

# THE MILITANT

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

## Air controllers resist Reagan union busting

By Stu Singer

According to the news media and government officials, the air controllers' strike is unpopular. The strikers are supposedly isolated.

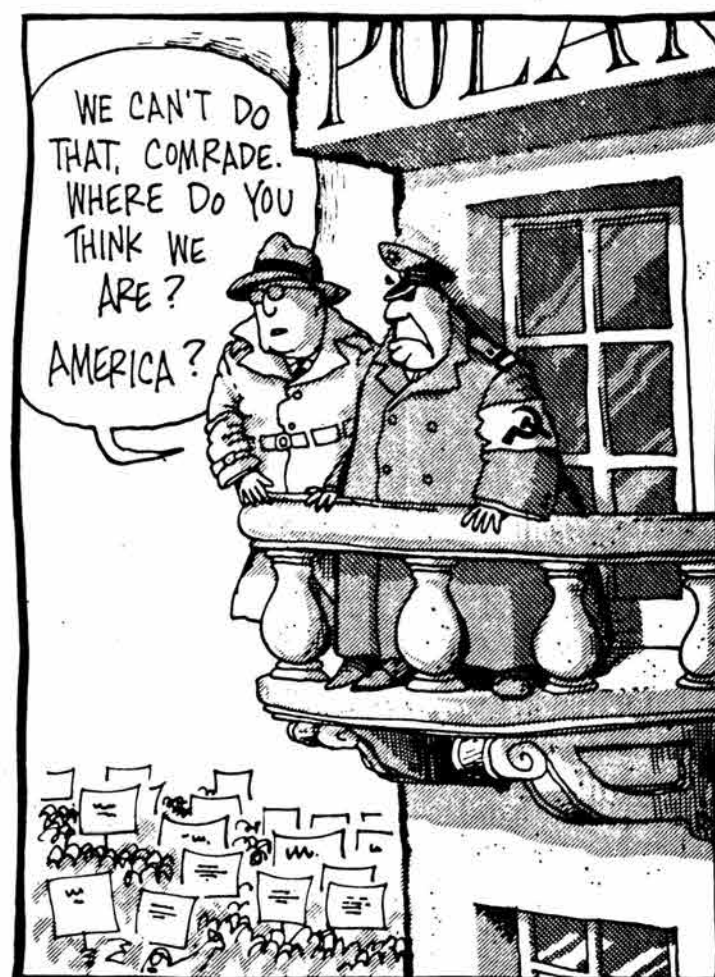
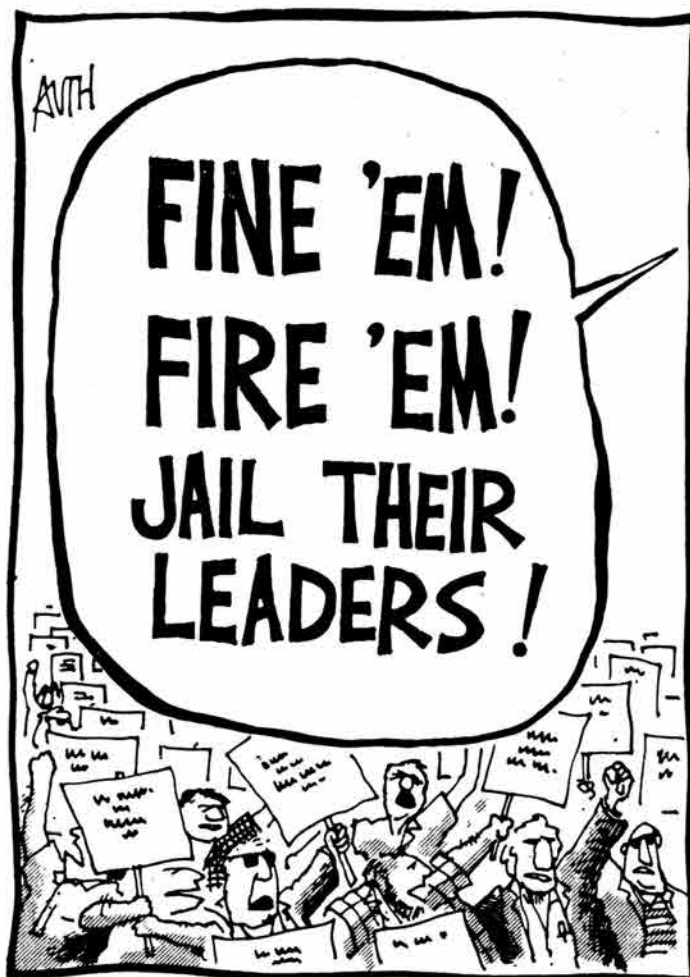
The fact that workers in the United States and throughout the world are behind the controllers is kept under wraps.

Unprecedented union-busting repression is coming down on the controllers. Their union is being decertified. Seven PATCO leaders have been indicted and the Justice Department is bringing criminal charges in twenty-one cities for the "crime" of going on strike.

Big business and state and local government officials are drooling over Reagan's attack on this union. They are openly discussing how to repeat it against other unions, to break other strikes.

The government is showing cold-blooded disregard for air safety. Near misses and actual crashes of small planes increase as the scab-operated air control system gets worse. Government officials lie through their teeth saying flying is safer than ever.

*Continued on page 4*



**Did U.S.  
use germ  
warfare  
against  
Cuba?**

—PAGE 14

**Polish workers fight  
shortages, censorship**

—PAGE 6

**'Solidarity Day'  
September 19  
word spreads fast**

—PAGE 3



## The clash with Libya

Washington is trying to overthrow an independent African government—the Libyan regime headed by Muammar el-Qaddafi. That is the meaning of the August 18 clash between U.S. and Libyan planes, in which two Libyan planes were reportedly shot down.

The U.S. planes were part of military maneuvers by the U.S. Sixth Fleet off the coast of Libya. The operation coincided with Egyptian army concentrations at the Libyan border.

The Sadat government in Egypt briefly went to war with Libya in 1977 and has repeatedly threatened to invade.

The maneuvers were openly presented by U.S. officials as a provocation. "After months of debating how to neutralize Muammar Kaddafi," reported the August 24 *Newsweek* about the maneuvers, "the Reagan administration . . . will offer its first direct challenge to the Libyan strongman."

Washington wants to oust Qaddafi because he opposes U.S. and French domination of North and West Africa; backs the Palestine Liberation Organization and Lebanon against Israeli government attacks; and gives economic assistance to Nicaragua, undermining U.S. moves to tighten the squeeze on the revolution there.

With only 1.5 million people, Libya may seem to Reagan like a relatively easy target for military and other moves aimed at installing a puppet government.

For months the American people have been deluged with propaganda against "madman Qaddafi." The source of many of the media horror stories was revealed in July when the CIA presented a plan to eliminate Qaddafi to a House committee on intelligence.

Part of the plan, the August 3 *Newsweek* reported, was "a 'disinformation' program designed to embarrass Kaddafi and his government."

"Disinformation" is CIA talk for what normal people call lies.

The portrayal of Libya as a threat to the American people is ridiculous. No Libyan fleets maneuver off the U.S. coast. It is Washington that is threatening Libya.

The push to get rid of Qaddafi is against the interests of American working people. It is part of the drive to involve us in new Vietnam-type wars. It is linked to the moves to bring back the draft.

We have a stake in refusing to be sucked in by Washington's "disinformation" campaign.

Hands off Libya!

## More jails and fewer rights

Social security, medical care, food stamps, job training—all have come under the ax in the new budget.

But there is one thing besides the military that Reagan and Congress are eager to spend lots more of our money on.

Prisons.

A Justice Department task force recommends spending \$2 to \$4 billion in federal aid to the states for building jails.

And they plan to fill them to overflowing.

"Simply put," said Attorney General William French Smith, "we intend to ensure that more criminals go to jail."

More than 300,000 people are in state prisons today, up 50 percent from 1975. In California, the number of people in prison has risen 25 percent since early 1979. One hundred people a week are being locked up there. About 4,000 of them are doubled up in cells designed for one.

In 1978, a national survey showed that 66 percent of state inmates were being held in cells with less than sixty square feet of floor space. And since then things have gotten much worse.

To help along the process of stuffing the jails, the Supreme Court ruled that keeping two or more persons in cells built for one was constitutional.

The Justice Department task force proposes that some of our democratic rights go by the board in order to put more "criminals" behind bars.

They called for more restrictions on bail, and allowing cops and judges to impose "preventive detention" on "suspects."

They called for modifying the "exclusionary rule," so that illegally-obtained evidence would be allowed if the police acted in "good faith." This would give the police an even stronger incentive to violate the rights of citizens.

Other proposals included:

- Establishing a computerized national index of "criminals."

- Fingerprinting arrested juveniles and establishing FBI files on them; treating youth gangs as part of organized crime.

- Making it harder to prove that rights have been violated and to appeal convictions.

All these antidemocratic moves are being justified as a means of cracking down on "crime."

Who are these criminals that the politicians promise to put behind bars?

Not the top government officials who plan wars, topple governments, and assassinate leaders. Not the FBI agents and cops who violate the

law—literally getting away with murder.

Not the oil companies that rip us off to the tune of billions and condemn people to freeze to death in the winter.

They're talking about *us*.

They're talking about people like the air controllers who dare to exercise their right to strike. Six have already been indicted in Dallas, and more indictments are expected.

They're talking about Blacks and Latinos. Racist cops, prosecutors, judges, and parole boards guarantee that they will continue to make up a disproportionate part of the prison population.

They're talking about youth who are being deprived of a future by unemployment and by cutbacks in education and other services.

They're talking about people who dare to oppose moves toward war, like the young people who have refused to register for the draft.

At a time when the rulers have nothing to offer working people but joblessness, lower wages, poorer health and housing, and war—"more prisons" is their answer to the protests this course is sure to arouse.

"We ought to go away from here wondering what is happening to our society," the top New York prison official was recently quoted as saying. "Will we be remembered as the generation known for closing hospitals, closing schools, closing churches and opening prisons?"

There could hardly be a more graphic demonstration of the irrationality and antidemocratic nature of capitalism.

## New threats to Grenada

An August 20 telex report from the Caribbean island of Grenada to the Grenadian consulate in New York warns that Washington is stepping up military moves and threats against the revolutionary government there.

The report charges that an amphibious invasion of Grenada is being prepared. It states that the 75th Ranger battalion has recently been shifted from Norton Air Force base in California to the island of Vieques, which is part of Puerto Rico. Vieques has a terrain roughly similar to Grenada's and is used for U.S. military operations in the Caribbean region.

The planned amphibious operation is reportedly called "Amber and the Amberdines." Amber is the name of a port in southeastern Grenada.

The telex dispatch notes that Reagan and Vice President George Bush made threats to Grenada during the 1980 election campaign.

The heightened tension comes as the Grenadian people are completing an airport, which will substantially decrease Washington's ability to isolate and economically undermine the Grenadian revolution.

## Militant Highlights This Week

- 5 Postal union-busting
- 7-10 Controllers' Strike Supplement
- 11 Milwaukee's killer cops
- 13 Neutron bomb
- 15 Indochina exile leaders plot

- 5 National Picket Line
- 8 If You Like This Paper...



### Neutron bomb: 'a weapon we will want to use'

Decision to assemble neutron bomb is new step in \$200 billion U.S. arms build up. Aim is not "defense" but capacity to wage nuclear war. Middle Eastern oil fields are cited as potential target for the neutron weapon. p. 13.

## The Militant

Editors: CINDY JAQUITH  
ANDY ROSE

Business Manager: NANCY ROSENSTOCK  
Editorial Staff: Nan Bailey, Nelson Blackstock, Steve Bride, Fred Feldman, Nelson González, William Gottlieb, Sue Hagen, Suzanne Haig, Diane Jacobs, Margaret Jayko, Malik Miah, Harry Ring, Vivian Sanner, Priscilla Schenk, Stu Singer.

Published weekly except two weeks in August, the last week of December, and the first week of January by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: Editorial Office, (212) 243-6392; Business Office, (212) 929-3486.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. Subscriptions: U.S. \$24.00 a year, outside U.S. \$30.00. By first-class mail: U.S., Canada, and Mexico: \$60.00. Write for air-mail rates to all other countries.

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



# Support for air controllers spurs interest in Solidarity Day march on D.C.



Air controllers support rally at Kennedy Airport in New York on August 15. Across the country, thousands of union members have marched on picket lines.

Militant/Ernie Mailhot

## By Vivian Sahner

The word is spreading fast about Solidarity Day—the AFL-CIO sponsored march on Washington, D.C., September 19.

Especially at picket lines and support rallies for the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization. In Cleveland, PATCO members told the *Militant*, "Be sure to go to September 19—just don't fly there."

In local union meetings plans for buses are beginning to be drawn up.

In Chicago, United Steelworkers Local 65 distributed a leaflet about the demonstration and more than 100 members have signed up to go.

Machinists Local 2444 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina enthusiastically voted to send a bus after listening to a PATCO representative at their last union meeting.

Interest in the demonstration is high at IUE Local 301 in Schenectady too. The local voted to send three buses. Sixty-two union members sent a letter in support of the PATCO strikers to the *Schenectady Gazette*.

In Baltimore, United Steelworkers District 8 is sending forty buses. Ten of them are coming from Locals 2609 and 2610 at Sparrows Point and union members have organized a committee to paint banners for the action.

In Indianapolis, United Auto Workers Region 3 has doubled the number of buses it is sending from fifteen to thirty.

One union member told the *Militant*, "Interest in September 19 has jumped since the PATCO strike. UAW Local 933, which has 12,000 members, is strike headquarters for PATCO here and it's had a big effect."

## Spreading the word

The AFL-CIO has produced a new seven-minute film to help build Solidarity Day. Called "Born Out of Protest", the film includes footage on the civil rights movement and women's fight for equality, along with the history of union battles for the eight-hour day.

Charles Hughes, a staff person at AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington, told the *Militant* that 100 copies of the film have been distributed to AFL-CIO regional offices. They are available to union locals and groups interested in September 19.

Packets of information on the demonstration, samples of leaflets, and literature in Spanish are also available through the AFL-CIO Solidarity Day headquarters at 815 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, Hughes said.

In some cities ad-hoc coalitions have formed around September 19.

In Dallas, for example, more than fifty trade unions and organizations including the National Organization for Women, NAACP, and Coalition of Labor Union Women, met on August 12 to coordinate participation.

Harry Hubbard, president of the Tex-

as AFL-CIO, told the group, "The Reagan administration must see that there are Americans who oppose tax breaks for the rich at the expense of three million older people on Social Security; who oppose subsidies for oil companies at the expense of federal aid to education and who oppose their union busting activities."

Unions throughout Texas are making plans to take buses to Washington, Hubbard said, to answer the government's "all out attack" on PATCO. "We do not intend to let the Reagan administration break one union without a fight."

Labor Day parades are being planned in Detroit, New York City, and San Antonio on September 7 as kickoff activities for Solidarity Day.

In Cleveland, where more than 250 buses have been chartered by a wide range of groups, the AFL-CIO is sponsoring a send-off rally at Cleveland Stadium on September 18.

Trade unions have played an important role in these coalitions in helping other organizations participate on September 19.

In Indianapolis, United Steelworkers District 30 chartered four buses for its members and donated another three buses to civil rights groups in the area.

United Auto Workers Region 9 has ordered fifty-eight buses in New Jersey. The UAW is coordinating transportation with the NAACP, CLUW, the New Jersey Council of Churches, senior citi-

zens groups, and others to make sure that every bus seat is full for September 19.

In Newport News, Virginia, the Central Labor Council is offering free bus rides to all senior citizens.

The September 19 coalitions are also organizing support for the PATCO strikers. In Houston on August 13, more than 200 unionists who met to coordinate participation in Solidarity Day voted to sponsor a PATCO solidarity meeting there on August 22.

## Los Angeles

In Los Angeles, plans are going full steam ahead for a September 19 solidarity action there. To organize the event a coordinators breakfast is being planned at the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union headquarters on August 28. Hundreds are expected to attend.

A big focus of that September 19 rally is support for PATCO. Unionists held a PATCO solidarity picket line of 1,000 at the Los Angeles Airport on August 14.

