thing to do," they said. And in words familiar to every American worker it added, "The workers need to appreciate the need for labor discipline and higher productivity."

Some support.

Many of the press coverage has been occupied with fears of possible Soviet troop intervention into Poland. Such claims are used to portray the workers' struggle as hopeless and to suggest that the workers better go back to work quietly lest they provoke Moscow.

The talk about Soviet troops is also used to try to line up the American people behind Washington's murderous foreign policy.

The spectre of Soviet action is a means with which the capitalists in view of Carter have dropped hints that he sympathizes with the Polish workers, but the government has carefully avoided any statements that might be viewed as encouraging the workers or criticizing the government.

But are the U.S. rulers and their media really as sympathetic to the Polish workers as they claim?

One thing should arouse immediate suspicion. Since when has the government or press given sympathy to workers' struggles in this country?

For example, the August 21 Christian Science Monitor editorial even called the workers' demands "exasperating."

The implicit threat is that the workers who dare to struggle might be swindled—by the capitalists into swapping the hopes of a better society for the narrow-minded corruption of the old regime.

THE MILITANT/SEPTEMBER 5, 1980

Church hierarchy presses strikers to yield

By Harry Ring

There's no bigger hypocrite than a priest.

To confirm that, one only need look at the response of Pope John Paul to the Catholic Church's role in the struggle of the Polish workers.

Wyszynski was brought into play in a television broadcast from Warsaw, and Moscow. In a television broadcast from Wyszynski was brought into play in the response of Pope John Paul to the struggle of the Polish workers and peasants. They have no desire to go back to capitalism and the state. They are fighting for a better society than the narrow-minded corrupt bureaucrats who are only concerned with maintaining their privileges at the workers' expense.

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Some support.

But when the chips are down the Pope and his top brass within Poland up with the bureaucrats against the workers.

That's not as surprising as it may seem.

Last year, when John Paul made his widely touted tour of Poland, the Militant stated in a June 23, 1979, editorial that despite his criticism of the Polish regime, the Pope and the Staliniist bureaucrats were simply "engaging in shadow boxing."

We said then that the Polish regime permitted John Paul to make his obviously political tour of the nation was because they needed him and his Polish lieutenants. They needed them, we said, "For what the Catholic hierarchy has always been skilled in instilling acceptance of oppression and tyranny."

To indicate this was not simply our own view, we cited a June 10, 1979, New York Times story which flatly stated that the ruling Polish Communist Party "needs the support of the Catholic Church for some disagreeable remedies it will have to apply soon to realign the economy—keeping down wages, raising food prices . . . ."

And that's exactly what the pope and his associates are now doing for the bureaucrats in their hour of desperate need.

The New York Times reported from Warsaw August 22 that the Catholic church had issued a statement after the bishop at Golanek, center of the strike movement, conferred with Poland's cardinal.

The statement, the Times reported, "is condemned the strikers, "but implicitly criticized" their methods."

The church warned that "prolonged stoppages, possible disturbances, and fraternal bloodshedding are against the good of society."

The following day a statement was issued by John Paul himself.

"Although both documents hinted [!] at sympathy for the strikers," the August 24 Times reported, "they indicated that the church's major concern was for the maintenance of social order."

That's not new. In 1970, when the shipyard workers and others went on strike, the Catholic Church tried to herd them back to work.

The workers held firm and won. And when those workers went out again in 1976, Polish bishops advised the masses to exercise restraint "to preserve public order."

"Solid word," they rightly counseled, "is a moral obligation and a preface sacrifices—a Christian virtue."

Such reactionary declarations must be a bitter blow to workers who still have illusions about the nature of the hierarchy's opposition to the workers.

And it must be particularly difficult for those priests and nuns and other church workers who sold out for the sake of a political alliance with the embattled workers.

But the church's official declaration can only be characterized as a pathetically hypocritical statement. Why does it lecture the strikers on the need to avoid "prolonged stoppages, possible disturbances, and fraternal bloodshedding?"

