

Reagan's Mideast 'peace' plan: a prescription for new wars



Israeli soldier in occupied West Bank. Washington and Israel's denial of Palestinians' right to regain their homeland assures that new wars will erupt in Middle East.



BY ERNEST HARSCH

While the rubble of West Beirut is still smoldering and tens of thousands of Israeli troops continue to occupy much of Lebanon, the Reagan administration is preparing to launch a new political offensive in the Middle East.

As outlined by President Reagan in a nationally televised speech September 1, this offensive is being launched in the guise of a new Middle East "peace plan".

Its real aim is to strike further blows against the Arab world, and in particular against the heroic Palestinian people.

The basic thrust of Reagan's proposal is to induce some of the more proimperialist Arab regimes to collaborate with the Zionist state, by concluding formal treaties with it and further betraying the Palestinian liberation struggle — as the Egyptian regime did in the Camp David accords of 1978.

In exchange, Reagan offered a few crumbs to the Palestinians: the establishment of a vaguely defined form of political "autonomy" within the Israeli-occupied West Bank, under the supervision of the Jordanian regime.

The same basic proposals were put forward in the original Camp David accords. But those were only partially successful in attaining the U.S. and Israeli aims. Only the Egyptian regime went along with them.

Now, in the wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the withdrawal of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) from West Beirut, the U.S. imperialists see a new opening to try to advance this strategy.

Denial of Palestinian rights

The fundamental basis of Reagan's plan is the unambiguous denial of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Reagan talked vaguely in his speech of the "yearning of the Palestinian people for a just solution of their claims" and of "the legitimate rights of the Palestinians."

But in White House doublespeak, all this means is his "autonomy" proposal. It does *not* mean the Palestinian's right to self-determination, that is, the right to regain their homeland.

Reagan was quite explicit on this. He demanded that the Palestinian people and the Arab regimes "accept the reality of Israel."

"The state of Israel is an accomplished fact," Reagan asserted, "it deserves unchallenged legitimacy within the community of nations."

As far as the Palestinian and other Arab peoples are concerned, there is nothing legitimate about the racist Zionist state — a state that is founded on the expropriation of Palestinian land and the expulsion of much of the Palestinian population.

Reagan made it clear that he was equally opposed to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on part of their territory now occupied by Israel.

He insisted that "the United States will not support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza."

Despite his proposals for "autonomy," Reagan warned, "make no mistake, the

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Major bombing raid inside Nicaragua carried out by U.S.-backed terrorists

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

NORTHERN ZELAYA PROVINCE, Nicaragua — A small wooden cross marks the spot where Donald Espinoza was gunned down.

Bits of his incinerated clothing can still be seen on the ground near the dynamited rubble that was once a rural health clinic.

A day after the attack, a piece of earth-moving equipment still smolders in flames.

Espinoza, a member of the Sandinista Defense Committee and an employee of the Ministry of Construction Heavy Equipment Depot near the remote village of Rio Iyás, is the most recent victim of U.S. imperialism's undeclared war against Nicaragua.

Espinoza was murdered just after midnight on August 30 as he tried to sound the alarm siren. Seventy counter-revolutionaries, part of the army Washington is using to turn this area into a battlefield against the Nicaraguan revolution, had entered the depot with powerful explosives.

Their aim was to blow up road construction equipment being used to build what will be the first road connecting Nicaragua's Pacific and Atlantic coasts.

After killing Espinoza, the counter-revolutionaries went about their work with ruthless efficiency.

More than 30 heavy construction vehicles were destroyed with charges of M-60 plastic explosives — a type known to be supplied by the CIA.

Bits and pieces of engine parts lay everywhere — scattered amidst the blackened hulks of tractors, front-end loaders, bulldozers, dump trucks, and fuel vehicles. The explosions that destroyed them were so powerful that they were heard in Waslala, 30 kilometers away.

Initial estimates of the damage were

set at \$1.2 million in road equipment and tens of thousands of dollars for the clinic and medical supplies.

Had it not been for the vigilance of the dozen militia members guarding the only bridge across the Iyás River, the destruction would have been even greater. The counterrevolutionaries tried to blow it up too, but were driven back by *milicianos* guarding the 200-foot structure.

Following the attack, the counterrevolutionaries headed back toward the Honduran border, 80 kilometers to the north. There 5,000 ex-members of ousted dictator Anastasio Somoza's National Guard, mercenaries, and other opponents of the Nicaraguan revolution are

based in 17 camps where they are armed, trained, and paid by the U.S. government.

A mammoth engineering and construction project was Washington's target here. It is the 420-kilometer road being built from Matagalpa in the west all the way across the interior to Puerto Cabezas on the Atlantic Coast, at a cost of millions of dollars.

The revolutionary Sandinista government has made establishing this first overland link with the Atlantic Coast a high priority. With the aid of Cuban engineers and Soviet material assistance, an all-weather road has already been cut through half of the rugged terrain separating the two halves of Nicaragua. Plans

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Iowa Beef strikers seek labor solidarity

BY MICHAEL CARPER

DAKOTA CITY — While the warlike atmosphere at the Iowa Beef Processors Plant (IBP) here has calmed since the removal of the National Guard and state troopers, the fight of striking workers for a decent contract continues.

Local 222 of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) was forced out on strike by IBP in June at the corporation's Dakota City, Nebraska, plant. The union had refused to accept a four-year wage freeze.

When the company decided to reopen the plant with scab labor in July, it turned to the state government for help. One hundred state police used tear gas, mace, and clubs against the picketing workers. Dozens were arrested. And on July 27, Governor Charles Thone called out two units of the National Guard, complete with armored vehicles, for use against the strikers.

When the *Militant* visited the UFCW

picket line recently, the strikers were quietly staffing their posts.

Perry, a Black man who has worked at the plant for 14 years and has experienced three strikes, told the *Militant* some of what has been taking place inside the plant since it reopened with scab labor July 27.

"I've talked to some of the people in there and it ain't good. They're slaughtering maybe 160 or so cattle per hour in there. That's nothing like the 350 per hour we were doing. They don't have any skilled people in there."

Dangerous work conditions

As an ambulance pulled away from the plant gate two picketers removed their hats. "We always tip our hats," one of them explained. "They're having a lot of accidents in there; they don't get reported because those people don't have a union to protect them. They just get sent home and it's their tough luck."

The IBP plant has a long history of human suffering. Picketers told stories that never reached the capitalist press of accidents in which people have been seriously injured or killed.

As a result of one accident, a young Latino had to have both legs amputated after getting caught in a ground-beef blender. He died five weeks later. Some workers have charged that 18-year-old René Muñoz died because adequate safety instructions were not given.

The same charge has been made in the death of Juan Hernández Castro, who died at the plant after getting an arm caught in a conveyor belt. Neither Muñoz nor Castro understood English well enough to read the instructions given them.

Some picketers told the *Militant* that since the scabs began working, the ambulance is seen entering the plant as often as five or six times a day.

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Miners' elections: workers seek new course

BY JOHN HAWKINS

PITTSBURGH—If the recent nationwide round of local nominations meetings in the United Mine Workers (UMWA) is any indication, opposition to the policies of the current union officialdom, headed by President Sam Church, has grown increasingly deep.

From June to August locals in the union's 21 districts met to discuss and nominate candidates for the union's international offices. The UMWA's international elections are scheduled for November 9.

The "Why Not the Best" slate, headed by presidential candidate Richard Trumka, outpolled incumbent Church by a significant margin. Trumka is a member of the union's international executive board from Pennsylvania's District 4.

The final vote tally, compiled by the union's tellers in Washington, D.C., shows Trumka receiving 166 more local nominations than Church — 449 to 283.

Cecil Roberts and John Banovic, Trumka's running mates for union vice-president and international secretary-treasurer, outdistanced their opponents on the Church slate by similar margins.

Roberts is currently vice-president of West Virginia's District 17 and Banovic

is president of Illinois' District 12.

In all, the "Why Not the Best" slate received a majority of nominations in 12 of the union's districts — including the big majority of districts in the union's stronghold, the Appalachian coal fields.

In Pennsylvania, Trumka swept his home District 4 by a 20 – 0 margin. He also won neighboring Districts 5 and 2 by 35 – 2 and 28 – 4 respectively.

In northern West Virginia's District 31, Trumka forces won 47 local nominations while Church took 8. In District 6, which covers Ohio and the West Virginia panhandle, the "Why Not the Best" slate led Church by a 28 – 9 margin.

District 29 in the southern part of the state gave 41 nominations to Trumka as opposed to 34 for Church. And in District 17, the largest in the union, the "Why Not the Best" slate outpolled Church 77 – 21.

Trumka, Roberts, and Banovic also won broad support outside Appalachia. In Illinois the "Why Not the Best" slate carried District 12 by 42 – 17, and in District 22, which covers Utah, Arizona, and part of Wyoming, the Trumka slate received 15 local nominations compared to Church's 3.