Some details for Solidarity Day have been announced by the Washington AFL-CIO office. Demonstrators will gather on the west slope of the Washington Monument at 10:00 a.m. At 1:00 p.m. the march down Constitution Avenue to the Capitol will begin. A rally is scheduled on the Capitol steps from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Speakers for the rally have not been announced.

## Special offer to new readers

### Read the 'Militant'

Lies, distortion, and suppression of news. That's all you get from the establishment media on El Salvador. The *Militant* tells the truth about the struggle there, the role of the U.S. government, and how the movement against U.S. intervention is growing. You need the *Militant* each week.



## 12 weeks/\$3

- ☐ \$3 for twelve issues (new readers only)  
☐ \$15 for six months ☐ \$24 for one year  
☐ New ☐ Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014



# ...air controllers resist union-busting

Continued from front page

Large picket lines and solidarity rallies have been organized to support the strike everywhere in this country. Internationally, air controllers have protested the firings by demonstrations, slowdowns, and refusal to handle planes in Britain, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, the Scandinavian countries, Australia, and New Zealand. Controllers in Canada and Portugal have staged forty-eight-hour protests, refusing to handle U.S. flights. This disrupted transatlantic flights that are guided from Newfoundland and the Azores.

The International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers Associations called on Reagan to negotiate with the strikers at its August 13 meeting. It represents sixty-nine controllers organizations throughout the world.

Some of the protest actions in the U.S. supporting the strike include: 1,000 people at Los Angeles International Airport August 14 organized by the Los Angeles County Labor Federation; 500 demonstrated in Kansas City August 9 outside the prison where four PATCO leaders were being held; 350 demonstrated at Kennedy Airport in New York, August 15; and about 150 at Newark Airport the same day. In Newark the Industrial Union Council of the State AFL-CIO organized the action.

In Cleveland, 600 people, including about 300 United Auto Workers members, demonstrated at Hopkins Airport August 11; about 600 demonstrated in Dallas August 10; and 600 in Aurora, Illinois August 14. August 13, a demonstration of 200 at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, was addressed by Firefighters Union head Frank Muscare, who was jailed for leading a firefighters strike last year.

On August 16, 100 people demonstrated in the rain in Hampton, Virginia, in support of the PATCO strike. Steven Wallaert, president of PATCO Local 291 in Norfolk and Newport News, spoke at the rally. The picture of him being led off to jail with chains around his hands and feet has become the symbol of this strike. PATCO has put out leaflets and posters with that picture and the words "Reagan's War Against Labor," and "Federal Negotiations or Union Busting—Labor Unite."

Representatives of seven unions participated in a picket line at San Antonio Airport August 11.

In Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Orlando, Florida, union truck drivers and construction workers have refused to cross PATCO picket lines outside airport construction projects.

Union locals and state and county labor federations have passed motions of solidarity with PATCO, donated money, helped organize picketing and offered their union halls to PATCO strikers for



meetings. Steelworkers Local 1938 on the Mesabi Iron Range called on AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland to call a "general strike of all affiliates in this country to force the government to bargain with the striking controllers. 'An injury to one is an injury to all.'" The union local bought an ad in the *Duluth News-Tribune* to get their point of view publicized.

The flight attendants, while not feeling able to join the strike, are on PATCO's side. The Coalition of Flight Attendants bought a full-page advertisement in the August 16 *New York Times*, reprinting a letter from Reagan to PATCO President Robert Poli last October. Reagan pledged to support improvements in hours and working conditions and conceded that controllers faced intolerable conditions.

Flight attendants joined PATCO picket lines in many places.

But the union movement's support for PATCO has not been strong enough to force Reagan to back down.

The International Association of Machinists organizes most of the mechanics for commercial airlines. PATCO has asked all unions to respect their picket lines. If the IAM mechanics were to refuse to cross PATCO picket lines, the airports would have to close.

IAM President William Winpisinger, according to union spokesman Larry Rubin, has said that he would not personally cross a picket line, and that the decision for other IAM members is also a personal one.

This amounts to telling the mechanics to keep working. IAM officials point out that refusing to work because of the controllers' strike would be an illegal secondary boycott and would open up the IAM to suits and legal penalties like those facing the controllers.

Obviously, such a decision can only be

made by the entire union. That is the purpose of unions. To conduct collective battles, not to leave the fight up to individual workers.

Rubin reported that thousands of IAM mechanics have already been laid off by the airlines as a result of the strike.

The airline industry is taking advantage of the strike to organize an offensive against airline workers. Eastern Airlines announced that salaried employees would be given a 10 percent pay cut because of the strike. Wage and work rule concessions from the IAM and other unions of airline employees are obviously next on the agenda. Pan Am and TWA are also pushing pay cuts and speedup.

There are high stakes in the air controllers' strike. Reagan clearly is acting for a united and belligerent ruling class. They picked this fight and think they can deal the labor movement a big setback.

The determination of the air controllers to stand up to this assault should be an inspiration to the entire labor movement to unite and fight back.

## Rev. Jesse Jackson backs strikers

By Jon Hillson

AURORA, Illinois—Of 510 employees organized by PATCO at the suburban Chicago Aurora Federal Aviation Administration center, a solid 468 remain on strike.

On the picket line at the FAA center gates August 14, the news of the day is that Jesse Jackson is coming out to address a rally. As the civil rights leader drives by the picket line and the Polish flag which flutters above it, cheers break out and clenched fists are raised in the air.

Jackson meets privately with union officers and strikers, then addresses a small group of workers and reporters.

Reaganomics, he says, "is a radical suppression of wages and union busting."

Because most PATCO members are, he says, "white males who make \$30,000 plus a year, they should have been the apple of Reagan's eye."

But when PATCO put up a fight against the anti-worker onslaught of the administration, they became an obstacle. Reagan's target, Jackson says, "is the AFL-CIO, the state, county and municipal employee unions, the Blacks, the Browns, the poor, the female, those who don't have a chance."

The air traffic controllers, Jackson says, are "in the vanguard of struggle for better wages and working conditions, the kind all working people need."

A "no talk position won't work," Jackson continues. "It didn't work with China, it's not working in the Middle East with the PLO and it won't work against

## Flying is unsafe

On August 17 a private plane came within 2,000 feet of colliding in mid-air with a People Express airliner carrying 123 people that was close to landing at Newark Airport. The same day two small planes collided over San Jose, California, killing one person and narrowly missing crashing into the public library.

These and virtually every other incident of crashes and near misses have been blamed on pilot error.

In the first week of the air controllers' strike, 22 people were killed in air crashes in the U.S. The government claims none of the crashes had any connection to the lack of experienced controllers.

*MIS Week*, a computer management publication, reported in its August 12 issue that the strike by controllers, "made outages and unreliability of the air traffic control computers even more of a danger, according to Howard Johannsen, president of the Professional Airways Systems Specialists (PASS) union."

"Normal computer outages during the strike period may have created even more of an emergency for air traffic supervisory personnel and military controllers unused to handling the job without computers. . . .

"In addition, routine maintenance of the systems was to be discontinued during the strike in favor of emergency service. . . .

"... because of their age and reported unreliability, computers at the 13 en-route air traffic control facilities are a major factor contributing to PATCO's demands for earlier retirement and shorter working hours. . . ."

The longer the strike goes on, the likelihood of a big air disaster increases.

Reagan is moving to throw the blame in advance onto the controllers, with the enthusiastic support of the news media. Reports began coming out last week that unauthorized transmissions were being made on the frequencies used for air control information. At Newark Airport, picketing controllers were arrested by cops for having such transmitting equipment. The pickets were later released when FAA authorities admitted that the only electronics equipment the strikers had were radios, not transmitters.

PATCO." Several strikers nod in agreement.

He boosts the AFL-CIO's September 19 Solidarity Day rally.

"But," Jackson urges, "the time for solidarity is now, with PATCO. This is the time for people to stand together. Because if we don't, September 19 won't be Solidarity Day, it'll be Memorial Day."

Later in the evening, 600 strikers and their families jam the basketball court in Emmanuel Lutheran school. Jackson blasts the cutbacks enacted by Reagan and Congress.

He again urges massive solidarity. He tells the workers, "you need more Blacks, more Browns, more women in your union. It will make you stronger."

The strikers rise to their feet, cheering.

Jackson lashed out at the military budget, which "takes food from your mouths." Might does not make right, he says, "right makes might."

The crowd erupts in applause. "I am," Jackson's booming preacher's voice rings out.

"Somebody!" the strikers roar back.

## U.S. conditions worst

The chart below appeared in the 'New York Times' August 16. U.S. controllers suffer from a heavier work load in addition to worse hours and days off.

Time on, time off		Air traffic controllers' working conditions, selected countries		
		Work hours per week	Vacation days	Paid sick leave days per year
Eurocontrol*		29	24-30	up to 180
New Zealand		32	23-28	up to 275
Denmark		33-34	24	not available
Australia		35	30	15
Sweden		38	30	not available
Austria		38.5	37	up to 7 months
France		32	56	90
West Germany		33	20-28	not available
Canada		34	36	15
Norway		36	28	up to 1 year
Switzerland		38	30	up to 1 year
United States		40	13-26	13

\*privately run group of air controllers monitoring high-altitude airspace above Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and part of West Germany.

Sources: PATCO; Federal Aviation Administration



# Minneapolis daily exposes postal union-busting plan

You've heard about the professional union-busting firms like 3-M or Nuckols and Associates; but what about the U.S. government?

The 'Minneapolis Star' recently obtained an inch-thick government document outlining procedures for spying on postal workers in the case of a strike. The July 21 issue carried an article by correspondent Randy Furst on the spy plan.

Postal workers aren't the only target—the union-busting methods outlined by the government are the very ones being used against the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization today. It's one more reason every working person in this country has a stake in supporting the PATCO strike.

The article from the 'Minneapolis Star' follows.

In a secret memo to its supervisors throughout the country, the U.S. Postal Service lays out contingency plans for how to respond to slowdowns, walkouts or sitdown strikes. The plan gives elaborate advice for recording what strikers say as well as taking photographs of pickets to be used later in procedures for firing and prosecuting any employees who strike, in violation of federal law.

"At the time of a crisis, such as an illegal job action," the memo says, "for any manager to 'bury his/her head in the sand' because of their desire not to get involved is unacceptable—not only unacceptable, but an abdication of their responsibility."

The inch-thick plan, marked "restricted information," repeatedly urges supervisors to identify any employees appearing to be strike leaders.

Gerry Fabian, Minneapolis-based representative of the American Postal Workers Union, was read portions of the memo Monday. He called it a "spy" document, advocating methods similar to those used against unions in the early years of the labor movement.

Post office officials would not confirm or deny the document's existence.

The plan says that supervisors should engage pickets in conversations and later write down what they said for possible use in prosecutions.

Under a section headed "gathering evidence," supervisors are told:

"If circumstances permit, ask union officers and pickets about the purpose of, and authorization for, their picketing

activity. After talking with such persons—record and provide their names; provide dates, hours and places statements were made; provide names of any supervisory or Inspection Service witnesses."

If a strike starts and workers begin leaving their posts, supervisors are urged to "observe whether certain employees are leading the 'walkout' by calling or motioning to other employees," and to record names and addresses of union officials and "other employees who have appeared to be leaders of the strike activities."

Supervisors also are asked to "record exact messages on picket signs" and "where possible, identify pickets by name and craft."

"If the pickets are non-employees, so identify them," the memo says, and "report, if available, statements made by named pickets and/or union officers to employees, customers and others who cross or attempt to cross picket lines."

The contingency plan warns supervisors of the possibility of "sitdown strikes," a tactic that has not been used in the labor movement since the 1930s.

In the event of a mass sitdown, the memo says that if employees "do not leave as instructed, security officers, if available, should be called to escort them from the property. If security officers are not available, assistance should be requested from local authorities."

The document also says that postal employees writing letters to the editor or sponsoring advertisements in the press, radio and TV may not be legally protected if the information published is "knowingly false, malicious, vulgar or disloyal to the Postal Service."

The memo does not define "disloyal." Included in the memo are sample letters to be sent to strikers notifying them that they have been fired or face prosecution.

An attached memo for supervisors entitled, "Management Information Regarding Illegal Concerted Activities," also marked "restricted," advises managers that, as the strike deadline approaches, they should "increase the amount of time spent directly with the crew," check bulletin board postings frequently and record any pertinent conversations overheard in the workplace:

"Do keep notes (for a possible written report) of specifically who does what (was said, done, to whom) when (precise time), where (how close were you to what you are reporting about). The more detail you can remember and record the more useful your report will be."

"Do try to identify leaders of the work stoppage. Note those who: wave or call others off the job; shut down lines, machines or equipment; are the first to quit work; act as spokespersons."

"Do note precise words of any written material passed out or displayed. Get copies if possible."

The plan is "a textbook of the 1920s method on spying on the employees," said Fabian.

"You are dealing with an employer that has a mentality equivalent to that utilized by employers in the beginnings of the labor movement."

"One would think after being told what's in a document like this that one could not believe this is the United States of America."

Minneapolis post office spokesman Donald Sager said he had seen some contingency plans, but could not comment on whether he had seen the one obtained by *The Minneapolis Star*. He said he could not confirm or deny its authenticity.

"Even if I saw it, I wouldn't want to make a comment," Sager said. "From the standpoint of the subject matter I wouldn't want to comment on it."

# National Picket Line



## Help the bosses

The following is from the June issue of *Current Wage Developments*, put out by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics:

"In Northern California, Local 3 of the Operating Engineers and some employers have agreed to cuts in benefits in an effort to counter the increasing inroads of nonunion construction companies. The \$4-an-hour cut—which was limited to work on privately financed projects—applied to about 1,000 workers, but negotiations were continuing for 9,000 more."

"Local 3 business agent Dale Marr said that high wages are not beneficial 'if you are sitting home and someone else is doing your work.'"

Bernie Senter from Denver sent the following report about another give-away by building trades officials:

Denver area carpenters will have to live with a contract that they overwhelmingly voted to reject, but which union officials signed anyway.

On June 22, 1,500 members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters voted down a proposed contract by a two-to-one margin. Within twenty-four hours, officials from the international office and the district council signed the same contract ending the nearly two-month strike.

Carpenters were sore.

This was the third contract offer they had voted to reject. They were prepared to stand firm to win an adequate pay increase and more benefits. Most felt they were striking just to retain their present standard of living.

"In this country, we're paying taxes, we're paying union dues and getting nothing for it," one carpenter told me at a meeting held to protest the contract ratification on June 25.

One unionist painted his hardhat, "No Vote, No Voice, No Union, Slave." On the back he wrote, "Sold Out."

## Reproduce like rabbits

Talk to just about any rail worker and you'll hear a story about how the railroads have far more people in management than there is any possible justification for.

There are even stories about rail shops where as workers are laid off, the number of management people is increased.

If you don't work there, sometimes the stories sound exaggerated. But straight from the rabbit's mouth, there is confirmation about rail management's remarkable reproductive capacity.

The July 13 *Railway Age* reports:

"Class I railroad employment dropped to 441,821 in mid-May, down 6.05% from May, 1980. The only category showing an increase was that embracing executives, officials and staff assistants (17,614, up 1.74%). Employee groups showing declines were the following: professional, clerical and general (89,685, down 4.22%); maintenance of way and structures (86,440, down 2.90%); maintenance of equipment and stores (92,637, down 10.12%); transportation, other than train, engine, and yard (19,888, down 5.38%); transportation, yardmaster, switchtenders, and hostlers (7,699, down 7.92%); transportation, train and engine service (127,858, down 7.26%)."



## Kentucky hospital strike ends

Remember the National Picket Line item in the July 10 *Militant* asking for support for the hospital workers at the Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg, Kentucky?

On July 7 these workers voted 144-41 to approve a new improved contract offer. They defeated a brutal four-month union-busting campaign and forced management to back down on its first take-it-or-leave-it offer.

The workers are members of Local 1199, the hospital and health care division of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU).

The company finally offered the improved settlement just a few days before a solidarity rally. Of the 280 Local 1199 members, 230 are women. Many are wives of coal miners who were on strike themselves until the last month of the hospital strike. Most of the workers were paid minimum wage before the strike.