It is the bureaucrats, trying to avoid the workers' anger, who just demand, who prolong the strike.

And it is the regime's troops and secret cops, not the well-organized, highly disciplined workers, who pose a threat to public order and create any possible danger of bloodshed.

It would be useful if the pope and his Polish mouthpieces declared a moratorium on their pious double-talk—doubletalk intended to give aid and comfort to the bureaucrats in Warsaw, and Moscow.
A heroine of the revolution

Tribute to Cuba's Haydée Santamaría

On July 28 Haydée Santamaría Cuadrado—a member of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party and of the Cuban Council of State and the director of Casa de las Américas, the Cuban publishing and cultural organization—committed suicide. The following is the address given the following day by Major of the Revolution Juan Almeida at the state funeral held for Santamaría, which was attended by Fidel Castro, Raúl Castro, and other leaders of the Cuban party and government. The text is taken from the August 10 issue of the English-language 'Granma.'

Dear Comrades:

We couldn't have a more painful and sad task than the one we are faced with this afternoon. We have come here to pay our last respects to a person who, from the earliest and most difficult times, was a fervent fighter for our Revolution; to a comrade who was loved by all of us and by all our people; to a figure of incalculable international prestige who on her own merits and through her tireless efforts became an outstanding representative of revolutionary Cuba's history, fighting spirit and feelings of solidarity.

Haydée Santamaría holds, in her own right, an ineffaceable place in the Cuban Revolution. Hence, the circumstances under which her death has taken place are doubly painful.

Haydée was one of the young people who immediately after the coup d'état of March 10, 1952, began seeking a new way to free Cuba and found it at Fidel's side. At a time when we still lacked everything, when we had neither weapons nor money and were unknown, when all we had really was our dreams and our will to fight, she, along with her brother Abel, became a pillar of the nascent revolutionary movement. As we all know, she took part in the attack on the Moncada Garrison, and there she withstood with insuperable courage one of the hardest tests any revolutionary ever had to go through when the benchmen of the tyranny vented their fury on her by showing her the bloody remains that were mute evidence of the savage assassination of Abel and other equally beloved and close comrades. She was imprisoned and when she was released she devoted herself fully, along with Comrade Melba Hernández, to carrying out the instructions and tasks issued by Fidel from his prison cell for the reorganization of the revolutionary movement. Among those tasks was the publication and distribution of the first edition of History Will Absolve Me.

Total dedication

As a fighter in the underground she took part, with Frank País and other comrades, in organizing the November 30 uprising in Santiago de Cuba and in many other tasks in the cities. She was a founding member of the National Leadership of the 26th of July Movement, which joined the Rebel Army in the Sierra Maestra in spite of the fact that her health was impaired, and re­mained there until Fidel ordered her to go abroad to carry out a series of important missions for the Revolution. She distinguished herself at all times, everywhere, for her total dedication to the cause, her revolutionary stoicism and her fighting spirit.

After the triumph of the Revolution on January 1, 1959, she devoted herself with the same spirit to the new tasks facing our country. She spared no effort in the struggle to consolidate our socialist homeland and make it advance. She was a bulwark of our Party and belonged to the Central Committee from its inception. Her work for 20 consecutive years as head of Casa de las Américas constitutes an exceptional contribution to friendship, solidarity and culture and to the development of indestructible bonds between Cuba and its sister nations in Latin America, the Caribbean and other parts of the world. As a result of this, she also contributed greatly to raising the prestige of our country and to making it possible for Cuba's example and the truth of our reality to be known in spite of the blockade and slander of the Yankee imperialists and the fascists and reactionaries of our continent.

On principle, revolutionaries do not approve of suicide. The lives of revolutionaries belong to their cause and the martyrs belong to their movement. As we all know, she took part in the attack on the Moncada, as the fighter in the Sierra Maestra and in the cities. We will remember her as the heroine of the Moncada, as the fighter in the Sierra Maestra and in the cities. We will remember her as a builder of our new homeland. We will remember the example of her fighting spirit, laboriousness, modesty and complete devotion to the cause of socialism and internationalism. Those of us who must go on carrying out our duties toward our country and the Revolution will draw even greater strength from her example.