Although the results of the nominations meetings are not a totally accurate

barometer of rank-and-file sentiment, they do indicate a combination of things — a growing opposition to Church's policies among union members, and a perception that the opposition holds out some opportunity to pursue a different course.

Like the rest of the working class today, miners are feeling the sting of the capitalist recession and the combined company-government assault on their hard-won rights and living standards.

Disenchantment with Church's policies surfaced during last year's contract strike. Miners reacted angrily to the union president's attempt to sell them the industry's first proposed agreement, which contained significant givebacks.

Since then, the union has confronted a series of increasingly sharp challenges that have drawn little response from the Church officialdom.

Unemployment among union miners, for example, stands at a nationwide rate of 20 percent, with higher rates throughout the Appalachian coal fields. In Ohio 45 percent of the union's membership is out of work. Added to the figures for jobless miners are the growing numbers working short weeks as demand for both metallurgical and steam coal continues to fall.

The energy monopoly has issued a di-

rect challenge to the union through its drive to open nonunion mines right in the center of union coal country. Elks Run in West Virginia's District 17 and Galacia in Illinois (District 12), two big nonunion operations, have received the most attention. But from Utah to Pennsylvania, opening mines nonunion is now becoming the rule.

Government attacks on miners' hard-won rights, initiated by Washington's proposed cuts in black lung benefits last year, have also deepened. New and stricter requirements for receiving the benefits were enacted earlier this year.

Moreover, Washington has begun a process that could lead to a significant weakening of the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1977, with disastrous results for the men and women who labor underground. The 71 miners who have been killed on the job already this year are a stark reminder of the dangerous working conditions that still exist throughout the coal mining industry.

The response of the Church officialdom to these threats to the union's membership has been, at best, feeble protest. In most cases, the response has been stepped-up collaboration with the corporations in order to increase profitability and guarantee "stability" for the industry.

Today miners view Church's performance during the strike and since with special concern.

Most miners are convinced that the bandwagon of industry demands for concessions will eventually arrive at their doorstep — either when the current contract expires in 1984, or before then.

But there is little or no sentiment among miners for giving anything back to the billionaire owners of the mining industry.

And they are correctly convinced that the policies pursued by the Church officialdom lead exactly in the direction they do not want to go.

It is this conviction among rank-and-file miners more than anything else that the results of the UMWA local nominations meetings reflect.

What forces are miners up against today? And how can they prepare to fight back? How does the November 9 election fit into this overall picture? What are the candidates saying and doing on the big issues confronting miners?

These and other questions will be the subject of future articles in the *Militant*.

John Hawkins is a member of UMWA Local 2258 in Waynesburg, Pa.

Marcos cracks down on unions in Philippines

BY FRED MURPHY

In preparing for his mid-September state visit to Washington, Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos has launched a crackdown on trade unionists and other opponents of his repressive rule.

Marcos charged August 8 that "intelligence reports" had revealed "a plan for a nationwide strike, which will be accompanied by nationwide bombings and assassinations." Since then at least 19 labor leaders have been jailed, along with a dozen or more political activists accused of belonging to the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Felixberto Olalia, the 79-year-old leader of the May 1 Movement (KMU), and an aide, Crispin Beltran, were arrested August 13. They have been charged with "inciting sedition and rebellion" and confined to a military stockade.

The KMU is a coalition of unions with some half a million members; it has been in the forefront of numerous recent strikes for wage increases and against layoffs and plant closures.

Besides the KMU's offices, other union headquarters raided August 13 were those of the National Federation of Labor, the Philippine Alliance of Nationalist Labor Organizations, and the Association of Democratic Labor Organizations.

On September 1, Bonifacio Tupaz, general secretary of the Trade Union of the Philippines, was arrested along with 22 other union leaders. Seventeen of these, including Tupaz, were held in jail.

On August 28 the regime announced the arrest of Isagani Serrano, whom the authorities claimed was a member of the

CPP Central Committee in charge of "mass action."

In addition to the jailings, Marcos has launched a broader campaign to intimidate those who might seek to protest during his absence from the Philippines. A special unit of 1,000 cops was mobilized in Manila, the Philippine capital, in early August. The *New York Times* claimed August 29 that "it took only a week" for this outfit to "clean up the streets."

"After the police killed a reported 45 holdup suspects in the first eight days," the *Times* continued, "Mr. Marcos ordered half of the men to wear uniforms and to kill only when absolutely necessary. Many of the hardcore robbers, he charged, were also subversives."

Marcos then had the gall to declare, "We wish to reassure everyone that the constitutional process and the human rights of every citizen will be protected by the government and by the president."

The Marcos regime faces rising opposition from the people of the Philippines. Workers have held big strikes and street demonstrations. Farmers and rural laborers participate in growing numbers in a guerrilla struggle waged by the CPP-led New People's Army (NPA). Students, intellectuals, lawyers, journalists, and sectors of the Catholic church have also mobilized against the dictatorship.

In launching the current crackdown, Marcos aims to prevent protests during his U.S. visit and to demonstrate to the Reagan administration that his regime needs stepped-up U.S. economic and military aid. This will surely be a central topic of discussion when Reagan welcomes the tyrant to the White House on September 16.

Eight members of Congress have issued a statement opposing the Marcos state visit. Their statement, issued September 1, said Marcos's visit "should distress all those concerned with struggling for a foreign policy which truly serves the interests of peace, justice, and human rights." Signers included Representatives Ronald Dellums of California and Thomas Harkin of Iowa.

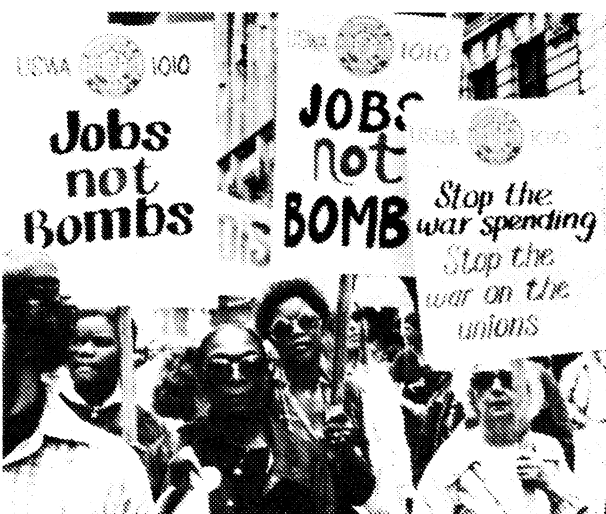
A wide array of Filipino organizations and U.S. human-rights and political groups are planning a different kind of welcome for the dictator than Reagan's. The National Committee to Oppose the Marcos State Visit will hold a national day of protest on September 16, with the main focus being a rally at the Ellipse behind the White House in Washington. The rally begins at 11 a.m. Similar rallies are planned for Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle.

Roving picket lines are being organized to follow the dictator throughout his visit.

In New York, a rally will be held September 20 at the United Nations, First Avenue and 43rd Street, beginning at 9 a.m. A teach-in on the Philippines will be held at the Community Church of New York, 40 East 35th Street, at 6 p.m. on September 18.

The protests will demand a halt to U.S. support for the Marcos dictatorship, as well as calling on the Senate to reject ratification of a U.S.-Philippines treaty authorizing the extradition from this country of Filipinos accused of political crimes by the Marcos dictatorship.

For further information, contact the National Committee to Oppose the Marcos State Visit, c/o Congress Task Force, 1322 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Telephone (202) 223-5611.



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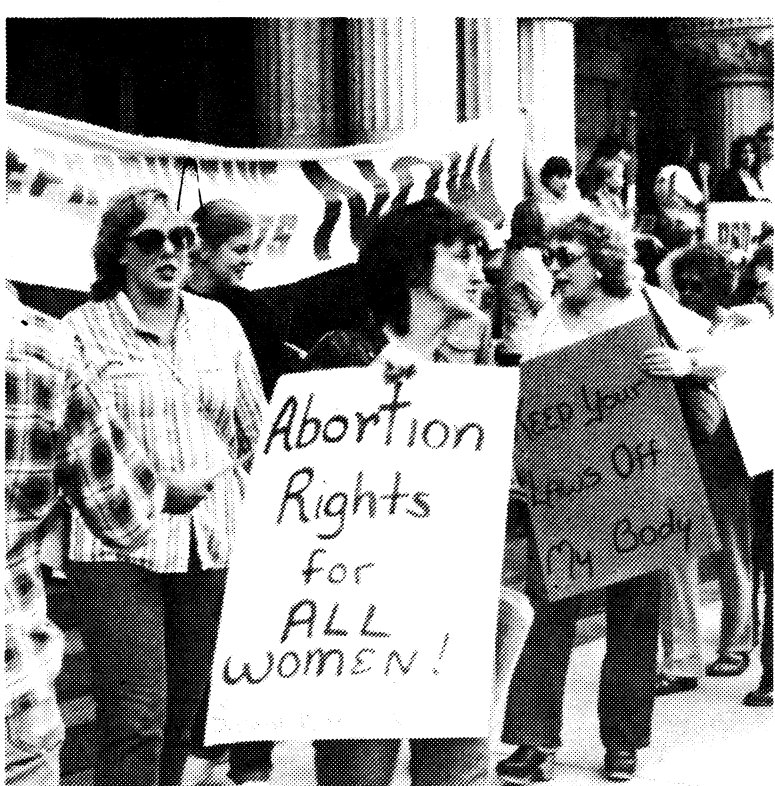
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Militant/David McDonald

More than 100 people picket Milwaukee's Federal Building on August 26 to protest any restrictions on abortion rights.