The July-August issue of *Mountain Life and Work* describes the attitude of the hospital administration to the strike: "Since mid-May, 45 armed security guards equipped with .357 magnum handguns, billy clubs and five armored vans and other vehicles with surveillance equipment have stood watch over pickets. . . . Women pickets charge that they have been shot at, sexually harassed, and followed home by the male guards. A number of pickets sustained injuries. . . ."

The private thugs were Nuckols and Associates in Cincinnati.

The strikers received backing from the United Mine Workers and other unions.

—Vivian Sahner

## Postal strikers gain in Canada

Canadian postal workers returned to work August 11, after a thirty-eight-day strike. The strike ended after a contract settlement won 84 percent approval in a referendum vote.

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers won its demand for seventeen weeks paid maternity leave at 93 percent of take-home pay. This had emerged as the central issue in the confrontation with the federal government in Ottawa. The workers also won modest pay increases.

Other significant gains were a moratorium on the installation of closed circuit surveillance cameras in workplaces, and restrictions on the use of cameras that had already been installed.

New changes in health and safety rules give postal workers, for the first time, the right to refuse to work under certain unsafe conditions.



# Polish workers protest food shortages

By Suzanne Haig

For three weeks, hundreds of thousands of workers throughout Poland have engaged in street demonstrations, strikes, and work stoppages to protest food shortages and the government's inability to end the economy's downward spiral.

The actions have been organized by the independent union, Solidarity.

Such a combination of protest actions against Warsaw's policy is unprecedented in the year-long workers' upsurge in Poland.

With slogans such as "A hungry nation can eat its authorities," "Who wants to starve us?," and "Enough of lying explanations," the Polish people have clearly indicated their anger over having to wait hours in long lines to get into half empty food stores. Rationed items, such as cheese, meat, soap, and detergents, are also scarce.

The protests began after the government's July 23 decision to cut meat rations by 20 percent (from 8 pounds to 6.6 pounds per person per month) and in-

crease prices in the future by 200 to 300 percent.

The first action, "march against hunger," occurred in Kutno, seventy-five miles west of Warsaw on July 25.

Crowds on the streets joined in as the marchers shouted, "Come on, join us, don't be afraid."

For four days the population of Lodz, the second largest city in Poland, came out in marches. The actions began with parades of buses and trucks bedecked with signs reading, "Peoples' authority or hunger," "We do not want to be hungry, we want to work," "We line up until our hearts break," and "How do you eat ration coupons? With a knife and fork?"

These protests culminated with a mass march of women and children on July 30. Many of the women, who work in the large textile industry there, sometimes have to wait in line for up to twenty-four hours to buy their food.

A similar march of thousands of women and children occurred in Szczecin July 31.

At the Poznan railroad station, a siren blasted for five minutes of each hour, July 29, to underline the anger of rail workers over the crisis. In Gdansk, Solidarity called on its members to refuse the meat coupons for August unless the government rescinded the 20 percent reduction.

One of the most dramatic series of actions occurred in Warsaw. On July 31, 300 workers in hard hats demonstrated in front of the parliament building with signs reading "Bread for our work," and "We want to eat."

Beginning August 3, thousands of people, together with nearly 200 trolleys, buses, taxis, street sweepers, dump trucks, and garbage trucks blocked the center of Warsaw for fifty hours after authorities refused to let the caravan of

vehicles with their flashing lights and beeping horns proceed down Jerozolimski Avenue past the Communist Party headquarters.

With a flatbed truck turned into a platform, Solidarity held a rally. People brought flowers and food to the demonstrators. Police did not interfere, for the union had organized its own defense, consisting of a cordon of steelworkers.

The rally ended after a two-hour general strike of half a million, the largest in Warsaw since March. Only health services, food processing, and small shops were exempted.

The continuing power of the union movement and the desire of working people to make the major decisions affecting their lives was summed up by a Solidarity speaker at the rally.

"Those who are afraid of their nation," he told the cheering thousands, "should stay locked up and not disturb us any more. Don't disturb a free people deciding their own fate."

And, as if to underscore that statement, a million workers in the southern industrial and mining region of Silesia struck for four hours on August 7. Work was stopped in sixty coal mines, and public transport was brought to a halt in the region's main city, Katowice.

Other actions that week included a one hour strike of 100,000 workers in Czestochowa, and one hour strikes in Piotrkow, and Radomsko. Hunger demonstrations of thousands took place in Wroclaw, Kalisz, Krakow, Tarnow, Zakopane, and other cities and towns.

Directly following the mid-July congress of the Polish Communist Party, these protests are a powerful condemnation of the party's failure to come up with meaningful political and economic reforms.

A Solidarity poster now on Warsaw's streets perhaps best captures this critical reaction. It shows a black skull with a crossed knife and fork under it and reads, "The first result of the ninth party congress: a cut in food rations."

In official statements, at rallies, and in negotiations with government officials, Solidarity has put forward its own solution to the economic crisis. Solidar-

ity leaders stressed working people's willingness to sacrifice, but only if they are involved in making the decisions that affect the country's economy.

Solidarity called for local commissions to be set up by the union to oversee production, storage, and food distribution.

The union stated it would accept price increases, but only if they are part of an overall economic reform that guarantees workers' self-management, or "the social supervision of economic reform," as it was described by a meeting of Solidarity's national leadership held in Gdansk, August 10-12.

The demand for genuine workers' self-management, or workers' control, including the power to determine what is produced and how it is used, is a central part of Solidarity's program.

The Gdansk meeting also called on Solidarity members to give up eight Saturdays this year to increase coal production and agricultural output, in hope of reviving exports. Free Saturdays were won by the union early this year.

In return, the union is demanding that the government end its campaign of criticism of Solidarity and grant the union access to press, radio, and television. If the government refuses, the union has stated that newspaper workers will walk out on August 19 and 20.

The government's resistance to such demands shows that it gives top priority not to reviving the economy, but to preserving the dictatorial power of a minority over the workers.

The August 10-12 meeting also asked Solidarity branches and supporters to hold no further protest actions until the union's first convention, now planned for early October.

The convention approaches at a critical stage. "We are standing at a crossroads for the first time," is the way Solidarity leader Lech Walesa put it at a news conference. "Should we be a typical trade union that puts forward demands or should we, as Poles and as citizens, undertake the attempt to go forward in a major different direction?"

From Intercontinental Press

'Militant' correspondent Suzanne Haig recently returned from a two-and-a-half week visit to Poland.



Warsaw hunger protest and Solidarity poster: "First result of the ninth party congress—a cut in food rations."

## Presidential election in OCAW

By Nelson Blackstock

Tony Mazzocchi narrowly lost his bid for the presidency of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers August 14 at the union's convention in Denver.

Incumbent President Robert Goss won by 72,856 to 69,090, a margin of 3,766.

Currently national health and safety director, Mazzocchi lost by an even narrower margin in 1979.

Delegates cast votes based on the number of union members they formally represented. Mazzocchi and his supporters contend that he would have won in a rank-and-file election, in which each member could vote.

In weeks prior to the election, Goss had mobilized all eight district directors and most union staff against the insurgent candidate.

Mazzocchi's candidacy gave voice to some of the discontent in the unions today.

Formerly an OCAW legislative director, Mazzocchi blasted the Democratic and Republican parties. "It's time for

working people to have their own political party," he said.

He called on labor to "seriously discuss with poor people, Blacks, and perhaps farmers the idea of forming a national labor political party."

In a letter to OCAW members during the campaign, he said, "Many of the top leaders of the labor movement have forgotten where they came from, and behave more like corporate executives than representatives of working people."

"As a consequence, the labor movement has become paralyzed. It has lost the necessary momentum, energy and ability to deal with the attacks being made on our unions, our jobs and our living standards."

Mazzocchi had criticized union officials for employing what he called a narrow "picket line strategy" in defending against attacks by big oil during a 1980 contract strike.

"Industry must learn that we are prepared to fully mobilize our union, our brothers and sisters in other unions, as well as the public at-large in support of our demands," Mazzocchi said.

## What big business media really think about Poland

"Labor strife tests governments in Poland, U.S." is the title of an August 7 article in the *Christian Science Monitor*.

It lays bare the real views of the capitalist media and Washington as they gush sympathy with the Polish workers.

"Incongruous as it may seem," begins the article, "the story over this past week was the same in communist Poland and in capitalist United States."

"In both places the government was being challenged by workers demanding an improvement in their standard of living. In both cases the government felt that it had to resist the demand."

"But just as incongruously," brags the *Monitor*, "it was the democratically elected government of the United States that had the stronger hand. It could even use military personnel to supplant the strikers."

"The Polish government could use its military against the strikers only as a final desperate resort that would probably end in a national disaster."

The *Monitor* notes the different relationship of forces here and in Poland. "President Reagan had a stronger hand than Polish Prime Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski partly because there were only some 13,000 air traffic controllers in the strike that defied the US government."

"In Poland the entire labor movement, supported by the farming popu-

lation, was in the real opposition. It amounted, virtually to the Polish nation against its discredited government."

When it comes right down to it, Washington's interests are diametrically opposed to those of the Polish workers, the U.S. workers, or for that matter, workers anywhere.

"Behind the twin stories of defiance of government in both Poland and the US is the same modern phenomenon," notes the *Monitor* correspondent. "Workers expect government to maintain, and indeed improve, their actual standard of living."

"In Poland they want a better life which the country cannot afford. . . ."

"In the US the air controllers wanted a better life than the government can grant them without adding more fuel to the flames of inflation. . . ."

For the Warsaw bureaucrats, the *Monitor* has commiseration and advice.

"How wistfully must the Communist Party leaders in their besieged headquarters . . . in Warsaw, have read about President Reagan's firm treatment of strikers in the US."

In an August 5 editorial, the *Monitor* was even more explicit.

The Polish workers are "going too far." Its "time for them to buckle down and get to work," to "bite the bullet."

What they need, counsels the *Monitor*, is a good dose of Reaganism.

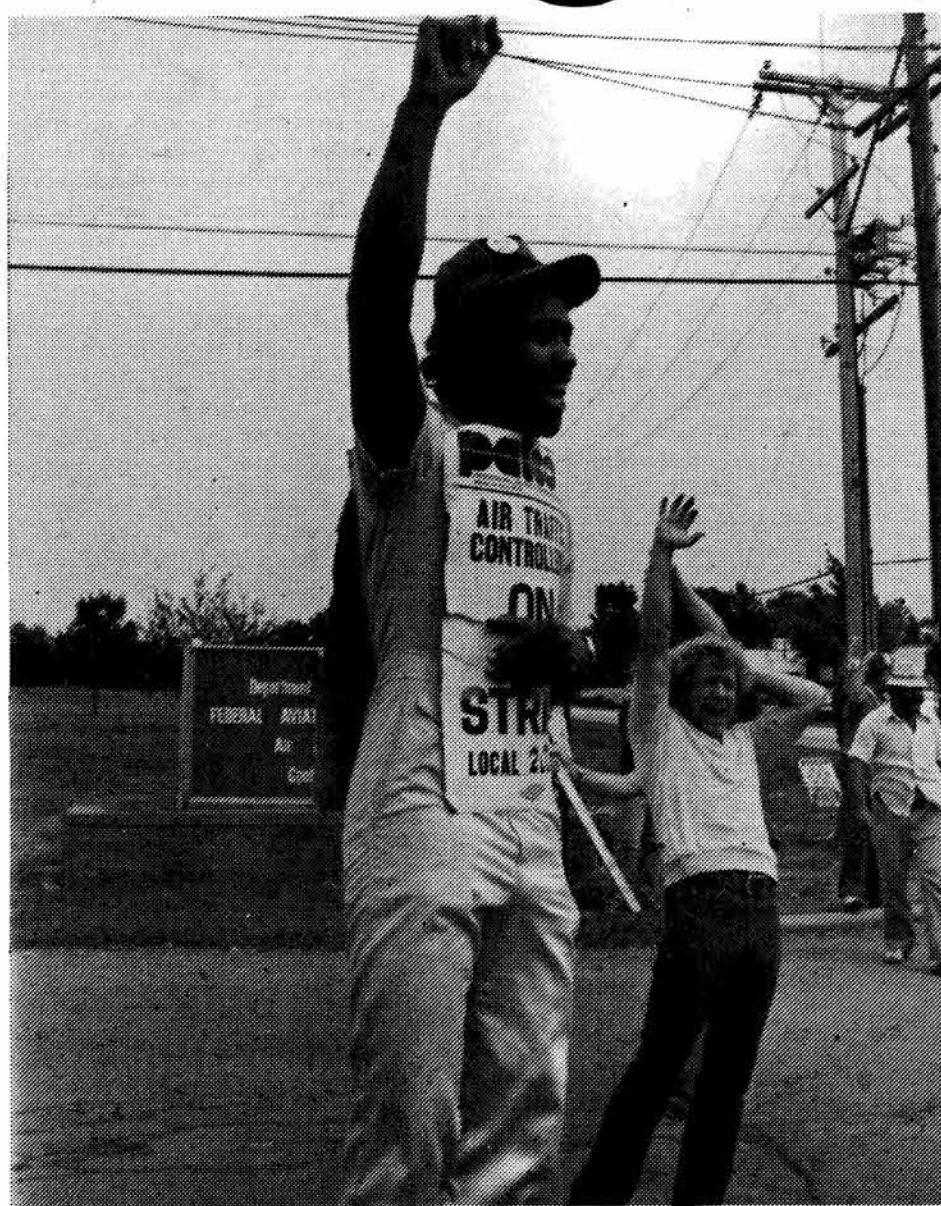
—S.H.



# THE MILITANT

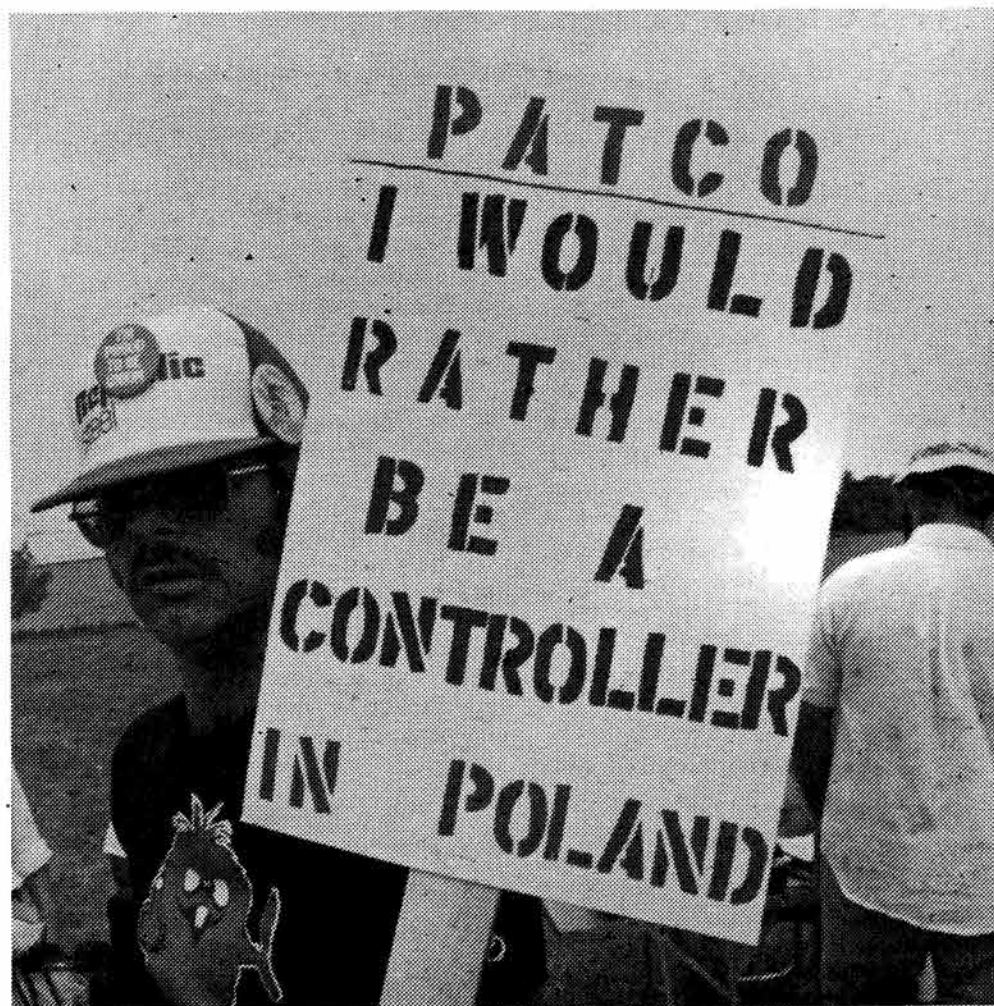
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

## Air controllers fight for all workers



Militant photos by Lou Howort

Oberlin pickets cheer as second deadline passes on Reagan ultimatum.