Dear comrades, on behalf of Haydée Santamaría's family, the Central Committee of the Party, the Council of State and the board of directors of Casa de las Américas, we thank you for your company in this hour of sorrow.

Thank you very much.
Women in Revolt

Opinion polls and abortion rights

Ever wonder about those polls pointing to growing opposition to women's right to abortion?

Well, they're phony. The outcome of the polls depends upon how they're worded.

There's one position on the wording of the question, according to an August 16 article in the New York Times.

Polls they were asked: "Do you think there should be an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting abortions?"

When worded this way, 62 percent opposed the amendment and only 29 percent favored it. The rest were undecided.

Later the same people were asked the question in a different way, using the wording preferred by anti-abortion crusaders.

The question now read: "Do you believe there should be an amendment to the Constitution protecting the life of the unborn child?"

The results: 50 percent in favor of the amendment, 39 percent opposed, and 11 percent undecided.

One fifth of those polled changed their position when the second question was put to them. One third of those who had opposed the amendment when it was described as "prohibiting abortions" shifted to support when it was presented as "protecting the life of the unborn child."

You can see why.

The second choice is imbued with emotional and confusing language depicting a fetus as a human being. It is designed to make someone feel guilty of advocating murder if they support abortion rights. It deliberately shifts the axis away from the right of a woman to terminate a pregnancy without interference from the state.

It is the favored language of the right wing because it makes their real goal—forced motherhood and opposition to a woman's right to hold a job and have equal opportunities and a life beyond her traditional family role.

Since 1973 hundreds of thousands of women have exercised their right to abortion for a variety of reasons. This is the clearest indication of support for the right to have this operation.

The poll also shows this: Despite the wording change, 36 percent consistently opposed the anti-abortion amendment, while only 26 percent supported it. "The rest either switched from one side to the other or were undecided on one or both phrasings of the question," explained the Times.

On another and crucial question: "If a woman wants to have an abortion and her doctor agrees to it, should she be forced to have an abortion or not?" Sixty-two percent said a woman should have the right to an abortion, 15 percent said it depended on the circumstances, and only 19 percent said a woman should not be allowed to have an abortion.

A clear majority supported the right to abortion, regardless of requiring parental consent for teenagers and a husband's consent for married women to have abortions.

These capitalist politicians are not voting with the needs and wishes of working people in mind. They have the interests of their big-business backers at heart.

But they tell us there's an anti-abortion backlash.

Well, it's time we told them something. The women's movement needs to join forces with the trade unions and civil rights organizations to let the government know that we will not tolerate any attacks on the right to abortion and demand Congress immediately allocate Medicaid funding for abortion.
Mexico. His opposing the capitalist provisional published to be Russian revolution of main workers council of joined forces with the Bolshevik Party, forces organized by the Russian anstist and landlords. that brought this about. In the next years, he led in organizing, almost from scratch, the Red Army which defeated counterrevolutionary invasions by nineteen foreign armies as well as forces organized by the Russian capitaliste and landlords.

In 1923 Trotsky, following Lenin, began a struggle against the growing strength of the counterrevolutionary bureaucracy headed by Stalin. Trotsky favored broadening workers' democracy in the Soviet Union. After the death of Lenin, Trotsky continued the struggle. When Stalin sought to collaborate with the imperialists at the expense of the world revolution, Trotsky continued to advocate the necessity of supporting revolutionary struggles in other countries. He opposed Stalin's moves to crush all independent thinking and revolutionary currents in the Communist International.

Trotsky was exiled from the Soviet Union in 1929, and sought refuge in Turkey, Norway, France, and finally Mexico. Four of his children and countless friends and comrades were murdered by Stalin.