BY MARGARET JAYKO

On February 28, 1978, the Akron, Ohio, city council approved one of the most restrictive anti-abortion ordinances in the country. It was immediately challenged in state court by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Akron Center for Reproductive Health, and many of its limitations on the right of women to obtain abortions were struck down.

Four years later, in May of this year, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to rule on the constitutionality of this and two other restrictive anti-abortion laws. These laws pose a fundamental challenge to the 1973 Supreme Court decision that women have a constitutional right to choose abortion. Arguments are due to be heard this winter.

The Reagan administration filed a friend-of-the-court brief at the end of July which gives thinly-veiled support to the Akron bill, which abortion foes have long pointed to as a model for other cities.

The Akron ordinance is the most far-reaching of the abortion laws being reviewed by the Supreme Court. Recognizing this fact, four major medical groups filed a joint brief against the ordinance on August 30. The four are: the American Medical Association; the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; American Academy of Pediatrics; and Nurses Association of the Obstetrical College.

At a news conference announcing their action, Dr. James Breen, president-elect of the obstetricians' and gynecologists' group, explained that the Akron ordinance is "the one we chose to oppose" because it is particularly restrictive and "intolerable."

The provisions of the ordinance include:

- Abortions performed after the first three months of pregnancy must be performed in a hospital.

The brief against the ordinance points out that abortions performed in properly equipped clinics are as safe as those performed in hospitals, at least until the 16th week of pregnancy. The hospitalization requirement, the brief said, "interferes significantly with a woman's ability to exercise her constitutional right to decide whether or not to terminate her pregnancy." It cites the expense and burden to women of having to be hospitalized unnecessarily.

- Doctors can be criminally prosecuted for performing an abortion on a girl under the age of 15 without the written consent of a parent or a court order.

This provision is aimed at blocking young women from having abortions, forcing them to bear children whether they want to or not.

In explaining his opposition to the provision, Breen pointed out that while doctors "want to involve the families whenever possible," that "the patient's welfare had to come first." In the case of young women sexually or otherwise physically abused by their parents,

Breen explained, this provision would make it impossible for them to obtain abortions.

- Criminal prosecutions of doctors who do not recite a seven-paragraph statement to the patient, which includes calling the fetus an "unborn child;" telling her that a fetus is "a human life from the moment of conception" and then describing its anatomical characteristics and its "sensitivity" to pain; and telling her that abortion is a "major surgical procedure which can result in serious complications," after which a list of nine dangers follow, including "severe emotional disturbances."

After that ordeal, women are required to wait 24 hours before they can have their abortions.

The brief termed this a serious obstacle to sound medical practice. The doctor would be providing the woman with "in-

accurate, baseless, or irrelevant information that might intimidate and deter her from effectuating her decision to terminate her pregnancy."

The medical practitioners told the court that "most physicians" believed the required information was "demonstrably false."

Abortion is a "remarkably safe surgical procedure," the brief said. The risk of death from an abortion is about the same as that from an injection of penicillin for the treatment of gonorrhea. The risk of death from childbirth is about 10 times as high as the risk of death from an abortion *when they are legal*.

Breen explained that doctors are "completely ignorant" on the subject of alleged fetal sensitivity to pain.

Breen also charged that by forcing doctors, under threat of jail sentences, to read a checklist of "horrors" to the pa-

tients, the Akron law flies in the face of good medical judgment and could severely and needlessly upset patients.

Dr. Breen, who is personally opposed to abortion for religious reasons, told reporters that, "I would refuse to practice medicine if I had to subject my patients to that kind of mental anguish."

He also said that the law would "unconstitutionally interfere" with a woman's right "to consult with her physician freely and privately."

Breen rejected the requirement that women must be told that the fetus may be able to live outside the womb after 22 weeks. He said that this statement is inaccurate, with "no scientific or medical evidence" to support it.

- The ordinance also mandates women under 18 to notify their parents that they are going to have an abortion. Married women must notify their husbands.

Major medical groups ask Supreme Court to overturn abortion curbs

Akron law endangers women's right to choose

A special appeal to our readers

BY CINDY JAQUITH AND DOUG JENNESS

With this issue of the *Militant* we are urging our readers to join us in the most ambitious fund drive in our history.

Last month, at the Socialist Activists and Educational Conference sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance in Ohio, we launched a \$250,000 Socialist Publications Fund. A major purpose of this fund is to aid in the continued publication of the *Militant*, and our Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*.

The fund will also help defray the ex-

Cindy Jaquith and Doug Jenness are the editors of the *Militant*.

penses of producing *Intercontinental Press*, the international news magazine.

All of our publications are faced with skyrocketing printing, postage, and shipping costs — part of the deepening capitalist economic crisis.

The *Militant* has taken several measures this past year to adjust to the economic situation. We have reduced the size of the paper to 20 pages and have run some 16-page issues. We have also reduced our staff size.

Perspectiva Mundial and *Intercontinental Press* have taken similar steps.

These adjustments have made a big difference financially, but increased inflation continues to stretch our limited resources. Faced with this, all three publications were confronting the possibility of additional deep cuts.

But further cutbacks, while they might make sense from a financial point of view, contradict the political reality in this country, which shows increased hunger on the part of working people for socialist literature.

The *Militant* has always received its financial support from the working people who distribute the paper and

have confidence in what it says each week.

That confidence stems from knowing you are getting fresh and honest reports from the front lines of the class struggle on a weekly basis. And in-depth articles that explain and clarify how to advance the fight for socialism.

Recent issues of the *Militant* have championed the heroic struggle of the Palestinian and Lebanese people against U.S.-backed Israeli aggression.

Our readers have grown to rely on the regular, on-the-spot reports from Michael Baumann and Jane Harris in the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* Managua bureau. They get out the truth about the unfolding revolution in Nicaragua, and the attempts by Washington to halt the forward march of the socialist revolution there.

Several issues of the *Militant* have provided eyewitness coverage from Dakota City, Nebraska, where the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 222 is in a strike battle against the Iowa Beef Processors, state troopers, and the National Guard.

We have also carried coverage of the struggle to defend school desegregation in Louisville and Boston against stepped-up government and Ku Klux Klan attacks.

And we have had weekly coverage of the campaign of Mel Mason, the socialist city councilman in Seaside, California, who is running for governor of the state. In the coming weeks we'll follow closely the fight to win ballot status for Mason, as well as providing coverage on Socialist Workers Party candidates who are running for office around the country.

The reports we receive indicate that the response to what the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* says is getting a growing response — from the mines, mills, and garment shops, to the Black

and Latino communities, to the prisons.

At the conference in Ohio where the fund was proposed, people in attendance responded with a giant vote of confidence in our publications, pledging \$221,000 toward the goal of \$250,000.

These pledges came primarily from industrial workers living through the day-to-day problems that the entire working class faces. They see the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* as vital to helping workers learn the truth about U.S. and world politics and gaining a perspective on how to fight back against the employers and their government.

We're sure our readers share this enthusiasm and we urge you to make a contribution now by sending in the coupon below. The fund lasts through December 31.

The total now pledged to the fund is \$225,000. Collected thus far is \$20,800.

Future issues of the *Militant* will report on the progress of the Socialist Publications Fund and also outline plans for expanded distribution of the socialist press this fall.

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Reagan's plan means new wars

Continued from Page 1

United States will oppose any proposal — from any party and at any point in the negotiating process — that threatens the security of Israel. America's commitment to the security of Israel is ironclad and, I might add, so is mine."

Secretary of State George Shultz reiterated this point five days later when he insisted on "a totally demilitarized area throughout the West Bank" under the "autonomy" arrangement.

Camp David revisited

Besides reaffirming Washington's long-standing backing for the aggressive Zionist state, Reagan's plan has another — closely related — aim: winning closer collaboration with Israel from some of the proimperialist Arab regimes, driving further wedges into the anti-Zionist stand of the Arab world, and undermining support for the PLO and the Palestinian people.

Reagan's call for a "freeze" on new Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, his proposals on "autonomy" in the West Bank and Gaza, and his suggestion that these territories may eventually be linked in some way to Jordan, are all designed to draw the Arab regimes into a deal with Israel that betrays the Palestinian liberation struggle.

The foundation of his plan, Reagan pointed out, was the Camp David accords signed between the Egyptian and Israeli regimes in 1978.