By Stu Singer

OBERLIN, Ohio, August 10—This small town, an hour west of Cleveland, has become one of the centers of this confrontation between the labor movement and the federal government.

The 500 striking air controllers at the Cleveland Center facility here are part of the national strike by over 12,000 members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization. PATCO is part of the Marine Engineers Benevolent Association and is an affiliate of the AFL-CIO. They are on strike against the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which is trying to bust their union and impose intolerable working conditions.

The Reagan administration attack on the air controllers is one of the biggest union-busting drives by the federal government in American history.

It is a threat to every union. It is part of the opening salvo by the employers and their government against American workers.

It extends the ruling class drive against workers through drastic budget cuts, a reactionary tax plan, the war drive and through attacks on worker protection, civil rights, women's rights, and civil liberties.

The bosses and their government are united in this attack. There are no Democratic or Republican Party politicians who are friends of labor now, when labor is under the gun.

The news media seem to be competing for who can attack the strikers the most.

### 'Strike, Strike!'

The air controllers went on strike Monday, August 3, after 95 percent voted against a contract proposed by Reagan's Secretary of Transportation, Drew Lewis.

The opposition was overwhelming. The contract did not address the issues the controllers consider most important—a shorter work week and the right to earlier retirement. These are safety issues—the concern of everyone who flies.

Continued on next page

## International solidarity

AUGUST 12—The most impressive support for the striking air controllers is from controllers in other countries.

Pickets at Kennedy Airport in New York have been carrying Canadian flags in recognition of the refusal for several days of Canadian controllers to clear flights into and out of the United States.

Controllers in France, Spain, Portugal, Australia, New Zealand, and many other countries have expressed their support both verbally and in action. Many have done so in the face of threats by their own governments to fire them.

The international controllers explain that U.S. air space is now controlled by incompetents. Fewer controllers are working longer hours, under even worse conditions than usual. Some scabs were pulled out of retirement or taken off medical disability. The supervisors are out of practice.

This solidarity is an example to the U.S. labor movement. What unions here do may decide the outcome of the controllers' battle with Reagan.

PATCO has called on the labor movement to respect their picket lines.



# ...strikers need support of union movement

Continued from preceding page

When they walked off the job, Reagan denounced them. He described as "patriotic," the scabs crossing the picket lines. He gave the workers forty-eight hours to return to work or be fired and "barred for life" from federal jobs.

When the forty-eight-hour deadline came, controllers and their families had gathered together in rallies. Five hundred people were at the one near here at the United Auto Workers Local 425 union hall across from the large Ford plant in Lorain.

Five minutes before the deadline, Reagan extended it to the next scheduled workshift.

But the extension had no effect.

In Lorain, the room erupted in shouts of "STRIKE! STRIKE! STRIKE!" at 11:00 a.m. The same reactions were reported throughout the country.

At 2:59 p.m., before the next scheduled shift at the Oberlin facility, the pickets began a countdown: "... 10 ... 9 ... 8 ... 7 ... 6 ... 5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1 ... STRIKE! ON STRIKE! WE'RE FIRED!"

Hats were thrown in the air. Workers embraced each other and their families and cheered. They are standing up for what they believe in and are proud of it.

The Reagan administration is openly trying to destroy this union. All the strikers have been fired. The union's strike fund has been impounded. At least five union leaders around the country were thrown in jail for disobeying orders to return to work.

Millions of dollars in fines have been imposed. Fines of \$1,000 are threatened against each striker. The federal government has officially moved to have the union decertified by the National Labor Relations Board as the bargaining agent for air controllers. New controllers are being hired and trained.

The government admits that the FBI is taking pictures and investigating all the strikers.

The strikers are denied food stamps and their insurance protection is being eliminated.

The pretext for firing the strikers is a federal law prohibiting strikes by government workers. Such a law has no business existing. Slavery was abolished almost 120 years ago. AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland correctly compared this law to the "yellow dog" contract employers used to make workers sign, where a condition of work was a promise never to join a union.

In an effort to dispense with the air controllers and smash their strike, commercial airlines have been ordered to reduce their flights by as much as 50 percent. Private and military aircraft flights have been drastically reduced. Small airports have been closed. Some military air controllers have been brought in to work along with the supervisors and strike breakers.

Flying is now extremely dangerous. Many passengers know it. The airline industry claims about 75 percent of the scheduled flights are operating, but even they admit the planes are almost empty.

The scabs controlling the flights include controllers forced out of retirement and those who were off work for medical reasons like alcoholism and nervous breakdowns. Many are not qualified for work—medically or technically.

During the first week of the strike, at least six near mid-air collisions were reported. The scabs are working under even greater stress than air controllers normally face. They are working much longer hours. Pickets feel an air disaster is virtually inevitable.

The strikers and their supporters are asking how the government can be so ruthless. What price is Reagan willing to pay in other people's lives to break this union?

More is needed.

It will require united action, not just words, by the labor movement in the U.S. and internationally to push Reagan back.

PATCO has officially called on the rest of the labor movement to respect their picket lines. If this were done by the International Association of Machinists, the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks, the pilots, the Teamsters, and others, the airports would be shut down.

The government seems willing to pay the price of having air transport limited and dangerous for as long as it takes to break this strike. The most optimistic government estimate is that it would take two years to train enough new controllers to go back to normal air service.

The strikers say it will take ten years. And by then, the new air controllers will be ready to go on strike themselves.

The stakes in this strike concern all workers. Everyone's neck is in the noose. The air controllers need the active support of every union member and every other working person.

PATCO faces an uphill fight. A defeat will lead to more attempts at strike-breaking and union busting.

The call for solidarity has seldom had greater urgency for the labor movement.

## What controllers want—and why

The controllers all say their most important contract demands are for a shorter work week and earlier retirement.

Their present forty-hour week is one of the longest for air controllers. In Canada, for example, they have a thirty-two-hour week. Cutting the work week would significantly reduce the pressure on the controllers. It would also require the government to train thousands of additional controllers to fill the round-the-clock schedules.

Why are the controllers so insistent on these demands?

The Cleveland Center Federal Aviation Administration facility in Oberlin, Ohio, has about 500 controllers. It is one of the largest operations in the country. Airplanes traveling within an area of over 60,000 square miles are controlled from this center.

One of the picketers described what the job is like.

"You'll be in charge of fifteen to twenty-five planes at a time. They're moving at 500 miles an hour. That means they are approaching each other at 1,000 miles an hour—they can cover sixteen miles in a minute, hundreds of yards in a second, a blink of the eye. Hundreds of lives are at stake. You have that kind of responsibility and then you have these rotating shifts, and management is on your back all the time.

"It takes years to become a good controller. No one can replace us and handle that number of flights. There is no way they can operate without us

and have half the number of planes in the air.

"The threat of using the military is a joke.

"There are very few military controllers with the kind of experience you need for this job. At best they are trained for towers where there is light traffic, nothing like this place or towers at O'Hare in Chicago or Hopkins in Cleveland.

"One thing military controllers are trained for is to guide interceptors against other planes. Our job is the opposite. To prevent interceptions.

"The government is sending more bombs to El Salvador to kill people but they won't spend anything to improve air safety here."

The pressures of the job create tremendous stress in the air controllers. They suffer from many diseases brought on by this stress. Numerous medical studies confirm this. Even the government recognizes it by allowing earlier retirement and more liberal disability benefits than for other federal workers.

Over 88 percent retire or leave on disability before reaching the age of fifty or working twenty-five years (as now required to get the maximum benefits of 50 percent pay when retired). Granting the union's early retirement would really just recognize that they can't work the full period now required.

Both as a step toward greater job safety and to reduce unemployment, the example of the air controllers' fight for a shorter work week deserves to be studied by other workers throughout the country.

## All labor is target

Reagan's fire is aimed at more than PATCO. The target is the entire labor movement. The threat is serious. Lane Kirkland branded Reagan a "union-buster." Jerry Wurf, president of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the largest public employees union, predicted Reagan's attack on PATCO would be used as a model for attacks on all public workers. United Auto Workers local officials speaking at the air controllers' rally in Lorain, warned that a defeat of the air controllers would threaten the UAW national auto contract coming up in 1982.

Ten months ago, PATCO backed Reagan for President because the union was aware of Carter's hostility. Reagan promised to meet their contract demands.

Most of the workers I talked to said they actually voted for Reagan. They all regret it. But they know Carter wouldn't have been better.

## What it will take

They are very inspired by the international solidarity they get from air controllers in other countries.

On the picket line in Oberlin, one worker carried an American flag, another a hand-written sign reading: "I'd rather be an air controller in Poland."

The support to the air controllers from labor officials is positive. When AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland traveled by bus from the Chicago Executive Board meeting back to Washington, he and other top officials stopped off in Oberlin to greet the strikers. The air controllers here were very encouraged by this.



Steven Wallaert, president of PATCO Local 291 in Norfolk and Newport News, Virginia, led away to jail in chains.

## If You Like This Paper, Look Us Up

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

**ALABAMA:** Birmingham: SWP, YSA, 205 18th St. S. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

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

**CALIFORNIA:** Oakland: SWP, YSA, 2864 Telegraph Ave. Zip: 94609. Tel: (415) 763-3792. Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2211 N. Broadway. Zip: 90031. Tel: (213) 225-3126. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (714) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 824-1992. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 44 Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

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

**FLORIDA:** Gainesville: YSA, c/o Don Mackle, 1208 S.W. First Ave. Zip: 32601. Miami: SWP, YSA, 1237 NW 119th St., North Miami. Zip: 33167. Tel: (305) 769-3478.

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

**ILLINOIS:** Champaign-Urbana: YSA, 1301 W. Green, Room 284. Zip: 61801. Chicago: SWP, YSA, 434 S. Wabash, Room 700. Zip: 60605. Tel: (312) 939-0737.

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

6149.

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

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

**LOUISIANA:** New Orleans: SWP, YSA, 3207 Dublin St. Zip: 70118. Tel: (504) 486-8048.

**MARYLAND:** Baltimore: SWP, YSA, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Amherst: YSA, P.O. Box 837. Zip: 01004. Boston: SWP, YSA, 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Zip: 02215. Tel: (617) 262-4621.

**MICHIGAN:** Ann Arbor: YSA, Tel: (313) 663-7068. Detroit: SWP, YSA, 6404 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 875-5322.

**MINNESOTA:** Mesabi Iron Range: SWP, YSA, 1012 2nd Ave. South, Virginia, Minn. Send mail to P.O. Box 1287. Zip: 55792. Tel: (218) 749-6327. Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

**MISSOURI:** Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. St. Louis: SWP, YSA, 6223 Delmar Blvd. Zip: 63130. Tel: (314) 725-1570.

**NEW JERSEY:** Newark: SWP, YSA, 11-A Central Ave. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

**NEW MEXICO:** Albuquerque: SWP, YSA, 1417 Cen-

tral Ave. NE. Zip: 87106. Tel: (505) 842-0954.

**NEW YORK:** Capital District (Schenectady): SWP, YSA, 323 State St. Zip: 12305. Tel: (518) 374-1494.

**New York, Brooklyn:** SWP, YSA, 335 Atlantic Ave. Zip: 11201. Tel: (212) 852-7922. **New York, Manhattan:** SWP, YSA, 108 E. 16th St. 2nd Floor. Zip: 10003. Tel: (212) 260-6400. **New York:** City-wide SWP, YSA, 108 E. 16th St. 2nd Floor. Zip: 10003. Tel: (212) 533-2902.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Piedmont: SWP, YSA, 216 E. 6th St., Winston-Salem. Zip: 27101. Tel: (919) 723-3419.

**OHIO:** Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 2531 Gilbert Ave. Zip: 45206. Tel: (513) 751-2636. **Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 2230 Superior. Zip: 44114. Tel: (216) 579-9369. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

**OREGON:** Portland: SWP, YSA, 711 NW Everett. Zip: 97209. Tel: (503) 222-7225.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Edinboro: YSA, Edinboro State College. Zip: 16444. Tel: (814) 734-4415. **Harrisburg:** SWP, YSA, P.O. Box 3255. Zip: 17105. **Philadelphia:** SWP, YSA, 5811 N. Broad St. Zip: 19141. Tel: (215) 927-4747 or 927-4748. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 1102 E. Carson St. Zip: 15203. Tel: (412) 488-7000. **State College:** YSA, P.O. Box 464, Bellefonte. Zip: 16823. Tel: (814) 238-3296.

**RHODE ISLAND:** Providence: YSA, 52 Earle St., Central Falls. Zip: 02863.

**TEXAS:** Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. **Dallas:** SWP, YSA, 5442 E. Grand. Zip: 75223. Tel: (214) 826-4711. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 6333 Gulf Freeway, Room 222. Zip: 77023. Tel: (713) 924-4056. **San Antonio:** SWP, YSA, 337 W. Josephine. Zip: 78212. Tel: (512) 736-9218.

**UTAH:** Salt Lake City: SWP, YSA, 677 S. 7th East, 2nd Floor. Zip: 84102. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

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

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699. **Baltimore-Washington District:** 3106 Mt. Pleasant St., NW., Washington, D.C. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7021.

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

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Charleston: SWP, YSA, Box 3761. Zip: 25337. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 957 S. University Ave. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

**WISCONSIN:** Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.



# Strike shows labor needs its own party

By Malik Miah

American workers need a labor party. A mass political party is needed, based on the unions, that will fight and defend the interests of Blacks, women, Latinos, working farmers, and youth.

Reagan's brutal budget, attacks on democratic rights, and his drive to take the American people into new Vietnam wars make this need urgent.

The antilabor drive of the government and employers is vividly seen in the air controllers strike. The Reagan administration, the courts, the cops, and the FBI are working double time to break the strike and the air controllers union.

The Reagan administration forced a confrontation and is pulling out all the stops. And not one Democratic or Republican politician has walked a picket-line for the controllers.

The lesson for working people is clear: the Democratic and Republican elected officials are not "friends of labor" as some pretend.

## Reagan's betrayal

The air controllers, in fact, learned a bitter lesson about Democratic and Republican politics. First, they were angered by Carter's refusal to meet their demands. Then, ten months ago, the air controllers thought they had a deal with Reagan to get a decent contract.

Last October 20, the president of PATCO, Robert Poli, met candidate Ronald Reagan. After that meeting, Reagan sent Poli a letter indicating his support for their just demands.

"You can rest assured," Reagan told Poli, "that if I am elected president, I will take whatever steps are necessary to provide our air controllers with the most modern equipment available and to adjust staff levels and work days so that they are commensurate with achieving a maximum degree of public safety."

Poli recommended that the union endorse Reagan for president, and many air controllers voted for him.

After Reagan got elected, the air controllers could not get the time of day from the new administration. They soon learned that Reagan was not going to honor the deal.

In fact, Reagan had decided long before the strike to implement a union-busting plan drawn up twenty months



Air controllers cheer and chant, "Strike!" as Reagan's first firing deadline passes.

earlier by the Carter administration if PATCO went on strike.

In other words, Reagan lied to the air controllers. Just as the Democrats had lied to them before.

The air controllers did not want a strike—just a decent contract. They were forced into a strike by the Reagan administration, which is backed by a Congress composed of Democrats and Republicans.

Reagan, representing the interests of big business, is implementing a social and economic program that seeks to reverse gains won by working people since the 1930s. Reagan is attempting to use the air controllers as an object lesson for other public employees and the labor movement as a whole.

A victory for the controllers would encourage postal workers and other public workers to stand up to the Reagan attacks. It would strike a blow to Reagan's drive to take away gains won by Blacks and women too.