As head of the International Left Opposition and later the Fourth International, Trotsky continued the fight. The murder of this historic figure struck a heavy blow to the revolutionary socialist movement. In a speech given to a Leon Trotsky Memorial Meeting in New York City on August 28, 1940, James P. Cannon explained why the movement would survive and grow. Cannon was a central leader of the Socialist Workers Party.

The following abridged excerpts from that speech are reprinted from Speeches for Socialism by James P. Cannon. It is available from Pathfinder Press, 838 Sixth St., New York, N.Y. 10014, and the bookstores listed on page 27.

Comrade Trotsky's entire conscious life, from the time he entered the workers' movement in the process of the February revolution in Petersburg in 1905, heading the main workers council of Nikolaišev up till the moment of his death, was completely dedicated to work and struggle for one central idea. He stood for the emancipation of the workers and all the oppressed people of the world, and the transformation of society from capitalism to socialism by means of a social revolution. In his conception, this liberating social revolution requires for success the leadership of a revolutionary political party of the workers'

The whole world knows about his work. And in the minds and hearts of all those throughout the world who grieve with us tonight one thought—one question—is uppermost: Will the movement which he created and inspired survive his death? Without the slightest hesitation we give an affirmative answer to this question. Those enemies who predict a collapse of Trotsky's movement without Trotsky, and those weak-willed friends who fear it, only show that they do not understand Trotsky, what he was, what he signified, and what he left behind. Never has a beheaded family been left such a rich legacy as that which Trotsky has left to us; ideas which shall carry the struggle toward the great free future of all mankind.

Trotsky himself believed that ideas are the greatest power in the world. Their authors may be killed, but ideas, once promulgated, live their own life. If they are correct, they may grow and overcome all obstacles.

Trotsky, the great man of ideas, was himself the disciple of a still greater one—Marx. Trotsky did not originate or claim to originate the most fundamental ideas that he expounded. He built on the foundations laid by the great masters of the nineteenth century—Marx and Engels. In addition, he went through the great school of Lenin and learned from him. Trotsky's genius consisted in his complete assimilation of the ideas bequeathed by Marx, Engels, and Lenin. He mastered their method. He developed their ideas in modern conditions, and applied them in masterful fashion in the contemporary struggle of the proletariat.

If you would understand Trotsky, you must know that he was a disciple of Marx, an orthodox Marxist. He fought under the banner of Marxism for forty-two years. The power of Trotsky, first of all and above all, was the power of Marxism.

Our Revolutionary Heritage

Leon Trotsky (1879-1940)

Leon Trotsky was assassinated on August 20, 1940, while living in exile in Mexico. His movement and the changing status of women.

Sixty-four percent of both women and men support the efforts to change and strengthen women's status. In 1970 only 40 percent of women and 44 percent of men approved.

While 62 percent of white women approve, 77 percent of black women favor these efforts! Only a minority of women (22 percent) and men (25 percent) believe that any differences in male and female behavior are the result of basic physical differences between the sexes.

On marriage, some 52 percent of women see marriage as a relationship to be equally shared, with both partners earning salaries and sharing family and household responsibilities.

Nearly half of men (49 percent) agree.

Georgia Chanichian
Jersey City, New Jersey

Letters

'Now the matter of persons exposed to weed killer...I think there's a very good probability these persons will never get weeds.'

Praise the lord

People are always saying that religious folk are impractical idealists with their heads in the sky. But there was an article in the New York Times that indicates that people who have their heads in the clouds, but still have them screwed on right.

The paper reported that an artist named Noel Singer, who lives down in Kentucky, deeded a 200-acre piece of land he owned there to god and opened it, for free, to anyone who wanted to live there.

Some people did take advantage of this unique offer and homesteaded there. But as we know, He moves in mysterious ways, and it recently became necessary for the homesteaders to pack up and leave.

It seems that the good brother Singer learned there was oil on the land, and the homesteaders were interfering with drilling.

Since July, five wells have gone into production, and while the land may be deeded to God, the royalties are going to Singer.