Those accords marked the first formal break in the Arab world's stance of opposition to the Zionist state since its creation in 1948. Under tremendous pressure from Washington, the Egyptian regime of Anwar el-Sadat agreed to a separate treaty with Israel, accepting the legitimacy of the colonial-settler state and betraying the Palestinians and the rest of the Arab world as well.

This agreement enabled the Israeli regime to maximize its military pressure on Syria and on the PLO in Lebanon — directly paving the way for the invasion of Lebanon this year.

Although the Camp David accords failed to block the PLO's growing influence and stature around the world, they did constitute an important setback to

the anti-imperialist struggle in the Middle East.

Taking advantage of the "new opportunity" provided by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Reagan now aims to extend this process. In particular, he hopes to draw in the Jordanian, Saudi Arabian, and Lebanese regimes into a new Camp David-type deal.

And just as the original Camp David accords paved the way for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the implementation of Reagan's plan would provide new openings for Washington and the Zionists to launch further aggression against the Palestinian liberation struggle and other revolutionary developments in the Arab world.

Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, upon arriving in Israel for a visit September 1, indicated as much. He told the Israelis that "the great strength of your armed forces is one of the ways in which peace can be brought to this region."

A tiff among friends

Although the U.S. and Israeli regimes agree on this overall approach, the Israeli cabinet has publicly criticized certain aspects of Reagan's plan, particularly his call for a "freeze" on new Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. On September 5 it indicated its determination to push ahead with the settlement campaign by allocating money for three new ones in the West Bank and approving plans for seven more.

There are some tactical differences between Washington and the Israeli re-

gime on this question. A temporary halt in the settlement program would make it easier for Washington to entice the Jordanian or Saudi Arabian regimes into a deal with Israel — and politically easier for them to accept.

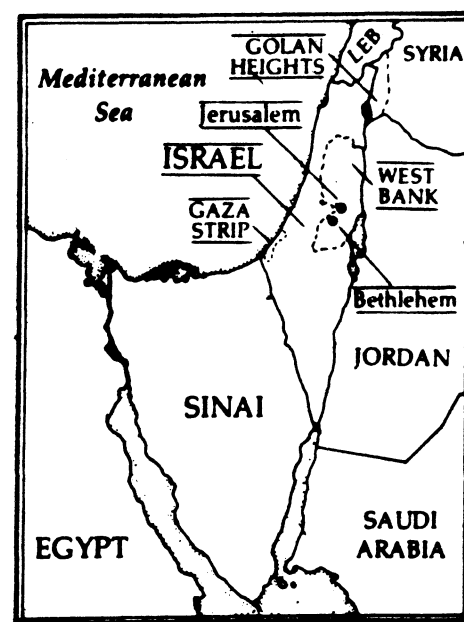
A statement issued by the White House in reaction to the Israeli government's announcement of the new settlements complained, "We cannot understand why at a time when broader participation in the peace process is both critical and possible Israel has elected to extend a pattern of activity which erodes the confidence of all."

But the Israeli authorities know from experience that Washington's supposed opposition to the settlements is largely for show. Eliahu Ben-Elissar, the chairman of the Israeli Parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, pointed out in a September 1 speech, "We were asked during Camp David to agree not to create any settlements anymore, and we did not accept that request. Egypt signed Camp David and the United States signed the Camp David accord knowing very well that we would continue to create settlements."

The proof of Washington's firm support to the Israeli regime is its continued — and massive — financial and military assistance, aid that the White House has made clear it has no intention of curtailing.

U.S. troops

It is also intended as a cover for Washington's own stepped-up military intervention in the region. The dispatch



of 800 U.S. Marines to Beirut under the guise of a "peacekeeping" force is an ominous precedent that Reagan will seek to repeat on a larger scale.

One thing Reagan's plan will not do, however, is bring "peace" to the Middle East. It cannot stifle the aspirations of the Palestinian people, nor prevent working people throughout the region from seeking to throw off the yoke of imperialist domination.

A Palestinian newspaper in Israeli-occupied Jerusalem, *Al Shaab*, provided an answer to Reagan several weeks before he gave his speech.

"Israel and America," it said, "will find themselves daily confronted with the basic truth: a war machine cannot wipe out the hopes or rights of any people. The road to peace in the area begins with the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

Israeli workers fired for antiwar stand

Four members of the Revolutionary Communist League (RCL), the Israeli section of the Fourth International, have been fired from their jobs for speaking out against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. All four are also active in the Committee in Solidarity With Bir Zeit University, a Palestinian college on the Israeli-occupied West Bank that has repeatedly been harassed and closed by occupation authorities.

Runi Ben-Afrat, Irma Bremovitz, and Hanna Zuhar were all fired from their jobs at an electronics factory, while Assaf Adiv was removed from his job in a steel plant. Adiv's brother, Udi Adiv, is a well-known political prisoner in Israel, serving a 20-year prison sentence on charges of membership in an outlawed Palestinian organization.

The political firings have been reported in Hebrew-language newspapers

and magazines as well as in the Palestinian newspaper *Al Fajr*, published in Jerusalem. *Al Fajr*'s English-language weekly devoted the entire back page of its August 13 issue to articles on the firing of the four RCL members.

The three women fired from the electronics plant were charged with demoralizing and inciting their fellow workers. But Runi Ben-Afrat argues that they were fired because they had been getting a better hearing for their antiwar views among fellow workers since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was launched. Through the firings, she noted, management hoped to produce "an atmosphere which dismisses antiwar views as illegitimate."

Assaf Adiv told an *Al Fajr* reporter that as long as most workers in his plant opposed his views, management did not bother him on the job. But he was fired,

he states, because other workers are beginning to change their attitude on the invasion. Workers became more receptive to his views after hearing reports of the war from returning soldiers.

In an interview with the women's magazine *Ha'isha*, Runi Ben-Afrat answered the charge that criticism of government policies amounts to subversion when a person works in a factory engaged in war-related production.

"Almost everything in our country," said Ben-Afrat, "is related to security. Even butter and margarine is used by the army. So because of this, should they dismiss dairy workers if they oppose the policies of the government?"

Assaf Adiv pointed out in *Al Fajr* that political firings are not new in Israel, but that these measures are now being taken against Jewish workers as well as Palestinians.

From Intercontinental Press

Another socialist jailed in Iran

Another member of the Revolutionary Workers Party (HKE) of Iran has been jailed by the regime there. Morid Mirghaed, a young writer and poet, was arrested during the last week of July in the city of Masjed-e Suleiman. He has been held there without charges.

In Tehran, two leaders of the HKE jailed at Evin Prison last March are still being held without charges. Bahram Ali Atai, a member of the HKE's Political Bureau, and Mohammed Bagher Falsafi, publisher of the HKE's weekly newspaper *Kargar*, were both arrested as part of a wave of harassment against *Kargar*.

Efforts are needed to secure the release of Falsafi and Atai by those who support the Iranian revolution and oppose imperialism's attacks against it. Telegrams such as the following should be sent to Hojatolislam Mousavi Tabrizi, Prosecutor General, Islamic Revolutionary Courts, Tehran, Iran. Send copies to *Jomhuri-e Eslami*, Tehran, Iran:

"As a supporter of the Iranian revolution and opponent of the imperialist threats against it, I urge you to release the antishah, anti-imperialist fighters Bahram Ali Atai and Mohammed Bagher Falsafi, who are being held without charges at Evin Prison in Tehran."

Similar messages calling for the release of Morid Mirghaed should be sent to the Islamic Revolutionary Courts, Masjed-e Suleiman, Iran.

You cannot deprive me of the rights and privileges you have, and expect to keep them forever.

JERUSALEM

PALESTINIAN WEEKLY

Publication of AL FAJR Arabic Daily

THE ONLY ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES



Irma Primowitz

Israeli Workers Fired for Supporting Palestinians



Runi Ben-Afrat



Hanna Zuhar

The Events

Translated from *Kol Tel Aviv*

by Sima Eli

The three women workers who were dismissed from their work in the ICI electronics factory because of their political views about the war, did not simply swallow their punishment. The public outcry they made has marked the first crack in the silence

"It makes people rethink the purposes of the war from the beginning. An easy way to prevent workers from thinking, is to isolate us from them by firings or by producing an atmosphere which dismisses anti-war views as illegitimate."

Victims Interviewed

by Shoshana Norman

Translated from *Ha'isha*

What happened to cause young Israeli-Jewish women to turn pro-PLO? We apologise because the question sounds like the banality, What's a nice girl like you doing with views like this?

Runi explains: "It began after the 1967 war. I was a high school student, and I began to oppose

Runi falls silent, hesitates and answers: "The issue of the 'Bloody Road' or the operation in Maalot are not the fault of the PLO, but of the state of Israel. The 'terrorism' by the PLO is self-defence. A people who do not have an army, have no escape. They are forced to use certain methods to defend themselves."

Articles on fired workers from 'Jerusalem,' English-language Palestinian weekly put out by 'Al Fajr.'