## For a labor party

The attack on workers by Reagan, and by the Carter team before him, clearly shows why the two parties of the rich can't serve the interests of working people. The bipartisan attacks on working people requires that labor look at and reverse its support to the so-called friends of labor in these two parties.

Because this policy is followed by all major union officials, the labor movement does not have a single political representative in Congress. Without political representation of its own, labor

is weakened in its battle to reverse the antilabor policies of the government and courts.

The challenge facing the labor movement and its supporters is to honestly look at this policy. Strikes and mass protests put obstacles in the way of the capitalist war drive and austerity programs. But more is needed. For the rulers will push and push in order to save their precious profits.

That's the main lesson of the Reagan administration's confrontation with the air controllers.

Air controllers and other workers should consider the words of one labor leader who does see the need for labor to reverse its present policy toward electoral politics and independent political action.

## Rail union leader

Tom Pontolillo is chairman of Local 501 of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers in New York. In a speech to an August 7 rally in Cleveland, Ohio, he explained: "There are two crucial challenges that labor must face on Solidarity Day [the AFL-CIO's anti-budget-cuts demonstration for September 19 in Washington, D.C.] if the demonstration is to be more than just an empty, angry gesture."

"Number one, all groups sponsoring and supporting Solidarity Day must adopt as their response to Reaganomics, the position that the rights of Americans from this day forward cannot and will not be bastardized no matter how hard Reagan tries."

"The second step should become painfully clear to all watching the PATCO strike. . . . Take our common demands and forge them into a platform of action. Translate that solidarity into raw political power because these new alliances can be molded into the one thing which can sweep away the tide of reaction: a labor party with the unions as its base."

An independent labor party is the next giant step working people need to take. What better way for the AFL-CIO to celebrate its 100th anniversary?

Let's discuss this idea in our unions, in NOW, in the NAACP and other organizations. Let's do this as we march on the picket lines of the air controllers and rally in Washington, D.C., on September 19.

# 1,000 rally for Bill of Rights, salute strikers

By Harry Ring

CLEVELAND—Solidarity with the striking air controllers and recognition that they are fighting for all labor.

That was a common theme of speakers at a rally held at the Masonic Temple here August 7.

Sponsored by the Political Rights Defense Fund, the meeting of 1,000 people was to support a suit brought by the Socialist Workers Party against the antidemocratic, antilabor activities of the FBI, CIA, and other government secret police agencies.

"I salute the striking air traffic controllers, especially those who may be in the audience here with us," declared Tom Pontolillo, chairman of Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Local 501 in New York.

"The many rail workers I have spoken with in New York unanimously support your action and hope that PATCO comes out of this strike victorious and stronger than ever," said Pontolillo.

Pontolillo and other speakers explained how the federal union-busting drive against the controllers underlined the importance of the SWP suit.

The socialists have been the victims of illegal surveillance, harassment, wiretapping, burglary, and other dirty tricks by government agencies. The party is seeking \$40 million in damages and an injunction barring

further government violations of their constitutional rights.

Six weeks of testimony in the suit were completed in mid-July, and final briefs are now being prepared. As a result of government stalling, it took eight years for the socialists to get their case to trial. But they persisted because they realized what was at stake. They were fighting for the right to present their views without victimization.

They also realized that much more was involved. Increasingly, the same methods used to harass the socialists are being used by the government against all others who fight for their rights.

Malik Miah, a national chairperson of the Socialist Workers Party, put it this way:

"One way to understand how this government functions is to look at what the Reagan administration is trying to do to the heroic air controllers."

Miah described one striker, a Vietnam veteran who declared, "After spending two years in Vietnam fighting for freedom—so I'm told—I then come home and I'm denied a basic human right: the right to strike and withhold services."

"This," Miah said, "is exactly what the Socialist Workers' case is all about. Exposing the real nature of the government. How it uses the cops and the FBI."

"The FBI is taking pictures of striking controllers, drawing up dossiers on their backgrounds in an attempt to blacklist them, as they have done to socialists."

Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, who gained national fame in the battle against racial discrimination in Birmingham, Alabama, in the 1960s, urged everyone to support the AFL-CIO Solidarity Day demonstration in Washington September 19, and see to it "that we bring a million people."

Declaring his full support to the air traffic controllers, Shuttlesworth said, "Repressive government finds it easier to bust unions than to deal with the cause that makes unionism a necessity of our existence."

He told the audience he had to be in another city the next morning. "But I decided I'm not going by plane," he said. "I'm going to catch the bus and ride all night."

Full backing to the controllers was also urged by Rodney Johnson, one of the three unionists railroaded by the government for their militant defense of workers' rights at the NASSCO shipyard in San Diego.

Johnson pointed out that what is happening with the strike makes it "more and more evident that this [antilabor] trend is going to be stepped up in this country." That's why, he declared, "more and more unity is needed."

The embattled air controllers were

also saluted by Afeni Shakur, one of the twenty-one members of the Black Panther Party in New York who were jailed in 1971 as a result of a vicious police frameup.

Rather than take a scab-directed plane, she had driven from New York to Cleveland for the rally.

Shakur told the audience, "I would like to start by joining everyone else in saluting the air controllers union. I am a union member. I support workers, especially in this situation, which is probably the biggest example of union busting in a very long time."

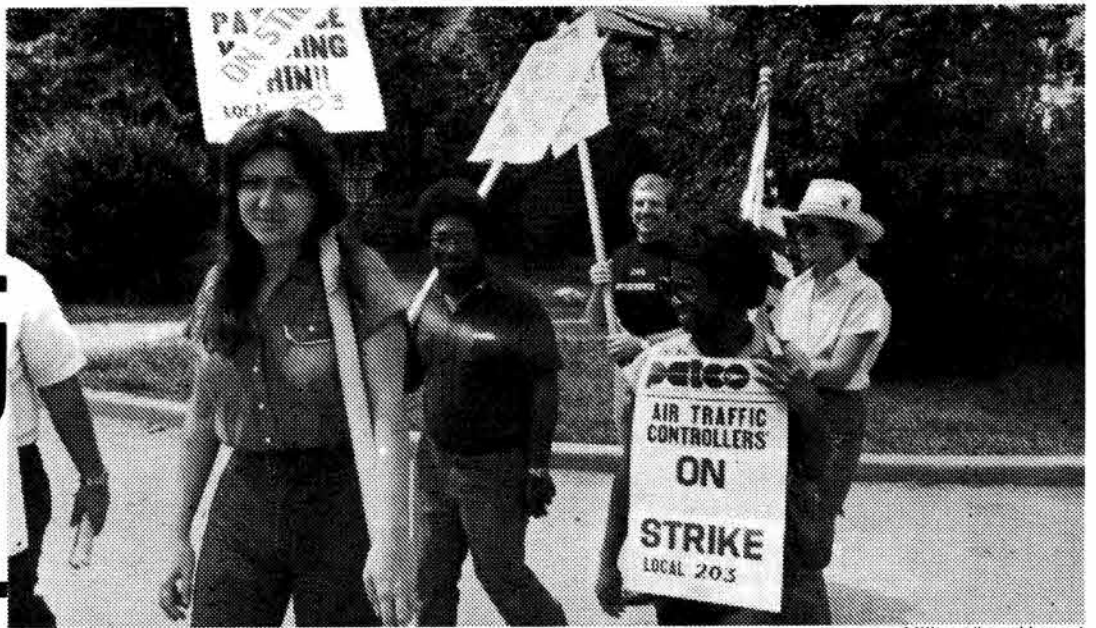
Susan Englander, a member of the executive board of Local 1650 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, declared that as a trade unionist she considered solidarity with the air controllers a vital necessity. Englander is also a member of the Labor Task Force of the San Francisco chapter of the National Organization for Women.

Other speakers at the rally included Shelley Davis, a member of the SWP team of attorneys in the suit; Mojgan Hariri-Vijeh, a socialist student threatened with deportation to Iran by the Immigration and Naturalization Service; Brian Carr of the People's Antiwar Mobilization; and SWP leader Fred Halstead.



# AFL-CIO SOLIDARITY DAY

SEPTEMBER 19, 1981



Militant/Lou Howort

## Massive turnout more urgent than ever

By Vivian Sahner

The AFL-CIO, representing 14 million union members, has called for a national march in Washington, D.C., on September 19.

The Reagan administration's attack on the air controllers makes this demonstration more urgent than ever.

The September 19 action is called Solidarity Day, and in that spirit the unions have reached out to those who suffer most from the budget cuts. The NAACP, the National Urban League, Operation PUSH, the National Organization for Women, and the League of Latin American Citizens are among the many groups planning to participate in the demonstration.

This is the first time the AFL-CIO has organized a political demonstration against government policy.

Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO, explains, "Changing times call for changing tactics."

Indeed, times are changing.

Today the government is carrying out a ruthless assault against the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization. The very existence of the union is being challenged by this no-holds-barred, union-busting attack.

In the halls of Congress the Democrats and Republicans are carrying out a joint program to take back gains won by working people in this country in the last fifty years. Food stamps, the Voting Rights Act, and even Social Security are under attack.

Our tax money is being poured into the war machine—to buy more guns for the bloody junta in El Salvador, to stockpile neutron bombs in this country. Dollars that should be spent for our needs are being used to prepare new Vietnams.

These attacks must not go unanswered.

### Ranks urged to turn out

The unions have appealed to the ranks to turn out on September 19. As Lane Kirkland pointed out, "a demonstration of rank-and-file support" for social justice "will be the most effective response to the administration's claim that it speaks for the working people of America."

American workers have already

shown their readiness to fight. September 19 comes on the heels of a series of demonstrations by the trade-union movement.

On March 9, 8,000 coal miners marched on Washington to protest cuts in black lung benefits.

On April 29, 25,000 rail workers gathered in the capital to demonstrate their opposition to cutbacks in the Amtrak and Conrail systems.

On May 4, the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union sponsored protest actions across the country after the Labor Department threatened to cut cotton dust standards.

Today, PATCO members are standing up to Reagan's attacks.

Speaking for big business, the *Wall Street Journal* urges Reagan not to give in. It accuses PATCO of "trying to bust the Reagan administration."

It says crushing PATCO is a necessary part of the administration's war preparations. Compromising, says the *Journal*, would endanger the "clarity and consistency of presidential purpose on a whole range of issues with global implications. They include, for example, commitments to rebuild military strength . . ."

The strike is a challenge to the cut-throat billionaires who run this country. That's why every working person should support it.

### Broad participation

Solidarity Day promises to be the biggest demonstration of this fightback spirit. More than 200 organizations have endorsed it.

As Benjamin Hooks told the NAACP convention, "The NAACP shares a common humanity with the workers of the AFL-CIO and the basic goals and objectives that will be brought to the fore by this joint demonstration."

The national leadership body of the National Black Independent Political Party passed a resolution urging its members to turn out.

The AFL-CIO has announced that a major focus of the September 19 march is support for the Equal Rights Amendment.

"We expect to see a solid feminist turnout for 'Solidarity day,'" says Eleanor Smeal in the July/August *National*

*Now Times*. "Those of us who fight for women's equality and those of us in the labor movement have come to understand that we share many of the same goals and fight the same opposition."

Many of these organizations, along with the officials of the major unions, are members of the Solidarity Day advisory board led by AFL-CIO Secretary-treasurer Thomas Donahue.

Calling September 19 "an important part of what must be a continuing campaign by labor and our allies," Lloyd McBride, president of the United Steelworkers, urges USWA locals to mobilize their members.

United Auto Workers President Douglas Fraser called for "all out" UAW participation in the July issue of *Solidarity*, the union's newspaper.

The United Mine Workers have endorsed the action. Sam Church, president of the UMW, has joined the Solidarity Day advisory committee.

Solidarity Day has been the center of discussion in trade union conventions held over the past few weeks. The American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, the Oil,

Chemical, and Atomic Workers, and the Newspaper Guild conventions all passed resolutions in support of the demonstration.

International Association of Machinists president William W. Winpisinger has sent a letter to all IAM members asking them to urge their local lodges to participate fully in Solidarity Day.

### We must stand together

All the court injunctions in the world can't guide airplanes. Airplanes can't even move if the unions of maintenance workers and pilots honor the picket lines.

If the union movement unites behind the strikers, PATCO can win.

The broad coalitions building September 19 need to discuss support for the PATCO strike.

Antiwar groups and organizations in solidarity with Central America also have a big stake in September 19.

So do farmers organizations, campus groups, senior citizens organizations, and groups on the left.

All out for September 19!

## Socialists back air controllers and Sept. 19 demonstration

The following message was sent to striking air traffic controllers by the Socialist Workers Party national convention, which met August 1-8 in Oberlin, Ohio.

The Socialist Workers Party convention meeting in Oberlin, Ohio, sends solidarity to your strike for a decent contract. Your fight for a shorter work week and raises in pay and benefits represents the need of workers throughout the country. This fight, which concerns greater air safety, concerns everyone.

The government of the Democrats and Republicans is more openly anti-union now than for decades.

Budget cuts, reactionary tax plans, gutting worker protection rights—now the government is moving to open union busting.

The government is at war with your union. Newspapers report the FBI is compiling names of your members.

They're threatening and imposing

fines, jailings, decertifications, freezing your strike funds—and firing you for daring to strike. They act as if slavery still exists.

If they get away with this against you—the government and every boss in the country will push for the same thing against every union.

The government and news media have pretended to support Polish workers. We all saw how massive solidarity won the right to strike in Poland.

But now everyone can see who the real supporters of Polish workers are. It's the American workers—not the budget cutters, union-busters, and anti-labor news media.

The labor movement has a giant stake in your strike and defending your union.

We pledge to help mobilize solidarity from labor and its allies. Solidarity with your strike now and for the September 19 Solidarity Day called by the AFL-CIO.

## Read the 'Militant'

The *Militant* is a weekly socialist newspaper. Unlike the big business press, it takes the side of working people and tells the truth about workers' struggles from the U.S. to Poland to El Salvador. The *Militant* digs out the facts about the harm done by Reagan's budget and taxes. We give the strikers' side of the story from the coal miners to the air controllers.

Subscribe to the *Militant*. Help sell it.

For additional bundles of this special issue, contact the *Militant* circulation office, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014. (212) 929-3486 or one of the numbers listed in the directory on page 2.



12 weeks/\$3

- ☐ \$3 for twelve issues (new readers only)
- ☐ \$15 for six months
- ☐ \$24 for one year
- ☐ New
- ☐ Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014



## Boycott hits downtown stores

# Milwaukee marches against killer cops

By Frank Forrestal

MILWAUKEE—Despite a warlike atmosphere created by the Milwaukee Police Department, 1,000 marchers turned out August 15 to protest the police killing of Ernie Lacy.

Lacy, a twenty-two-year-old Black youth, was killed after being taken into police custody on the night of July 9. He had been stopped for questioning about a rape that police later learned he did not commit.

Eyewitnesses report that one officer was kneeling on Lacy's neck for over a minute while Lacy's hands were cuffed behind his back and he was sprawled face down on the sidewalk.

### Community responds

Following news of Lacy's death, an emergency protest meeting was held in Milwaukee's Black community at the union headquarters of the AOSmith Steelworkers. The Coalition for Justice for Ernie Lacy was formed, which now includes about 100 organizations.

Eleven days after the police killing, on July 20, 5,000 demonstrators marched from the site of the killing to the front of the Police Administration

Building, chanting, "Fired up, ain't gonna take it no more!" "Justice, justice, justice!" and "No more killings!"

The main demand of the coalition was to suspend the three officers involved. A few days after the demonstration, the officers were suspended with pay.

In addition, the coalition forced the Milwaukee Common Council to shelve a federal grant of \$212,000 from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to the Milwaukee Police Department. The money was to be used to sponsor Operation Cooperation, a police community relations plan.

In the past, Milwaukee Police Chief Harold Breier has called police community relations "a lot of hogwash."

On the heels of the July 20 action, another demonstration was held on July 31 calling for the prosecution of the three officers. Coalition organizers estimate some 10,000 people turned out for the march, the largest Milwaukee has seen in years.

### Boycott

One week later, the coalition launched an economic boycott of downtown Milwaukee.