Singer did get involved in court though. Not over disposing the homesteaders. Rather because, it seems that the good Singers sold the exclusive drilling rights to two different oil companies. (W.C. Fields used to say that there's no sucker like the one with a little larceny in his heart.)

But a Solomon-like federal judge in Louisville solved all the problems.

First of all, he decided that Singer—not God—was still the owner of the property. "You can't subpoena god," he judiciously noted.

And he further ruled that each of the oil companies was entitled to drill on half the property. Mr. Singer, of course, will collect royalties from both.

Praise the lord.

H.R.
New York, New York

Antidraft sentiment

During the two weeks of draft registration, myself and other CARP [Committee Against Registration and the Draft] activists diligently leafleted antidraft material at various suburban Detroit post offices. The response was overwhelming.

Based on my observation, I would say that the number of registrants who tricked in came at the rate of about eight to twelve over a six hour period. Of all the nineteen and twenty year olds I talked with (over a ten day period) only two seemed eager to register. (One of whom was planning on going into the service as a commissioned officer.)

The vast majority of potential registrants were perturbed at Selective Service to say the least, and not hesitant to say so. Most of them expressed to us that they were registering out of fear of the stifling isolation government threatened them with.

Also the majority of non-draft-age people we talked with were deadly opposed to the draft, as many of them had
Unions in a workers’ state

The group of workers who are central in the strikes in Poland are the 17,000 who work at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk. It is appropriate that the name of Lenin, who led the Bolshevik Party in the Russian revolution of 1917, is associated with these workers. Their struggle is in defense of principles that Lenin represented.

In 1924, during the period when he was two years old, he began a fight in the Soviet Communist Party against the growing power of the conservative, privilege-seeking bureaucracy. Under Stalin—after Lenin died—this bureaucracy became the nucleus of a governing body that had no legal mandate to rule. It is still the cause of many people I have encountered, I feel that most of the unrest that is so strenuously mounting, and that the movement is off to an explosive start. I am convinced that the American people can and will put a stop to this injustice.

Bart Gilkeon
Southfield, Michigan

Child labor

California growers, who raise 90 percent of America’s garlic crop, never complained about children as young as six years old working in their fields—until striking workers insisted on one-worker, one-vote in union elections.

Suddenly the growers became very concerned over child labor laws which bar children under twelve from working. They claimed the garlic crop, never complained about the immorality of the one-worker, one-vote in union elections.

The proposals put forward by the Polish workers are similar to those put forward by Lenin and his supporters almost sixty years ago.

This gives us the lie to the claims by the Polish and Soviet bureaucrats that the relations between the workers and the right to strike are violations of “Leninism.”

Trade Union Debate

Another impressive thing we read about the trade unions in Poland is the defense by workers against socialism. Our friends and relatives who were associated with these workers.

At the Lenin Shipyard, a worker’s strike of the year, the workers have been involved, the vote at the registration; such as the registration; such as the...
THE MILITANT

Phila. Blacks: Bring Killer Cop to Justice!
Murder of youth sparks angry protests

By Jack Warner

PHILADELPHIA—Enraged protests over the police murder of a Black youth have been answered here with more cop brutality.

On August 25, the night after the police murder, 400 Black community members gathered at the Church of the Advocate in North Philadelphia to demand justice. They spilled out into the street, and, joined by several hundred more, marched to the station house. 

The anger was deep and rocks and bottles began to fly. A cop cruiser was overturned and cars were burned.

Forty riot- equipped cops charged out of the station and began hurling rocks and bottles back at the protesters. Five cops and an unknown number of testers were injured in the fracas.

Two people were arrested at the scene. Then the cops went into the community and began harassing anyone on the street. Five more were arrested.

The protests were triggered when John Ziegler, a white cop, shot and killed William Green, seventeen, after a car chase through North Philadelphia's Black community.

The cop caught Green who had allegedly run a red light, and began clubbing him on the head with a pistol. Ziegler then fired the fatal shot before some hundred horrified witnesses.

The cop now claims his gun went off by accident while he was pistol-whipping Green.