Behind Mideast 'peace' proposition

The long campaign to thwart Arab liberation struggle

BY HARRY RING

The drive by the Reagan administration to impose an updated version of the Camp David accords (see story on page 1) is part of a longstanding campaign to ensure continuing U.S. domination of the strategic, oil-rich Middle East.

It expresses Washington's determination to break the back of the Palestinian liberation movement and to thwart the further rise of Arab nationalism.

The demand of the Arab workers and peasants for freedom from imperialist exploitation cannot be met by the current Arab regimes. At the same time, this pressure by the Arab masses gives a basic instability to these governments, and even those most friendly to Washington cannot be regarded as reliable instruments for keeping the Arab peoples in check.

Sole reliable ally

This has left the Zionist state of Israel as imperialism's sole reliable ally in the Mideast.

Implanted there by imperialism, Israel has been the anti-Arab attack dog of the area.

So essential is the Tel Aviv regime to its reactionary schemes that Washington must pour billions into arming Israel and sustaining its otherwise unviable economy. The relationship of interdependence has become such that we now see the Israeli puppet talking back to the puppeteer.

In the "good old days," the colonial powers had no need for proxy forces. They ruled most of the Middle East directly, with their own troops.

It was just a hundred years ago that British colonial troops moved into Egypt. Earlier, in 1875, the British had won control from the French of the strategic Suez Canal, which had been completed in 1869.

But the strongest attraction for the Western powers has been, of course, Mideast oil.

The area enjoys most of the world's known oil reserves. It supplies nearly two-thirds of the oil needs of Western Europe and Japan. While the United States has cut back on its imports in recent years, as of 1980 there were still 4.25 million barrels a day coming in from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), nearly a third of it from Saudi Arabia alone.

Initially, Britain and France were the major profiteers in the area. But with World War II, U.S. capitalism emerged as the world's principal imperialist power, and this was dramatically reflected in the Middle East.

To illustrate: In 1940, Britain controlled an estimated 72 percent of Middle East oil reserves and U.S. companies, less than 10 percent.

By 1967, the British were down to 29 percent, while the U.S. oil giants had cornered nearly 60 percent of the reserves.

But the postwar period also saw a big leap in anti-imperialist consciousness among the bitterly exploited Arab peoples.

Political concessions were unavoidable and formal independence was granted to the major Middle Eastern countries.

Formation of OPEC

Then, in 1960, with the formation of OPEC, the Arab nations began to exercise some control over the price of their product.

And in the 1970s, they took formal ownership of much of their oil reserves.

But this did not change a great deal in their fundamental relations with imperialism.

The major Western oil companies continue to manage — at a fat fee — the oil operations. And they enjoy agreements assuring their share of the product.

Saudi Arabia, for example, took over

Aramco (Arabian American Oil Co. — mainly owned by the Rockefellers), but the operation remains under the same management.

Discussing the impact of the takeover, the chairman of Standard Oil of California — the American part of "Arabian American" — observed that the main result was that "capital investment will be supplied by the Saudis. We are relieved of that responsibility."

While the rulers of the Arab states have received a minor percentage of the enormous wealth taken out by the oil cartels, the great majority of the Arab people remain impoverished.

Only a relative handful are employed in the oilfields. A majority remain dependent on agriculture in an area where little has been done to develop agricultural resources and where there is a desperate shortage of arable land.

'Dangerous processes at work'

Consider the grinding poverty of the Arab masses as opposed to the huge profits extracted by the oil cartels and it becomes plain why the colonial powers — and the Arab rulers — have such a deadly fear of the people.

In 1976, Zbigniew Brzezinski, who later became President Carter's foreign policy adviser, warned, "There are certain dangerous processes at work in the region. . . in particular, the underlying process of the radicalization of the Arab masses."

To stymie that radicalization, the Western capitalist powers have not hesitated to use their own troops, and those of the Israelis, on numerous occasions.

In 1956, when Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal, British and French invasion forces occupied its major cities. Israeli troops, acting in concert, seized Egypt's Gaza Strip.

The international outcry against this naked aggression was so great — particularly in the Arab world and among the British workers — that the invaders were forced to withdraw.

Two years later in 1958, a new wave of Arab nationalism gripped the Middle East. In Iraq, a pro-U.S. monarch was overthrown. Proimperialist governments in Jordan and Lebanon were threatened.

President Dwight Eisenhower dispatched the Marines to Lebanon, while the British sent troops to Jordan.

After that the Israelis became the principal imperialist police force in the Middle East.

In June 1967, Israel launched its infamous war of aggression against the Arab people.

Armed by the Pentagon with the most modern weapons of death, the Israeli blitz quickly vanquished the Arab nations. In the best imperialist tradition, the conquerors seized the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the West Bank of the Jordan River from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria.

Jewish settlers were moved into the occupied areas. All of this stolen territory,



Zionism has meant endless misery for Palestinian people. Some 2 million now live outside their homeland, many in camps such as these. And 1.5 million still in Israel are denied all fundamental rights.

except the Sinai desert, remains in Israeli hands to this day.

Many of the Palestinian refugees so cruelly driven from their homeland in 1948 were encamped in the West Bank. The Israeli government began a systematic campaign to drive them out.

Now, after the forced exit of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) from Beirut, the Palestinian refugees face the threat of further dispersal.

(According to an old, demagogic Zionist argument, the Palestinians want to drive the Jews into the sea. But history is confirming that Israel is determined to drive the Palestinians farther and farther into the desert.)

In October 1973, Egypt and Syria acted to reclaim the territories stolen by Israel in 1967. But again they were overwhelmed by Israeli military superiority.

During that brief war, Nixon put the entire U.S. military machine on alert and later disclosed that he had been ready to bring the world to the nuclear brink if the Israeli position was jeopardized.

U.S. trade unionists demand: Israel get out of Lebanon

In a Labor Day statement, 151 local and regional union officials demanded immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and an end to the U.S. shipment of arms to Israel.

The statement appeared as a half-page ad in the Sunday *New York Times* of September 5.

The position taken by the signators is the direct opposite of a declaration issued by the AFL-CIO top officialdom at the height of the Israeli bombing of Beirut.

In a full-page *New York Times* ad August 15, a statement over the name of

In 1972 and 1973, Israeli commando squads and bombers struck repeatedly at cities in Syria and Lebanon — all justified with the lying claim of combating Palestinian "terrorism."

Before the state of Israel was established on the backs of the Palestinian people, Theodor Herzl, founder of political Zionism, declared that the Zionist forces would prove "the advance post of civilization against barbarism."

The record shows exactly the opposite. But in the long run this imperialist-sponsored barbarism will not prevail.

The incredible resistance of the PLO in the face of the unrelenting bombing of Beirut, the deep and now-indisputable support it enjoys from the Palestinian people — and from the Arab masses as a whole — all this assures there will be a process of regroupment and renewal of the fight for Palestinian liberation on an even more powerful level.

And that in turn can only mean new advances for the Arab revolution as a whole.

the AFL-CIO National Executive Council asserted: "Organized Labor speaks out on Lebanon — The AFL-CIO is not neutral. We support Israel."

The statement by the dissenting unionists declares:

"As trade unionists, we cannot and will not stand for the identification of the trade union movement and workers of this country with Israeli actions in Lebanon."

The statement notes that the Reagan administration is providing Israel with \$7 million a day in weapons of war at a time when vital social services are being slashed and unemployment is the highest in 40 years.

Signers of the ad include current and past officers of the United Auto Workers, Steelworkers, Machinists, Textile, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers and more.

Among these are: Rick Martin, president of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 600, Detroit; James Balanoff, former director of District 31, United Steelworkers, Chicago; Dennis Serrette, past president of the New York chapter of Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Guillermo Molina, president, New York Local 251, United Food and Commercial Workers; Al Belmontez, chair, Coalition to Stop Plant Closures and past president UAW Local 216, South Gate, Calif.

For further reading

How Can the Jews Survive?

A Socialist Answer to Zionism
By George Novack, 22 p., \$.25.

Israel: A Colonial-Settler State?

By Maxime Rodinson, 128 p., \$3.95.

Leon Trotsky on the Jewish Question

By Leon Trotsky, 31 p., \$.95.

Socialists and the Fight Against Anti-Semitism

By Peter Seidman, 31 p., \$.60.

War in the Middle East

The Socialist View
By Dave Frankel, Dick Roberts, and Tony Thomas, 31 p., \$.60.

Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$.75 for postage and handling.



Militant/Salm Kolis

Young Socialist Alliance members Greg Jackson and John Boyd.

The 'Militant' behind prison walls: an interview with 2 socialist fighters

BY SUZANNE HAIG

Greg Jackson and John Boyd heard about the *Militant* when they were prisoners at the Marion Correctional Institute in Marion, Ohio.

Now they are members of the Young Socialist Alliance. They attended the socialist educational conference sponsored by the YSA and Socialist Workers Party in Ohio this summer where they were interviewed by the *Militant*.