In a prepared statement, the coalition said, "Downtown is one of the major shopping areas for inner-city residents. Milwaukee's city fathers are placing heavy emphasis on redeveloping downtown and making it a symbol of a revitalized Milwaukee."

"The Coalition for Justice for Ernie Lacy wants to serve notice to the Milwaukee business community that there will be no 'business as usual' until justice is won for Ernie Lacy."

"The economic boycott is a traditional tactic of the civil rights movement. The history of economic boycotts shows that when the business community begins to lose profits, pressure is quickly applied to the political rulers of the city."

"We hope the boycott will send a message to District Attorney McCann, to prosecute the three officers who killed Ernie Lacy."

The boycott had a devastating effect. Some 150 pickets, holding placards that read, "Don't buy! Justice for Ernie Lacy!" were successful in turning away many shoppers. Some even returned their merchandise.

And coalition organizers Michael McGee and Howard Fuller pointed out that the Black community didn't even

bother to go downtown at all.

Over 15,000 leaflets were distributed publicizing the event during the course of the week.

According to an article in the *Milwaukee Journal*, business was down considerably. "Thomas Przekurat, manager of the J.C. Penney store," said the *Journal*, "estimated that customer traffic was down 30 percent. Gerald Gatton, manager of Pill & Puff, estimated a 50 percent reduction. Thomas Filek, Walgreen's drug manager, said his store lost 30 percent in customer traffic."

One store, Thom McAn shoe store, was closed down entirely.

### Police intimidation . . .

The August 15 demonstration was smaller than previous marches. One reason for this was that police intimidation was at a peak. Some 1,000 officers, dressed in riot gear and openly wielding batons, were on the scene. During the march, they formed a wall between the marchers and the double line in the middle of the street. Police cars and paddy wagons were everywhere.

Coalition organizers planned a three-mile march through the Black community, hoping that many would join the demonstration along the way. But the police presence made joining virtually impossible. Many people felt the police created a "war atmosphere."

### . . . and provocation

Later, at the rally site, a provocation by Police Chief Harold Breier almost caused a serious incident.

Breier is a hated man in Milwaukee, especially in the Black community. In the past twenty years, dozens of Blacks have been the victims of police shootings. Not once have criminal charges been brought against the police.

Despite this, Breier had the audacity to leave his police car and walk around at the rally site. Fortunately, coalition organizers prevented an outbreak of violence.

On August 18, an inquest into the causes of Lacy's death will begin. For most, the cause of death is clear: the three officers killed Lacy. Police and their supporters in the city government are attempting to whitewash the truth, just as they have done so many times in the past.

But the Coalition remains determined to win its goal: prosecuting the officers. As coalition leader Howard Fuller put it at the August 15 rally, "We're demanding that police brutality end now! That the three officers be prosecuted now! We're fired up! We ain't gonna take it no more!"



Milwaukee, July 20: crowd of 5,000 demands police killers of Black youth be brought to justice

Militant/David McDonald

## Black state rep quits Democratic Party

By David Walsh

BOSTON—In mid-July, Black Massachusetts State Representative Melvin King announced his decision to quit the Democratic Party and change his voter registration to "independent." He has been a Democratic representative from Boston's south end for ten years and is a well-known community activist and organizer.

"Most people operate with a notion that one party means this and the other that," King explained. "A close examination of policies, programs, and voting performances over the past few years shows there is very little to distinguish the parties . . . if one needs proof, then the recent demise of the Democratic Party in the budget and tax debates in Washington should suffice. . . ."

David Walsh is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Boston School Committee. He is a member of Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks Local 1089.

"The bottom line for me came, however, in Massachusetts, where with a Democratic-controlled legislature and governor's office, we created a situation which I call economic triage, i.e., the process used in the battle fields to decide who was going to either live or die."

"The Democratic leadership set up a situation where state workers were played off against city workers. This led to a situation where people were forced to go for a period of time without sufficient income to meet their basic needs. . . ."

"I changed my party status because I cannot justify being identified with these oppressive conditions that were created by failure of the Democratic leadership to pass a budget appropriately."

King had been a leader in the fight in the state legislature to prevent cuts in social service programs. He protested loudly when the Democratic leadership held the budget up past the legal deadline for passage, thus forcing state workers and welfare recipients to go

without checks for two weeks.

King was the second Black legislator to quit the Democratic Party this year.

Earlier, State Senator Bill Owens changed his registration from Democratic to Republican to protest the treatment being given Boston's Black community by the Democratic Party leadership.

In addition, leading liberal State Senator Alan Sisitsky had announced his intention to quit the legislature, although not the Democratic Party, in protest of the Democratic leadership's handling of the state's budget.

"There is no Democratic Party, no program, no philosophy that deals with meeting the needs of those folks who are most in need," King said. "They are playing one group of poor people against another. Neither party has really done the job of meeting anyone's needs, particularly people of color."

King does not plan to quit politics just because he has quit the Democratic Party. In 1979, while still a Democrat, he

was a candidate for mayor. He came in third, surprising the political pundits by garnering an impressive 15 percent of the vote against the Democratic machine candidates, incumbent Mayor Kevin White and State Senator Joseph Timilty. In 1982, King expects to run for mayor of Boston again—this time as an independent.

King says he welcomes the new National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP). Although not personally active in it, he has been a supporter through his involvement in the National Black Political Task Force, a group that has been participating in the founding meetings of the NBIPP.

Mel King says that breaking with the Democratic Party was only a step. The key, he emphasizes, is "a clear articulated agenda." There must be answers for people's problems. And "no one group is going to do it in isolation. . . . Some of the groups who are oppressed have to come together around that oppression. . . . It must be a combination of those groups working together."



# ...time to build Black political party



National Black Political Convention, held in 1972 in Gary, was forerunner of current effort to build independent Black party.

Militant/Thabo Ntweng

## Continued from back page

in the Black party, view it as politically correct to support "lesser-evil" Democrats or Republicans, as well as running independent Black candidates.

This is wrong.

The Democratic and Republican parties are not controlled by the individuals who are their candidates, nor by the masses who vote for them. They're controlled by the bankers, landlords, and corporation heads who oppress and exploit us daily. They dictate the policies of the two capitalist parties, policies accurately summed up by the NBIPP charter as maintaining "the existing political and social-economic system."

And part of maintaining this status quo is keeping Blacks locked into the two-party framework, discouraging us from launching an independent alternative to the parties of the exploiters. This is the role that Black Democratic politicians like Ron Dellums and John Conyers have played. Despite their progressive stands on some questions, their function has been to disguise the character of the Democratic Party and mis-educate the Black community.

They present no challenge to the system that exploits us—in fact, they help it function.

The challenge facing NBIPP is to have the courage to follow the logic of the analysis laid out in the proposed charter, and break with supporting any Democrats and Republicans.

This is the only way to lead the struggle for Black liberation forward. Any

political compromise with the Democratic and Republican parties, including support to any of their candidates, can only lead NBIPP backward.

## Nat'l Black Assembly

This will be resolved in practice. Experience in the last decade has already advanced the thinking of Black activists on the question of independent political action.

The National Black Political Convention of 1972, held in Gary, was the forerunner of NBIPP. Out of it came the National Black Political Assembly. The NBPA did not seek to build a new, independent party. Its perspective was to run independent candidates and support Black Democrats. In fact, the main activity of the assembly became organizing support for Black Democrats, primarily on a local level. In 1976, when it tried to convince Ron Dellums to run for president as an independent, he refused. The NBPA subsequently declined in influence.

It was out of this experience—and the sharp deterioration in the lives of Black people—that NBPA activists decided to take a big step last August and called for the formation of an independent Black party, NBIPP.

In July 1980 presidential election, NBIPP leaders took the position that Blacks should not vote for Carter, Reagan, or Anderson. Instead, they proposed that Blacks abstain or vote for candidates of smaller parties.

Taking this stance was not easy. Most leaders of Black organizations urged

Blacks to vote for Carter, despite his rotten record; a few even called for a vote for Reagan. They all attacked the "no vote" position of the NBIPP leadership as selling out the Black community.

It was the decision to reject support to Carter and Reagan that laid the basis for the successful Philadelphia convention. It made it possible to begin organizing NBIPP based on an understanding that the Democratic and Republican parties have "betrayed us."

The ruling rich consider this modest first step to break the masses of Blacks from the Democratic and Republican parties to be a mortal threat to their rule. If masses of Blacks decided to form our own political party and challenge the control over the Black community of the two capitalist parties, it sets an example for the entire working class. It can change the face of American politics. It can open the door to the kinds of struggles that can really change the conditions under which we live.

## News blackout

This also helps explain why the Chicago NBIPP congress occurs with little advance billing in the Black press (and none, of course, in the major newspapers), and little discussion of it by top Black leaders who are active in the Democratic and Republican parties. They are against the party. They want it to die because it exposes their bankrupt strategy of relying on the capitalist parties to win freedom for Blacks.

Although most Black elected officials

oppose Reagan's budget cuts, many find themselves in the position of applying their own version of Reaganomics. For example, Black mayors of cities like Los Angeles, Detroit, and Atlanta have cut social services, attacked public workers, and placed themselves at the service of the big banks.

Even the Congressional Black Caucus, which admits it gets little hearing in the White House, proposed its own "fair" budget cuts.

The traditional civil rights organizations are no better. Although the NAACP, National Urban League, Operation PUSH, and others have endorsed the AFL-CIO Solidarity Day demonstration against Reagan's budget, the main discussion at their summer conventions was preparing for the 1982 elections. How? By launching a voter registration drive to get out the Big Vote! And everyone knew for whom—the Democrats (and a couple of good Republicans).

The NBIPP charter points in a different direction from all these misleaders—away from reliance on Democrats and Republicans, and toward the mass of the Black people; away from the bankers demanding handouts for the rich, and toward the poor of all races; away from the Pentagon's military drive, and toward the liberation struggles of the oppressed of the world.

## An example for labor

NBIPP represents a historic opportunity for the Black movement to break the stranglehold of capitalist politics on the Black community. It is also an example for the labor movement. NBIPP is the direction that the entire working class must travel in order to take political power out of the hands of the ruling rich. Only by direct political control of the government is it possible for working people, including Blacks, to win our freedom.

Trade unions need their own political party to end the daily betrayal they suffer by voting for and giving money to "friends of labor" in the parties of the bosses.

The old methods of lobbying these "friends" aren't working for unionists any more than they are working for civil rights activists.

This congress will be closely watched by Blacks and other working people—here and abroad—looking for alternatives to the Democratic and Republican party shell game. No one favors cutbacks, wars, or fewer rights. The question is: how to fight back?

A successful Black party congress will open up a new chapter in the fight for Black freedom. With our own political party we can begin to seek out and test alliances with other oppressed and exploited people. A Black party charting an independent course can point all working people in the right direction.

# Judge says U.S. can't extradite Irish nat'l list

NEW YORK—A federal magistrate here has rejected a U.S. government request that Dessie Mackin, an Irish nationalist, be deported to Northern Ireland where he faces charges of attempted murder of a British soldier.

U.S. Magistrate Naomi Reice Buchwald ruled August 14 that Mackin had acted on political grounds, and was therefore protected under an exception to the extradition treaty between the U.S. and Britain.

The charges against Mackin stem from a 1978 incident, in which he and a friend were ambushed by British soldiers. Although both were unarmed, they were charged with attempted murder.

A Diplock court (where there is no jury and the accused is not allowed to confront witnesses) admitted there was

no evidence against the two, and Mackin's friend was released.

Mackin, however, had fled to the Republic of Ireland in the south before the trial, so the indictment against him still stands.

In July 1980, Mackin came to the U.S. to organize a speaking tour for former H-Block prisoners. He was arrested on October 6 of last year during a demonstration protesting a visit to New York by Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth.

Mackin later agreed to accept deportation to the Republic of Ireland. Ten minutes before his plane was to leave, the government told him it would seek instead to extradite him to Northern Ireland. He has since been held in a federal prison here without bail.

In her ruling, Magistrate Buchwald said she did not have to determine whether Mackin had wounded a British soldier during the ambush, as the British have charged. She held that even if he had committed the act, he could not be returned to British custody.

"... Mackin's act was aimed directly at a member of the British Army, the opposition force, who was performing his duties as an intelligence-gathering plainclothes soldier..." states Buchwald.

"... We find that Mackin bore no personal ill will or malice toward the victim-soldier but acted in accord with political activity..."

"The shooting was undoubtedly free from personal motive and substantially linked to the traditional goal and strat-

egy of the IRA... an independent Ireland free from British rule through the use of violence."

Mackin can now seek release from prison so he can return to the Republic of Ireland, which has no extradition treaty with Britain. The U.S. government can appeal Buchwald's decision.

"It is a significant victory for Mackin and I regard it as a victory for the hunger strikers," said Frank Durkin, Mackin's lawyer.

Nine Irish nationalists have died on hunger strike in Northern Ireland's Maze prison. They were demanding the return of rights that have been denied them since 1976, when the British stopped treating them as political prisoners.



## Neutron bomb: 'a weapon we will want to use'

By Will Reissner

On August 10, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger publicly acknowledged that the Pentagon is now producing neutron bombs.

Neutron bombs—often described as the ultimate capitalist weapon—differ from other nuclear weapons in that they produce far higher levels of deadly short-lived radiation and lower levels of blast and heat, meaning that they kill people while doing minimal damage to surrounding property.

Weinberger was evasive about when the decision to proceed with the neutron bomb had been reached. But *New York Times* reporter Richard Halloran wrote on August 11 that "other officials, including spokesmen in the White House . . . said that the decision was made last Thursday. . . ."

A quick glance at the calendar ex-

plains Weinberger's reluctance to pinpoint the date of the decision to go ahead with the weapons. Thursday, August 6, was the thirty-sixth anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the first time nuclear weapons were used in war. To date, the U.S. military, which dropped a second bomb on Nagasaki three days later, remains the only power ever to have used nuclear weapons against people.

About 140,000 people died in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki in the immediate aftermath of the U.S. atomic bombings. A recent book, *The Physical, Medical, and Social Effects of the Atomic Bombings*, reports that the death toll in those cities rose by another 130,000 in the next five years from the effects of radiation.

Hundreds of thousands of others were severely injured, many permanently,

and to this day people are still dying from illnesses or injuries that can be traced to the effects of the atomic blasts.

The initial decision to manufacture neutron bombs and store them in Europe was made by President Carter, who argued that their limited blast made them ideal for use there. But the intense opposition of European working people, who recognized that they would be the victims of a "limited atomic war" in Europe, forced Carter to back down.

Instead, Carter ordered the Pentagon in 1978 to produce all the components of the neutron bomb and to store the parts in the United States, where they could be quickly assembled and deployed in Europe if the need arose.

The Reagan administration's August 6 decision was to begin assembling neutron artillery shells and missile warheads from the parts produced under Carter's orders.

### Why the neutron bomb

Washington claims that it needs the neutron bomb to offset the Warsaw Pact's numerical superiority in tanks in Europe. Without the neutron bomb, the Pentagon argues, the forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Western Europe could be overrun by a massive Soviet tank invasion.

But the neutron bomb is only one small part of a massive U.S. nuclear buildup. The stated purpose of this buildup is to enable the U.S. military to reestablish, by the end of this decade, the overwhelming nuclear superiority over the Soviet Union that it held until the mid-1960s.

This overwhelming nuclear superiority made life much easier for the Pentagon's planners. U.S. troops could intervene around the world, while warning the Soviets that any military response to such interventions could result in the nuclear annihilation of the USSR.

And such concrete threats were, in fact, made. In 1946, for example, President Truman threatened the USSR with nuclear attack if Soviet troops did not allow the shah's troops to reenter Iranian Azerbaijan.

President Eisenhower discussed using nuclear weapons in support of France's losing effort to retain its Indochinese colonies in the 1950s. In 1962, the Kennedy administration used its overwhelming nuclear superiority to impose a naval blockade around Cuba and force the Soviet Union to withdraw missiles it had placed on the island.

While today U.S. nuclear forces remain larger and more effective than their Soviet counterparts, the growth of Soviet nuclear forces since the mid-1960s means the Pentagon is no longer able to threaten the Soviet Union with nuclear attack without risking mutual

annihilation.