Witnesses insist he shot deliberately. Some say Green already had one of his hands on the gun.

Three days after the crime, Ziegler was still not charged with anything. Instead, he was given a desk job. A Black youth on Sixteenth Street, a block from the police station, told the Militant it was still gripped by anger. The gun went off by accident. It wasn't no accident. It was murder.

On Tuesday night, tension and anger still gripped the community. This time a militant crowd of 700 gathered at the church demanding that the killer cop be arrested.

As the meeting broke up, hundreds of youths milled on the street corners. Clashes between the protesters and the large police occupation force followed. Cops attempted to disperse the youths with arrest raids into the crowd.

One youth, sitting on the steps of a house, told cops, "I ain't gonna move, cause I ain't done nothing." Eight cops responded by beating him with night sticks. He was then whisked away in a police vehicle.

Battles with the cops went on into the early morning. Police terrorized area residents; some entered homes and dragged residents into the street. The anger in the community runs so deep because the shooting of Green is only the latest in a long history of unpunished murders of Blacks by police. The violent way in which the police have responded to the justified protests, has only served to deepen the bitter awareness that the police are the enemies of justice.

Socialist Workers Party campaign

MILITANT

III. woman convicted in ERA smear trial

By Rich Robohm

CHICAGO—In an attempt to smear the Equal Rights Amendment campaign, Walter Brandstetter, a member of the National Organization for Women, was convicted here August 22 of perjury and bribery charges. 

Brandstetter, a fifty-five-year-old Chicago biologist, could be sentenced on November 7 to seven years in prison and $10,000 fine.

In response to the verdict, more than 200 ERA supporters marching August 24 in Chicago's annual NOW-sponsored walk-a-thon, carried signs supporting Brandstetter and demanding the immediate release of the defendant.

Chicago NOW President Mary Jean Collins blasted the verdict, saying that Brandstetter was "singed out and brought to trial for something that is a common practice in Springfield."

Lee Arts, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Senate, charged that "the Democratic and Republican politicians—who are in office only because Exxon, U.S. Steel, and other corporations long ago bought them off—are now hypocritically screaming about bribery in order to justify their hatchet job on the ERA."

Brandstetter and ERA supporters here have correctly characterized the trial as a "witch-hunt."

The judge and prosecution took care to exclude all ERA supporters from the eight -woman, four-man jury. The sole ERA supporter remaining on the jury when the opening arguments began was dismissed by the judge during the trial.

On the first day of the trial, the judge denied defense motions to sub­ poena Phyllis Schlafly of STOP-EERA along with several legislators. Brand­ stetter's lawyers had planned to show that she was set up by an anti-ERA "legislative conspiracy."

State Representative Swansea, who made the bribery charges, re­ ceived over two years at least $1,900 from a STOP-EERA slush fund. It was his biggest single source of campaign money.

On the eve of the ERA vote in the Illinois legislature, however, word was leaked that Swansea was now "quite torn" over how to vote on the ERA and was worried about the consequences of losing the support of his anti-ERA backers.

On the basis of this "disinforma­ tion," Brandstetter went to Swansea on May 14 with a promise to work for his reelection for a month, and to donate $1,000 to his campaign if he would "vote his conscience" when the ERA came up. She wrote a note on a business card to remind him of this offer.

Swansea took the card immedi­ately to state investigators, who met with Brandstetter two days later, pos­ ing as friends of the legislator who wanted to discuss the ERA. They came away empty-handed. As one of the supporters handed out hundreds of statements of solidarity at the Tuesday night meeting.

"The wrong people have been ar­ rested in Philadelphia," says Linda Mohrbar, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. "We demand the immediate arrest and prosecution of Officer John Ziegler and that all charges against the arrested protesters be dropped."

Frank Rizzo, Philadelphia's noto­ rious racist ex-mayor, may be gone, but his party—the Democrats—and his racist policies are alive and lethal in Philadelphia.

Angry crowd confronts cops outside station on August 25

MILITANT