Jackson, 24, heard about the *Militant* from a fellow prisoner who had read the paper for a long time. "One day I decided to read the *Militant* and I was so enthused that I asked him for all his back issues so I could read those," Jackson said. "I was so convinced by what I read that I decided to study Karl Marx and Leon Trotsky."

At the prison library, Jackson explained, books about Malcolm X were banned. But they had others such as Trotsky's *History of the Russian Revolution*. Jackson read all three volumes. He was also able to supplement his reading by borrowing books from other inmates.

John Boyd, 26, said that since his early years he was interested in radical politics. "During the late 1960s and early 1970s, I was involved in the Black nationalist movement in Cleveland, which had a profound impression on me."

"I became aware of the *Militant* before seeing it — from Malcolm X's writings. Malcolm suggested that everyone read the *Militant* because it was such a good paper. Some time later, when I got the *Militant* from another prisoner in Marion, I was so interested that I read all the back issues."

Both Jackson and Boyd wrote the *Militant* to receive subscriptions from the *Militant* Prisoners Fund. They also wrote to Pathfinder Press and the YSA for literature and for a subscription to the *Young Socialist*.

The two men began to have political discussions based on articles they read in the *Militant*. They would also cut out articles and put them on the prison bulletin board. Inmates would stop to read them and then ask to read whole issues. Then some people got their own *Militant* subscriptions.

The *Militant* became pretty well known at Marion. "It was a tool we used," Boyd said, "for political discussion. It helped elevate and even create political consciousness among others."

"We had a reputation as militants, communists," Jackson said. "The convicts liked us, but the guards hated us."

'Militant' Prisoner Fund

The 'Militant' special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help out, send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York, 10014.

Boyd added, "With guards there was this racist element. But I didn't care. I still went about putting up the *Militant* and expressing my ideas."

"John and I talked a lot, discussing what is best for the Black man in this country," Jackson said. "We realized that we could not advance politically, socially, or economically within this system. The system had to be changed, so we decided that we would start an organization whose program would advocate breaking with the system and being independent of the Democrats and Republicans."

"We wrote a charter for the organization," Boyd said, "based on the charter of Malcolm X's Organization of Afro-American Unity."

"Just as we were putting the final touches on the charter, guess what?" he laughed. "We found the charter of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) printed in the *Militant*. The charter said everything we said."

The charter was ratified at NBIPP's founding congress in 1981. It advocated Blacks breaking from the Democratic and Republican parties. It declared that NBIPP "aims to attain power to radically transform the present socio-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."

Boyd and Jackson promptly put the NBIPP charter up on the prisoner bulletin board, and they decided they would join the NBIPP.

When Boyd got out of prison in October 1981, he joined the NBIPP and sent literature on the NBIPP to Jackson, who was still at Marion. When Jackson got out in the spring of 1982, he also joined the NBIPP.

Boyd and Jackson had also become aware of the Young Socialist Alliance through the *Militant* at Marion. After they left, they contacted the Cleveland Militant Bookstore and started working with the YSA and Socialist Workers Party.

Boyd, who already considered himself a socialist, decided to join the YSA "based on the fact that capitalism has run its course."

"You can't relate to capitalism because it puts profits before human needs. In studying politics, I learned a lot about the system of politics in this country that is supposed to be serving the people and actually does not. It serves only the establishment and what the establishment tells it to do. The Democrats and Republicans naturally put Mobil and Exxon before our needs."

"Socialism is the only viable alterna-

tive," Jackson said. "Capitalism offers no hope for working people, especially Black people."

"I cannot think of too many things that Black people haven't tried to do to work in the system. The masses of Black people are the same — if not worse — in economic, political, and social degradation. The system must be changed."

Asked about how they saw the relationship between Black liberation and socialism, Jackson explained, "We realized that the struggle for self-determination for Black people is not in contradiction to the fight for socialism. The two struggles can't be separated in the U.S. or around the world, since all the oppressed have the same goals and have to work together."

"The thing about the YSA and SWP is that they don't only talk revolution," Jackson said. "They get involved directly in the political arena, not just giving lip service but getting involved in world struggles."

"This is important," Boyd added, because whatever happens in the Middle East and Caribbean affects the people in the USA. The struggle there is our struggle."

Jackson said he wanted to "appeal to the masses, especially Black people, that not only is it wise for us to break with the capitalist system, but it is imperative that we do so."

Atlanta unionists press fight over firings

BY MICHAEL GILLESPIE

ATLANTA — Under union pressure and mounting public protest, Oxford Chemicals Co. has offered two socialist unionists here cash settlements if they drop grievances against having been illegally fired earlier this summer.

On August 25 company attorney Brent Wilson offered forklift driver Garrett Brown, who was summarily fired from the Chamblee, Georgia, plant on May 24, three-months pay to drop his fight for reinstatement through arbitration.

On August 31 plant manager David Parr proposed paying conveyor-belt operator Maceo Dixon, who was "laid off" July 9 and "recalled" on August 16, two-and-a-half weeks pay to settle his demand for the full five weeks back pay.

Dixon is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Georgia and Brown is chairman of the Socialist Workers 1982 Campaign Committee. Both are active members of Teamsters Local 528.

"When they fired me for alleged 'safety violations' in May, I not only filed a grievance through my union," Brown explained, "but I also filed a discrimination complaint with the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration."

"OSHA investigator Jim Gill interviewed six of my co-workers and union officers and came to the conclusion that I had been fired for my activities opposing safety hazards in the plant and that I should be reinstated."

"Then the company offered me two-months pay and the day after that they

made a 'final offer' of three months pay to drop the grievance," Brown reported.

"Obviously the company is trying to hide something, but we're going to find out just what it is. The union is taking this case all the way."

"Everyone in the plant knew this offer was 'hush money' and an attempt to go behind the back of the union to get rid of my grievance and the union's defense of job safety rights and workers' political rights," Brown concluded.

Dixon said, "The company's proposal to give me half my back pay proves I was not 'laid off' but was actually fired for my union activities and for running an independent working-class campaign against the U.S. rulers' war on working people at home and around the world."

"Workers get back pay for illegal firings, not for routine layoffs. The company is only offering half of it at this point because I refused to work a part-time job at the plant while I was 'laid off' and fighting the firing."

"Their proposal acknowledges, whether they'll admit it or not, that they completely violated the union's seniority system when they 'laid me off,' and they're guilty of conducting racist 'qualifying tests' for Black workers," Dixon pointed out.

Dixon, who is Black, was "laid off" while nine workers with less seniority continued working. The company failed him on rigged tests to determine if he could transfer into another job. White workers were not given the tests.

The worker who was forced by the company to bump Dixon, Sam Dillard, has filed a grievance of his own. He says

he's not giving up on his grievance against the use of illegal qualifying tests.

Dixon added, "I'm willing to talk about a back-pay settlement that will strengthen the union contract's seniority clause and eliminate these rigged and racist 'tests.' But that is totally tied to the fight for Garrett Brown's reinstatement."

"We demand that Garrett be brought back to work with full back pay. We're not going to stop fighting until we win that," Dixon said.

Meanwhile Dixon received a warm welcome when he returned to work August 16.

"I got a lot of clenched fists, slaps on the back and big smiles when I went back to work," Dixon reported, "especially from people who thought they'd never see me again. But everybody saw that if you fight back, you can win."

"My rehiring and the continued fight for Garrett's reinstatement is a victory for everybody at the plant. It puts us and the union in a stronger position to fight the company's massive use of job combination, forced overtime, and union-busting plans of hiring lots of 'temporary' or part-time workers," he explained.

The socialist candidate also said the battle at Oxford has heightened interest in his election campaign.

One co-worker, Thomas Simmons, told Dixon: "There are some people out here who agree with your philosophy, some who disagree with your philosophy, but *everybody* respects you and your campaign for standing up to the company and making them back down."

S. Africa presses war against Angola

Massive attacks target Angolan and Namibian people

BY FRED MURPHY

A further escalation appears imminent in the war being waged against Angola by the racist rulers of South Africa.

At the end of August, the official Angolan news agency, ANGOP, reported that "30,000 South African soldiers, backed by 300 armored cars, heavy artillery and 60 jet fighters" have been deployed along the Namibia-Angola border, ready for "an invasion at any moment."

Namibia is a colony of South Africa. It is occupied by 60,000 or more of the apartheid regime's troops, who face an armed liberation struggle led by the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

More than 5,000 South African troops had already moved into Angola from Namibia in mid-June. Air raids on the Angolan towns of Cahama and Chibemba on July 21 killed 64 persons. On August 12, the South African commander of the operations claimed his troops had penetrated 175 miles into Angola.

Drive against freedom struggle

The current attacks on Angola and the threat of a larger invasion form part of an ongoing drive by the South African rulers to weaken the freedom struggle throughout southern Africa.