Under President Carter, an arms buildup was initiated that aimed to reestablish overwhelming U.S. nuclear superiority. On July 25, 1980, Carter signed Presidential Directive No. 59, which ordered the Pentagon to develop plans and strategies for fighting and winning nuclear wars.

The underlying thesis of P.D. 59 was that the Pentagon should fight and win such wars by staging a first-strike nuclear attack that would wipe out the bulk of the USSR's nuclear forces on the ground, while holding enough U.S. weapons in reserve to incinerate the USSR if it retaliated with any weapons that had escaped destruction in the first strike.

But to implement its first-strike strategy, the Pentagon needs four additional weapons systems: the MX Blockbuster missile, a highly accurate nuclear weapon capable of destroying underground command posts as well as missile silos; the Trident II submarine missile; the Pershing II missile; and the Cruise missile.

Of these four, the new Trident submarines are already being deployed, and the Pershing II and Cruise missiles are scheduled to be deployed in Western Europe, from which they could hit targets in the Soviet Union in as little as four minutes.

This massive buildup is expected to cost \$200 billion.

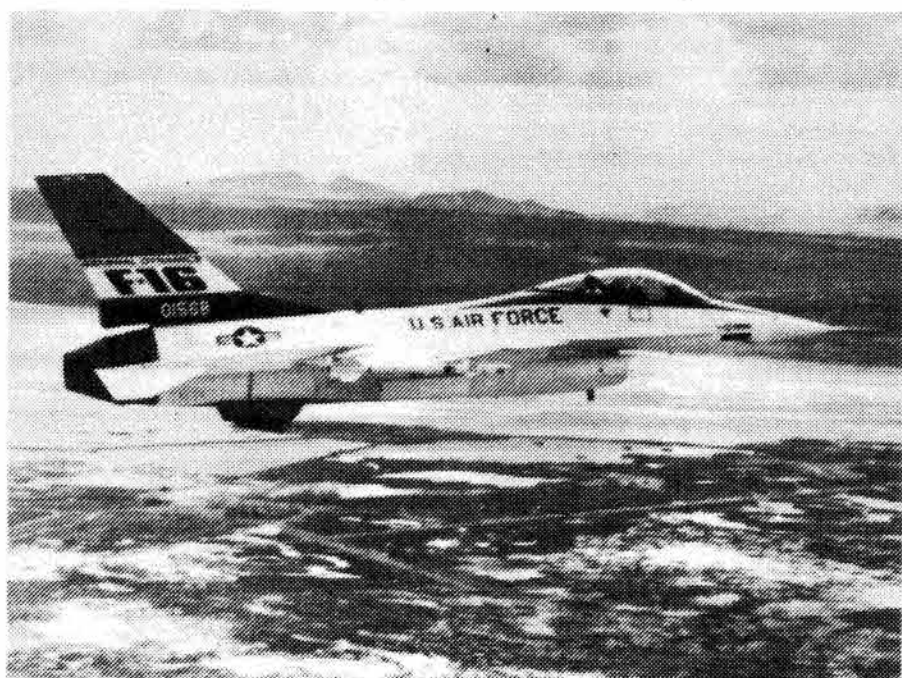
In the Pentagon's view, the neutron bomb is not restricted to use on the plains of Europe. In fact, the Middle East is a more likely arena for the neutron bomb, as some Pentagon officials have acknowledged.

The neutron bomb plays an important role in the Pentagon's plans for any takeover of Middle Eastern oil fields. An August 11 report in the *New York Times* pointed out that the blast from a neutron bomb "is intended to kill soldiers in tanks or other protected areas without destroying as many buildings or other structures, such as oil rigs, in surrounding areas as standard nuclear explosives." [Emphasis added.]

The bomb could also be used against liberation forces waging guerrilla warfare in some future Vietnam. Even if U.S. military forces were unsure of the precise location of guerrilla bases, a few neutron artillery shells lobbed into the general area would wipe out the guerrillas—along with the rest of the population—while allowing U.S. troops to move into the area in a short time.

Thus, the neutron bomb is not a weapon of deterrence, built in hopes that it will never be used. As Caspar Weinberger himself said, it "is a valuable addition to our forces, which we shall probably want to use."

## Green light for Begin



The Reagan administration ordered delivery of sixteen jet fighters to Israel August 17. Delivery had been delayed in an effort to dispel suspicions of U.S. complicity in the Israeli government's bombing of an Iraqi nuclear reactor and of a residential neighborhood in Beirut, Lebanon.

The pretext for delaying the delivery of the planes had been an investigation to determine whether the Begin government violated an agreement with Washington in using U.S. planes against Iraq.

State Department spokespeople said that no conclusion had been reached on this.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig went further. "Mr. Haig said today that the United States had neither sought nor received any assurance from Israel that the country would abide by the terms of the arms agreement in the future," reported the August 18 *New York Times*. "Nor was there any promise by Israel to consult the United States before future military actions, he said."

The message is clear. The Israeli government has gotten a green light from the White House to pursue the war against the Palestinians and other Arab peoples.

## Draft boards return

Do you feel a draft coming on? The reason may be that the Selective Service System is breathing down your neck.

The Cleveland *Plain Dealer* reported August 10 that "officials of the federal agency are calling on local citizens to serve on standby boards to weigh claims for exemption, and draft eligible men in the event of a national emergency."

The acting head of the Selective Service System in Ohio told the *Plain Dealer* that eleven draft boards will be established in the Cleveland area.

Step by step, the machinery which dragged hundreds of thousands of young men into the Vietnam war is being set into motion.

## Palestinian's case: right to asylum

By Michael Smith

In collaboration with the FBI and the Israeli secret political police, the Reagan administration is trying to gut the law that shelters political refugees. It hopes to set a precedent by deporting Ziad Abu Eain, a 21-year-old West Bank Palestinian who was visiting his sister in Chicago when the FBI knocked on the door.

Since then he has been in a Chicago jail. August 21 will mark his second year of imprisonment. The newly formed American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) is organizing political and legal support for Ziad, whose case goes to the Supreme Court this fall.

Demonstrations are scheduled to occur August 21, in Detroit, Chicago, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. Among those participating will be Rev.

Ben Chavis (Honorary Chairman), Ramsey Clark (one of Ziad's lawyers), David Dellinger, and representatives from the National Lawyers Guild and the National Conference of Black Lawyers.

Ziad is charged by Israeli authorities with setting a bomb in Tiberias that killed two and wounded thirty-six.

Ziad claims that he was four hours away in Ramallah at the time, minding his family's store. Thirteen affidavits by Arab friends and relatives supporting his story have been ignored by the U.S. courts.

The courts also found that the Tiberias bombing—allegedly carried out by the PLO during Israel's four-month bombing campaign in southern Lebanon—was not a political act but a common crime.

Also deemed irrelevant was a retrac-

tion by Jamal Yasin of his confession, which was used to finger Ziad. Yasin was interrogated by Israeli police for days without a lawyer and later signed a confession in Hebrew, a language he neither reads nor understands.

Ziad was once convicted in 1977 in Israel for writing slogans on walls and being a member of an undesirable political organization.

If the Supreme Court turns down Ziad's plea, Secretary of State Alexander Haig will have to decide whether to grant extradition. Seventeen Arab ambassadors have warned Haig that a decision to extradite Ziad would add to the "profound sense of injustice" at the heart of the Mideast problem.

For more information on the case of Ziad Abu Eain, contact: ADC, 1611 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, (202) 797-7662.



# Castro accuses U.S. of germ warfare



Part of crowd in Las Tunas, Cuba, as Fidel Castro details long history of U.S. use of biological warfare.

By Arnold Weissberg

**LAS TUNAS**—In his annual July 26 speech, marking the twenty-eighth anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks that launched the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro accused the U.S. government of waging biological warfare against Cuba.

Castro was referring to the current epidemic of dengue fever. As of July 24, the virus had afflicted nearly 275,000 Cubans and killed 113, including eighty-one children.

The outbreak began in late May in Havana and quickly spread across the island. The epidemic is a new type of dengue which had never appeared before in Cuba.

Castro noted that in the last two years, Cuba had been victim of African swine fever, sugar cane rust, and tobacco blue mold, and that many Cubans believed these plagues had been introduced by the CIA.

A large part of the Cuban leader's

speech was devoted to the history of U.S. biological and chemical warfare efforts, as documented in reports from the U.S. Senate and other sources not noted for their identification with the Cuban revolution.

A 1969 report, for example, noted that the government had spent \$175 million on chemical and biological warfare research that year alone.

An earlier Senate report listed some of the biological weapons in the U.S. arsenal. These included bacteria, viruses, fungi, and toxins—agents for causing anthrax, dysentery, cholera, diphtheria, typhus, yellow fever, dengue, and botulism. Also in the arsenal were animal afflictions such as brucellosis, aftosa, porcine cholera, African swine fever; and insects and bacteria for use in attacking plants.

Castro also referred to U.S. press reports describing operations at Fort Detrick, Maryland, the center of U.S. chemical and biological warfare re-

search. The U.S. Department of the Army revealed in 1959 that the Bacteriological Warfare Center carried out experiments in Florida with the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito, which carries both yellow fever and dengue. The experiment involved releasing a swarm of 600,000 mosquitos and tracking them.

Castro also referred to press reports of plans to launch a yellow fever attack against the Soviet Union in 1956, using *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitos bred at Fort Detrick.

## 'Operation Mongoose'

CIA-directed operations against Cuba, including the failed 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, are common knowledge worldwide. Castro made special mention in his speech to "Operation Mongoose," a giant undertaking launched by President John F. Kennedy at the beginning of 1962, the goal of which was the overthrow of Cuba's revolutionary government. Among the tasks approved for Mongoose was the use of chemical warfare to temporarily incapacitate sugar workers during the harvest. Sabotage teams landed in Cuba during 1962 as part of this operation, with the goal of destroying the sugar harvest by fire and the use of chemicals.

"These are not inventions," Castro said, "they are confessions by the United States Senate."

He then described more recent developments:

"In the last few days a counterrevolutionary group infiltrated around Matanzas. They disembarked on July 4. Three were captured around dawn on the fifth, and the rest were captured July 9. Their assignment: to organize an attack on the leaders of the revolution, in this case specifically against me, during the rally here today, working with other groups infiltrated after they were; and, also, sabotage and so on. They confessed everything quickly, like all the mercenaries always do. It was published in our press. The U.S. government hasn't said a word, but we know how the CIA works and how it utilizes these types directly and indirectly. . . .

"You all know how they send men who have been trained and armed in the United States to attack leaders of another government, as they admit. We know about the public press conferences

where they announce landings by mercenary commandos to attack leaders of the revolution. But the U.S. government says not a single word, does absolutely nothing, maintaining an ominous silence.

## Intensified blockade

"The imperialists aren't only carrying out these activities and tolerating them, but they are also intensifying the economic blockade against our country. In the economic field, their attitude is no less aggressive. The U.S. authorities have used all their influence to block the sale of our nickel to capitalist countries. . . .

"In addition to all these activities, they are organizing military maneuvers aimed at Cuba and they are planning landing exercises at the Yankee naval base at Guantánamo, the part of our territory that is illegally occupied. They openly threaten us with naval blockades and aggressions.

"What is strange, then, about the idea that imperialism would use biological weapons against Cuba? What else can we expect from a government whose policies are characterized by cynicism, lies, and absolute lack of scruples?

"We share the conviction of our people, and we are deeply suspicious that the plagues that our country has suffered, especially hemorrhagic dengue, could have been introduced into Cuba by the CIA."

Castro demanded that the U.S. government specifically disavow such methods, especially in light of its recent threats against Cuba.

"The new administration in Washington hasn't said a single word about the methods the CIA will use. We call on the government of the United States to define its policy in this sphere, to tell us whether or not the CIA will again be authorized or not, or whether it is already being authorized, to organize attacks on the leaders of the revolution and to utilize plagues against our crops, our animals, and our people. They can't be so cynical or play innocent and keep quiet on a subject so serious and essential."

Castro also nailed the Reagan administration for its cruel and cynical efforts to prevent Cuba from obtaining insecti-

*Continued on next page*

## 'It's always July 26' in Las Tunas

By Arnold Weissberg

**LAS TUNAS**—Each year, Cuba holds its July 26 celebration in a different city. The city is determined by a national competition in the economic and political tasks of the country.

This year, the celebration took place in the city of Las Tunas, capital of Las Tunas Province. The town has a population of around 50,000, and the province about 400,000.

Las Tunas symbolizes the gains of the Cuban revolution. Before 1959, it was a sleepy market town surrounded by an underdeveloped agricultural region, like much of the rest of the eastern end of the island.

But Las Tunas has been completely transformed. Among its most recent gains is a giant glass factory, capable of turning out 100,000 tons of glass and 300 million bottles a year and employing 1,200 workers. It is the most modern such plant in the Western Hemisphere.

Another important industrial plant turns out big structural metal pieces, such as girders and beams. It is referred to locally as the "factory of factories."

Perhaps the most impressive thing

about Las Tunas is the new health complex, which includes the 600-bed Dr. Ernesto Guevara Hospital, an old-age retirement home, a children's hospital, a psychiatric hospital, and a medical sciences polytechnic institute. Under construction is a medical school.

The province as a whole has eight hospitals, seventeen polyclinics, six homes for expectant mothers, six dental clinics, seven rural first aid stations, ninety-seven Red Cross stations, five homes for the elderly, and a home for the handicapped. There are 1,290 hospital beds, 317 doctors, sixty-eight dentists, 265 nurses, and 517 nurses' aides.

Before the revolution, the municipality of Las Tunas had a total of 330 hospital beds, of which half were in private clinics, and a grand total of fifty-eight doctors and twenty-two nurses.

Similar strides have been made in education. In 1958, the municipality of Las Tunas had 200 teachers; now the province has 9,872. There are 869 elementary schools, forty-six junior high schools, seven high schools, ten polytechnic institutes, three economics institutes, a teacher training

school, three trade schools, four language schools, and a university branch.

All the medical and educational facilities, of course, are completely free.

The main product of Las Tunas is sugar, and it produces about 9 percent of Cuba's total. One of the country's largest sugar mills is located in the province.

The 1980-81 sugar harvest was extremely successful, surpassing the 1952 harvest—capitalism's best year—by 26.4 percent. Yet manual harvesting was down 55 percent from that year—testimony to Cuba's ability to raise productivity and the technological level of its economy.

The city of Las Tunas itself has been transformed, with the construction of parks, housing, new theaters, roads. A visitor familiar with sleepy, dusty market towns clumped around a plaza can still pick out the old city, but you have to look closely, for the old has been overwhelmed by the new.

Intensely proud of its progress and of the honor of hosting July 26, the people of Las Tunas went all out for the event. The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution—which are

organized on a block-by-block basis and have half the province's population as members—led a vast campaign of cleaning and painting, which went on right up to the last minute.

Posters, billboards, Cuban flags, and the red and black flags of the July 26 Movement hung from every house, every store, every building.

The entire city partied the night of July 25, and one block, which had been particularly successful in carrying out its tasks, won the presence of a live band from the Ministry of Culture.

A group of foreign journalists visiting the city were greeted as honored guests and seated at tables in the middle of the street, while food, rum, and beer were pressed on them.

Young people—and some not so young people—danced and danced to the Afro-Cuban rhythms.

Fidel's speech was scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. July 26, but the plaza at the health complex filled up hours before. Precisely at 6 o'clock Fidel appeared, the 100,000 people in the plaza stood and cheered, and July 26 in Las Tunas where, they say, "it is always July 26," began.



## Exile leaders plot behind closed doors

By Steve Bride

In a series of back-room meetings, Washington has begun pulling together what it hopes will become a united, armed opposition to the present governments of Kampuchea, Laos, and Vietnam.

The private gatherings were held in New York and Washington during a July 13-17 United Nations conference on Kampuchea.

They are seen as a step toward making good on an earlier threat by State Department official John Holdridge in Peking to "find ways to increase the political, economic and, yes, military pressures on Vietnam, working with others."

At the closed-door sessions, these "others" included:

- Officials of the former Kampuchean government of Pol Pot, which was ousted in 1979 by Vietnamese troops and Kampuchean insurgents;
- Premiers of three previous, U.S.-installed governments in Cambodia and Laos, including Laotian ex-premier Phoumi Nosavan;
- Vang Pao, a general who once led a mercenary army for the CIA in Laos;
- A defector from the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) of Vietnam, which tossed out the U.S.-backed regime in Saigon in 1975.

### UN conference

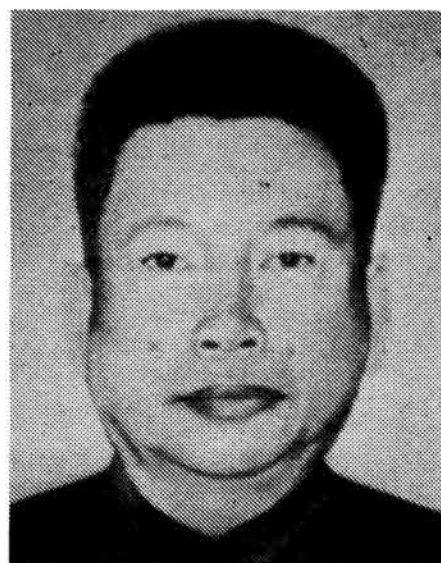
All had come to New York to attend the UN conference, which was billed as an attempt to seek a "political settlement" of the situation in Kampuchea. In fact, it was an attempt to put the seal of approval on Washington's efforts to destabilize the Heng Samrin government in Kampuchea and assure continued UN endorsement of Pol Pot's forces as representative of that country.

It was also a useful pretext for getting the above-named individuals together in the same room.

Otherwise, the five days of the public speeches and debate at the UN were notable only for three things.

First, delegates from the eighty-or-so countries attending agreed on getting the Vietnamese out of Kampuchea, but little else. Most wanted to keep their distance from the former Pol Pot government, which is known to have disposed of roughly 40 percent of the Kampuchean population.

Second, the fact that three principals in the debate—Kampuchea, Vietnam,



Among those at private gatherings in New York and Washington were, from left, former general Vang Pao, who once led a mercenary army for the CIA in Laos; and Ieng Sary, deputy premier in deposed government of Pol Pot (far right), which slaughtered an estimated three million Kampucheans.

and the Soviet Union—boycotted the proceedings altogether. This, said the London *Economist*, turned the five-day conference into "the sound . . . of one hand slapping."

Third was the growing convergence between the U.S. and the Peking regime as the two main supporters of the deposed Pol Pot forces, and of increased sanctions against Vietnam.

### Peking trains exiles

Peking's role as another of the "others" with whom the U.S. intends to work was also evident during the private meetings of exiles convened by Washington.

Former PRG minister Truong Nhu Tang, who defected in 1979, told the *Far Eastern Economic Review* that Radio Peking broadcasted appeals by him urging Vietnamese to rise up against their government.

The overthrow of the Hanoi government, Tang said, was a prerequisite to peace and prosperity in the whole of Indochina.

Both Tang and Sisoukna Champasak, an ex-minister in a right-wing Laotian government, said the Chinese regime now operates military training centers along the Laotian and Vietnamese borders for right-wing opponents of those regimes. Thai advisers are also said to be involved in the training.

In addition, they told the *Review*, China was funneling arms through northern Kampuchea to Fulro, a tribal group organized by the French during their oc-

cupation of Vietnam and later sustained by Washington.

According to the *Review*, all the exiles interviewed by them believed Washington and Peking "will now join hands, tacitly if not openly . . . to give political and military support to what amounts to a pan-Indochinese resistance movement."

Assessing the chances of such a movement, however, the *Review* noted that "rightwing resistance has been sputtering in Laos for the past five years without seriously affecting the Pathet Lao regime." Similar efforts in Vietnam and Kampuchea, it added, have not "so far resulted in any great strain on either regime."

### Report from Kampuchea

Indeed, recent eyewitness reports in the *Washington Post* contain some revealing admissions regarding the situation in Kampuchea.

"The bountiful markets and generally healthy-looking people of Cambodia," said correspondent William Branigin

August 11, "testify that the famine that plagued this country in 1979 is now little more than a painful memory."

The severe economic difficulties that remain, Branigin continues, stem in part from "the failure of two United Nations agencies to deliver vital rice seed and fuel on time. . . ." These difficulties, he adds, will be aggravated by the scheduled end of UN emergency relief aid in December.

Perhaps even more surprising (in an article that is generally hostile to the Vietnamese presence in Kampuchea) is Branigin's report in the August 10 *Post* that "Western aid officials agreed, the overriding feeling here toward Vietnam is one of gratitude for ending the horrors of the [Pol Pot-led] Khmer Rouge."

And Branigin himself concludes, ". . . it is apparent after 2½ years of occupation that the Vietnamese did Cambodians a favor by ousting the Khmer Rouge government. . . . During a week-long visit to Cambodia, there was no sign of any great animosity toward the Vietnamese troops in areas under their control."

## ...Castro hits U.S.

Continued from preceding page

cides needed to fight the deadly plague of dengue fever.

### Insecticide blocked

"The Yankee blockade interfered with our efforts to get hold of the various products we needed to combat the epidemic. Our first efforts to buy malathion were made in Mexico, with the firm Lucaba, owned by Mexican and U.S. interests. When they found out it was for us, they refused to sell it. Later, learning of the willingness of the Bayer company to sell to us, we entered into negotiations with them to buy twenty tons. Bayer had to get agreement from Lucaba, because the Bayer product had some Lucaba components. Lucaba refused. This was in the most difficult moment, at the beginning, when we didn't have the chemical products we needed to fight the explosive epidemic facing us.

"Following Lucaba's refusal, we asked for help from the Mexican government in purchasing the products on the Mexican market. Through these efforts we were able to buy thirty tons of lucathion, Bayer's equivalent of malathion, and it was shipped here by air.

"We had to bring malathion from Eu-

rope, by plane, at a cost of \$5,000 per ton for transportation only, three-and-a-half times what the malathion costs.

"We made efforts to get larvicides from the U.S. through the Pan-American Health Office, in agreement with the international norms in cases like this one, and even though the response was not negative, we still have not received a single ton from them."

Cuba had undertaken a vast effort to eradicate dengue already, Castro explained. He described a nearly 43-million peso program aimed at wiping it out, which included a huge mobilization of Cuba's health workers and a nationwide program of spraying and drainage to deny the mosquitos their breeding spots.

### 'We will eradicate it!'

"We propose, in a word, to eradicate the disease, and, if it's possible, exterminate every single *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito," Castro declared.

"We have confronted swine fever, blue mold, and cane rust, and we have eradicated them! Now we face hemorrhagic dengue, and we will eradicate it!" Castro said to cheers and applause.

From Intercontinental Press

## Socialists hit assassination of Vietnamese in S.F.

Lam Trong Duong, a twenty-five-year-old Vietnamese who had lived in this country since 1971, was murdered in San Francisco July 21. A right-wing Vietnamese exile organization took credit for the assassination, accusing Duong of seeking "to bolster the image of the hated VN communist regime and to incite the Vietnamese community in the United States to revolt against laws and orders."

Duong came to the United States from Vietnam in 1971. He graduated from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. In San Francisco, he headed the Vietnamese Youth Development Center, a refugee counseling center, until eighteen months ago when he left to become a full-time community organizer.

He was outspoken in his opposition to the U.S. war in Indochina, and in his sympathy for the Vietnamese revolution.

Although there were more than fifty witnesses to the murder, police have yet to come up with a suspect.

Meeting in Oberlin, Ohio, August 5, the convention of the Socialist Workers Party added its voice to those denouncing the murder of Duong. The following resolution was adopted:

The more than 1,300 delegates and observers at the convention of the Socialist Workers Party express our sorrow and outrage at the murder of Lam

Trong Duong. Duong was assassinated for expressing his support to Vietnam and his opposition to U.S. policy in Indochina.

A terrorist group calling itself the Anti-Communist Viets Organization has taken responsibility for the murder.

The murder of Duong follows the attempted assassination by firebombing of a Vietnamese educator at Harvard University. This act, too, was perpetrated by right-wing Vietnamese exiles.

These acts of terrorism are similar to those committed by CIA-connected Cuban counterrevolutionary organizations like Omega 7. Omega 7 has murdered Cubans in this country who favored establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba, and in 1980 gunned down a member of Cuba's United Nations delegation.

As in the case of Omega 7, the authorities have shown little interest in finding the murderers of Duong.

While Reagan and Haig declaim against terrorism, the real terrorists bomb and kill with impunity.

The murder of Duong is a threat to the rights of everyone in this country, who dares to question U.S. foreign policy.

The thirty-first national convention of the Socialist Workers Party demands that the San Francisco mayor's office, police department, and the U.S. Justice Department apprehend the murderers of Duong, who was killed for telling the truth.



# THE MILITANT

## Time to build Black party

By Malik Miah

Can the Democratic and Republican parties be reformed to meet the needs of Black Americans?

Should Blacks support at least a few "progressive" and "independent" candidates who run as Democrats or Republicans?

Is it premature to start building an independent Black political party that will begin to run its own candidates?

These are some of the important questions that will be discussed by delegates and observers at the founding congress of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP), August 21-23 in Chicago.

### Purpose of congress

The congress is charged with implementing the decisions made nine months ago by 1,500 activists attending the Philadelphia National Black Political Convention. That convention issued the call to form an independent Black political party. It elected two bodies to lead this process: the National Party Organizing Committee (NPOC) and Charter Review Commission (CRC).

These leadership committees have held four meetings to prepare for the founding congress. They have focused on drafting a charter (a program and structure) and taking positions on important issues of the day. These include supporting the Atlanta mothers in their attempts to expose the racist coverup of the child murders there; and supporting the AFL-CIO Solidarity Day demonstration against Reagan's budget cuts on September 19 in Washington, D.C.

The discussion and debate over the proposed charter will be at the center of the Chicago meeting. Adoption of the charter will point the direction the party will take.

Motion toward independent Black political action is largely due to the effects on Blacks of the growing world cap-



italist economic crisis.

The 1980s are not the 1960s or 1970s. In the 1960s, American capitalism was able to expand jobs and social services. Mass pressure from Blacks won us new rights and opportunities.

Today, we face a different world reality. Government and the employing class are driving toward new Vietnams. The Reagan budget cutbacks are aimed at reversing a half century of gains—from Social Security to food stamps: gains that are life-and-death questions for the Black community.

The attacks are not just against Blacks. The entire working population is taking it on the chin. Reagan's attempts to bust the air controllers union and to build the neutron bomb; to destroy affirmative action programs, busing, abortion rights, and the Equal Rights Amendment—these show what is happening.

As the ruling-class assault intensifies, liberal politicians—Black and

white alike—have shown they have no answer to the Reagan program. They serve the same bankers and industrialists who dominate the Democratic and Republican parties. Thus, they too favor a "balanced budget." This means reducing social services, and urging workers to tighten our belts and pay more for less.

This is the context in which the National Black Independent Political Party's founding congress takes place.

### Historic step

The congress's discussions and decisions are a historic opportunity. Although NBIPP, as the charter says, is still a Black party in formation, it can be the first political break by a section of the American working class from the Democrats and Republicans.

Already, the party's support for the struggles of oppressed peoples around the world (including not only people of color, but the Irish, too), and for full

equality for women (all delegations to the congress must be 50 percent women) place NBIPP far ahead of any previous independent Black political formation.

### Democrats & Republicans

The big challenge before the congress will be resolving its attitude toward the Democratic and Republican parties.

The preamble to the proposed charter, first discussed at the Philadelphia convention, explains the objectives of NBIPP in this way:

"The National Black Independent Political Party aims to obtain power to radically transform the present social-economic order, that is, to achieve self-determination and social and political freedom for the masses of Black people. Therefore, our party will actively oppose racism, imperialism, sexual oppression and capitalist exploitation."

On the Democrats and Republicans, it says: "Both major parties (the Democratic and Republican parties) have betrayed us because their interests essentially conflict with ours. They have consistently used power and government to create policies for Black economic underdevelopment, political exploitation and cultural destruction. Their policies reveal contempt for the interests of Black people, and have existed solely for the maintenance of the existing political and social-economic system."

This analysis calls things by their right names. It clearly presents the basic facts that Black Americans face.

What is left open is whether NBIPP can support "progressive" candidates in the Democratic and Republican parties.

Is this a tactical question? Or is support to Democratic and Republican candidates incompatible with the NBIPP charter's opposition to "racism, imperialism, sexual oppression and capitalist exploitation"?

Many Black activists, including some  
*Continued on page 12*

## Reagan budget: the worst is yet to come

By Nelson Blackstock

The worst is yet to come.

That was Ronald Reagan's message to American workers upon signing into law his new budget August 13.

The budget yanks \$35 billion from programs aimed at meeting human needs. At the same time, it includes a massive increase in military spending.

No sooner were these vicious cuts driven through than Reagan announced he was honing his ax for the next blow.

The reason, he said, was that the projected deficit in the budget turns out to be \$20 billion higher than his original estimate of \$42.5 billion.

At the same time, however, he admitted new cuts had been planned all along. "Remember," he said, "that we always said that there were further cuts for the coming years, for '83 and '84." A White House official said it will be necessary to cut the budget for these years just as deeply as the new 1982 budget has been cut.

A new assault on Social Security is a top priority. "Although the Administration had to abandon its original proposals, including a cutback in benefits for those who retire early," the *New York Times* said, "the notions are expected to re-emerge in different form."

Also being weighed is a proposal to pass welfare costs on to the states. This is a maneuver to virtually eliminate these programs. In many of the states with the greatest number of people in

need of assistance, the labor movement and its allies are in the weakest position to fight to save them. In other states, the massively-increased fiscal burden will be used as a pretext for more social service cuts.

The full force of the current cuts—and the toll they will take in human misery and suffering—will be felt in coming months. The cuts include:

- Food stamps taken away from about a million people, including strikers.

- \$1 billion slashed from the Medicare budget.

- About \$1.5 billion—more than a quarter of that previously allotted—slashed from funds for child nutrition. Some school lunch programs will close. In others, prices will double.

- Some 20-25 percent knocked off funding for elementary and high school education.

- More than 300,000 public service workers will be thrown out of their jobs by cuts in the CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) program. They will not be eligible for unemployment benefits.

- \$12 billion slashed from funds for public housing and rent subsidies.

- Reductions of \$1 billion in aid to dependent children.

- A pay cut for federal workers by limiting all raises to 4.8 percent, much less than the rate of inflation.

The budget cuts were sold as part of a

package with a tax cut—supposedly an "across-the-board tax cut." It was a fraud.

The truth of the matter was, as *Business Week* put it, "If you are an executive in the 50% tax bracket or better, the tax bill just passed by Congress was made to order for you."

The *Missouri Teamster* published an analysis of the proposed tax plan, showing that if you make less than \$20,000 your taxes will go up, not drop.

This happens when you add to the modest cuts the raises coming in Social Security taxes and "bracket inflation"—the jump in taxes in relation to any rise in income. On the other hand, if you earn \$200,000, you will save \$19,427 in taxes.

Put another way, the *AFL-CIO News* calculated that about a third of the entire tax cut will go to people earning over \$50,000—about 6 percent of all taxpayers. As the cuts are structured, they will get \$55 billion by 1984. The cuts in the current budget for 1982 come to just over \$35 billion.

These figures tell the story. Billions are being taken from those who most need it and turned over to the rich.

These figures do not even include another \$55.8 billion to be turned over to big business by 1984 through so-called depreciation allowances—give-aways for new plants and equipment. Nor do they include such goodies as \$11.8 billion in tax breaks for the oil industry.

The theory is that if the rich get all this money they will invest it and get the economy rolling.

If people on the bottom of the economic ladder got it, on the other hand, they would just waste it on food, clothing, and housing. It's sometimes called "supply-side economics" today. It used to be called the trickle-down theory.

Meanwhile, in another assault on those least able to afford it, the Reagan administration announced August 12 it will be reviewing a series of federal guidelines concerning civil rights, aid to the handicapped, and the environment.

Among the guidelines under review are those that:

- Require educational facilities to make provisions for the handicapped.
- Provide affirmative action job protection for Blacks, women, and Latinos.
- Provide protection against sexual harassment on the job.
- Require manufacturers to test and register pesticides.
- Protect wildlife.