They are aware of the example that anticolonial victories in Angola, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique have set for the oppressed Black majority in South Africa itself. They know that a fresh defeat for colonialism in Namibia would spur the fight for freedom against their own racist system at home.

Angola has suffered the most from the apartheid regime's aggression. Just before the country won independence from Portugal in 1975, it was invaded by thousands of South African troops. That invasion was only turned back through the timely aid of revolutionary Cuba. At the request of the new Angolan government, Cuba sent troops and military aid, and the South Africans were driven out in 1976.

Twice more — and now perhaps for a third time — Angola has had to confront large-scale, South African invasions. In June 1980 and again in August 1981, thousands of troops crossed the border from occupied Namibia and ravaged the Angolan countryside.

The 1981 invasion was the largest attack since the 1975-76 war. It was directly inspired by the Reagan administration's policy of developing closer ties with the apartheid rulers in Pretoria and collaborating with them to put pressure on Angola over the continued presence of Cuban forces there.

Some 700 Angolans were killed in the 1981 invasion, and at least 160,000 had to flee their homes. Not only did the South African forces terrorize the local population and the Namibians who had taken refuge in southern Angola from similar terror in their own country, but they also systematically destroyed the area's roads, bridges, factories, and communications facilities and carried off farm equipment, bulldozers, vehicles, cattle, and other goods into Namibia.

Economy damaged

Even before the 1981 attacks, South African forces had already done some \$7 billion worth of damage to the Angolan economy.

The effects have been felt not only in the south but throughout the country. The attacks make it all but impossible for southern peasants to work their fields. Destruction of roads and bridges has disrupted the country's agricultural distribution system.

Moreover, the constant aggressions have forced Angola to divert much of its scarce resources away from economic development projects into military defense.

Even when large contingents of South African ground troops are not operating in southern Angola, the area remains effectively out of the control of the central government in Luanda, Angola's capital. Angolan troops who try to enter the southern provinces are promptly attacked, and Angolan planes — even regular commercial flights — are in constant danger of South African anti-aircraft fire.

Operating under the cover of the South African forces is the pro-imperialist outfit known as the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), led by Jonas Savimbi. UNITA is armed, trained, and financed by the South Africans. It too carries out sabotage and terrorist attacks throughout southern Angola, as well as in the central highlands.

Angola bears the brunt of Pretoria's attacks for several reasons:

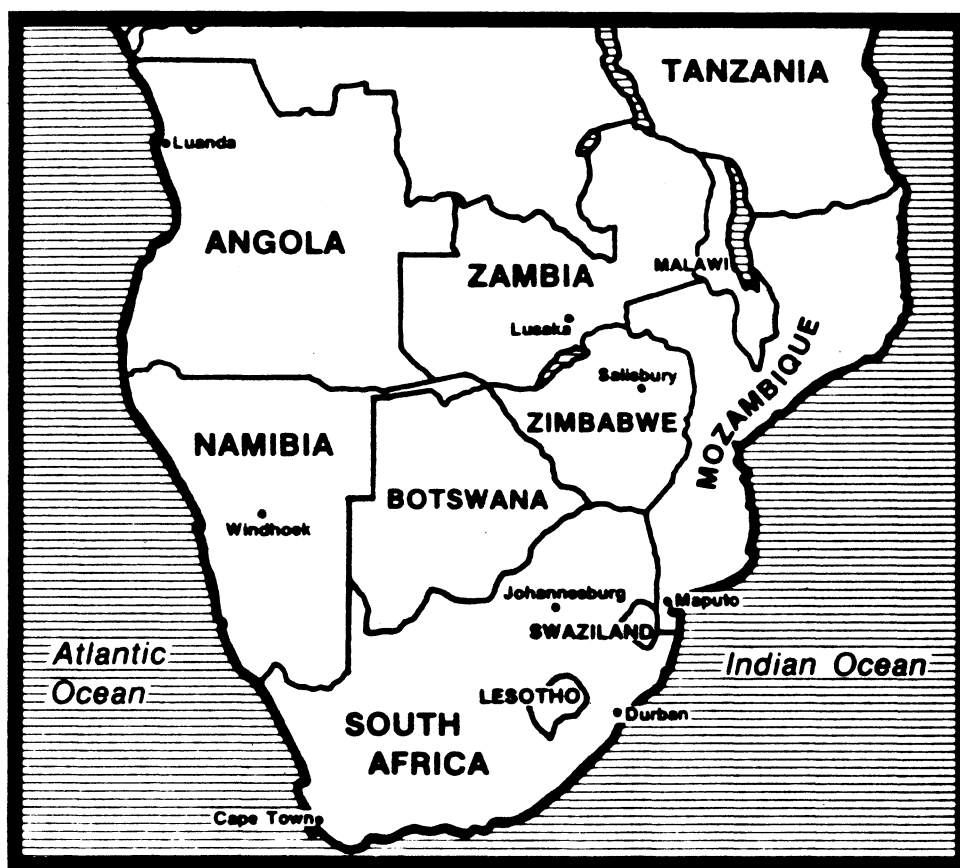
First, Angola's very existence is testimony to the fact that the racist regime can be defeated. The blunting of the 1975-76 invasion by South Africa shattered the myth of the apartheid regime's invincibility.

Furthermore, both Pretoria and Washington are incensed by the continued willingness of the Angolan government to accept Cuban military aid as part of its defense of the country. Angolan and Cuban leaders have stressed repeatedly that this is a matter over which their two sovereign countries alone have a right to decide. The Cuban forces will be withdrawn, they have stated, only when it is clear that all South African military threats to Angola have ceased and when South African forces have been withdrawn from Namibia.

Namibian struggle

Angola also provides important political and material assistance to SWAPO, which has been fighting since the 1960s to liberate Namibia from South Africa's illegal occupation. Namibians fleeing apartheid terror have been able to find refuge and support inside Angola. And SWAPO has been able to establish bases in Angola from which to pursue the struggle against South Africa.

Thus, a principal aim of Pretoria's offensives has been to create a SWAPO-free buffer zone across southern Angola, modeled after Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon. The apartheid rulers must now be hoping they can deal a blow



against SWAPO and Angola like that dealt by the Zionist regime against the PLO and the Lebanese people.

While Angola remains the focal point of South African aggression, Zimbabwe and Mozambique have also been coming in for a greater share of threats and attacks from Pretoria.

In late July, saboteurs raided Zimbabwe's main air force base and destroyed or severely damaged 13 planes in their hangars. This amounted to the bulk of Zimbabwe's air force.

On August 21, the Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe announced that three South African soldiers had been killed in a clash with government troops in southern Zimbabwe, 18 miles from the border with South Africa. Mugabe denounced the South African incursion as "a new stage" in Pretoria's "program to destabilize Zimbabwe." The soldiers, he said, had been sent "to commit acts of sabotage and make preparations for invasion."

Both Zimbabwe and Mozambique have suffered from the actions of a gang of South African-controlled terrorists known as the Mozambican National Resistance (MNR). This outfit was origi-

nally set up when Zimbabwe was still ruled by the white-racist Rhodesian regime of Ian Smith. Smith's intelligence agency recruited Mozambicans who had been in the pay of that country's former Portuguese colonial rulers, as well as other opponents of the governing Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo). After Black majority rule was won in Zimbabwe, control of the MNR passed to the South African regime.

The MNR carries out terrorism and sabotage in large parts of rural Mozambique, using methods similar to those of UNITA in Angola. Most damaging have been its continual attacks on roads, railway lines, and oil pipelines linking landlocked Zimbabwe to Mozambican ports.

Last year, six U.S. officials were expelled from Mozambique for passing intelligence information on the country to the South African regime. In retaliation, Washington cut off all food aid to Mozambique.

Just as the Reagan administration has backed Israel's massive invasion of Lebanon, it is tacitly supporting the South African apartheid regime's efforts to destabilize neighboring Black-ruled states.

African Nat'l Congress leader is murdered

BY ERNEST HARSCH

Ruth First, one of the most prominent opponents of the apartheid regime in South Africa, was killed by a parcel bomb in Maputo, Mozambique, August 17.

A Mozambican security official noted that the bombing was similar to others in Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Lesotho, and Zambia, "which were proved to be the work of the South African secret services."

The African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, of which First was a leading member, declared that she was "brutally killed by the South African racists and their agents when she opened a parcel bomb at the Eduardo Mondlane University" in Maputo. Aquino de Bragança, the director of the Center for African Studies at the university, was injured in the explosion.

First, born in South Africa in 1925, was an active opponent of the white supremacist regime all her adult life. In the 1940s she began collaborating with the ANC and also joined the Communist Party. She served as an editor of *Fighting Talk*, an early anti-apartheid publication, as well as of the *Guardian* and *New Age*, two weeklies that were later banned by the regime.

In 1956, Ruth First was arrested and charged with "high treason," along with 155 other ANC members and leaders. Although the charges were dropped two years later, she was restricted to the Johannesburg area under the provisions of the Suppression of Communism Act.

In 1963, she was again detained, and held for nearly four months. The following year she left South Africa.

Although First had been forced to choose exile, she did not halt her anti-apartheid activities. Over the next decade, she wrote many articles exposing the practices of the white minority regime, as well as a number of books, including *The South African Connection: Western Investment in Apartheid*, a major study of the role of foreign investments in propping up the apartheid system.

A statement released by the ANC Observer Mission to the United Nations pointed out that the South African regime "has now embarked on a strategy of physical elimination of the leaders, members and supporters of the ANC, both inside and outside South African borders. The aim is to deprive our movement of tested and tried leadership, and to intimidate and demoralize the rest of

the oppressed and struggling masses of our people."

The rise in South African attacks against ANC offices and leaders outside of South Africa has been particularly evident over the past two years:

- In January 1981, South African commandos struck into Mozambique, attacking three residences in Maputo used by the ANC to house refugees. Twelve ANC members were killed.

- On July 31, 1981, the ANC representative in Zimbabwe, Joe Nzingo Gqabi, was shot and killed in the Zimbabwean capital.

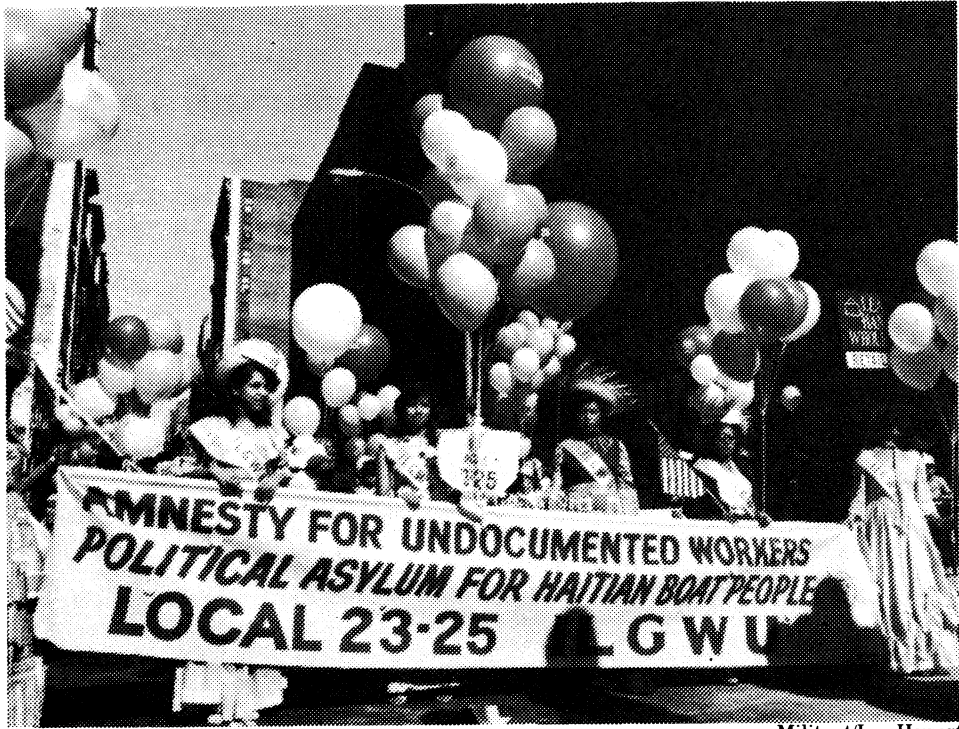
- On March 14, 1982, a bomb wrecked the offices of the ANC in London, just hours before the start of a mass rally in that city organized by the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

- On June 4, 1982, the ANC deputy representative in Swaziland, Petrus Nyaoase, was killed by a car bomb, along with his wife, Jabu Nyaoase. Both had previously been active in building trade unions within South Africa.

Such terrorist actions by the apartheid regime are a reflection of its fear of the growing strength of the national liberation movement.

From Intercontinental Press

Labor Day marches demand jobs, no cuts



Garment workers at New York march

BY GEORGE JOHNSON

Tens of thousands of unionists took part in Labor Day activities around the country.

In New York, more than 50 contingents of unions and their district councils paraded up Fifth Avenue on September 6. Most of the placards and banners carried protested cuts in social-service spending and unemployment.

A number of placards were carried that had been printed for the June 12 antiwar demonstration; "Jobs not bombs" was frequently seen.

Local 23-25 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) marched behind a banner that read "Amnesty for undocumented workers; political asylum for Haitian boat people." There were Chinese, Hispanic, and Korean ILGWU contingents. The Chinese garment workers, who had just won a fight to force their employers to sign a contract, were applauded by on-lookers.

Other Chinese garment workers marched behind ILGWU banners reading "All races, all creeds" and "We are

one" — in contrast to anti-import and "Buy American" placards also printed by the ILGWU and other unions.

Another ILGWU contingent marched behind a banner, "Labor's heroines," with placards bearing the names of Mother Jones, Leonora O'Rielly, Elisabeth Cady Stanton, Kate Mul-laney, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Mother Bloor, and other early labor and women's rights leaders.

This contingent and others carried ILGWU placards that read "Women's rights are right."

The Transit Workers Union had a larger contingent than in last year's march and carried signs reading "Protect the needy, not the greedy" and others protesting cuts in government safety protection standards.

A spirited contingent of Black hospital workers from a local of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees carried placards demanding that Martin Luther King's birthday be declared a national holiday.

The biggest contingent was from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. While most of the marchers in this group, like the building trades as a whole, were white, there was a Black contingent and a sizeable group from the Santiago Iglesias Pantoja Educational Society, which is named after a founder of the Puerto Rican trade union movement.

There were also large contingents from the Service Employees International Union and the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW). When the UFCW group passed the reviewing stand, the announcer pointed to the attack on UFCW members by Iowa Beef Processors in Dakota City, Nebraska, in a bitter strike that has seen the use of state troopers and the National Guard.

The New York Labor Day parade was somewhat smaller than last year's 100,000.

In San Antonio, a parade of about 10,000 took place after Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO, unveiled a statue of Samuel Gompers, the early leader of the American Federation of Labor.

Latinos were more than half of those marching and watching the parade, which was large for San Antonio and "right-to-work" Texas.

Marching in the parade were good-sized contingents of garment workers and members of the IBEW and Laborers union.

In Boston, around 10,000 marched on August 29, largely members of the construction trades. It was the first such march in Boston in recent years.

Like the New York marchers, those in Boston mostly protested unemployment and cuts in social services.

A number of unionists noted that the New York parade seemed quieter than last year's. The 1981 march was an angry response to the government's attacks on the air traffic controllers' union (PATCO) and a prelude to the giant labor protest September 19 in Washington, D.C., Solidarity Day.

Since that time, the PATCO workers strike was brutally crushed. Labor has taken further big blows, including layoffs, more cuts in social services, take-backs in union contracts, and deepening military intervention by the U.S. government around the world.

The turnout for Labor Day this year showed unionists are seeking ways to voice their anger over this situation and defend their rights in action.

Standing in the way of that goal is the perspective offered workers by the officials of the AFL-CIO, who propose "Solidarity Day II" — getting out the vote for Democrats in the November elections.

It's precisely this policy of support to the antilabor, prowar Democrats, and their Republican partners, that is at the heart of the crisis the labor movement faces today. Breaking with this policy and charting a course for labor independent of the employers and their parties is vitally needed.

Dakota City strikers seek solidarity in battle against union busters

Continued from Page 1

When asked their opinion about the strike, one young worker expressed some doubt about winning. Another striker, however, stated that "it's just a matter of waiting them out, they can't keep going with these scabs," he said. "They're losing too much money."

While most are confident the strike will be won, many feel that just waiting the company out won't be enough. "All union workers have to stand together in this. We can't win this thing alone," was the comment of another striker.

The strikers at IBP, with their courage and determination, are an inspiration to the entire labor movement. By standing up to the company's takeback demands and the government's cops, they have inspired working people everywhere. A victory in this strike will be a blow to the employers' offensive against wages, working conditions, and political rights.

But to be successful the strikers need the solidarity of workers throughout the country. After all, the IBP does not stand alone in this battle. They have the

support not only of the meat packing companies, but of the entire monied class that they are part of. And, they have the full support of the bosses' government and their Democratic and Republican politicians.

The company clearly hopes to break the union at IBP, using the full force of their government and cops. They would like to deal another blow to the union movement, as they did against the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization a year ago. The September 11 support rally called by Nebraska AFL-CIO is an important opportunity to demonstrate the kind of unity needed. UFCW Local 222 has invited unions from all over, especially the tri-state Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota area, to participate.

A little-publicized rally held on August 21 brought out about 500 workers from the area. Everyone loaded up in cars and drove around the IBP plant in Dakota City before returning to a park in Sioux City, Iowa for some speeches and free beer.

At the plant, the state patrol was apparently expecting trouble. They were out in force with nearly 100 troopers equipped with riot helmets, batons, and tear gas launchers. The demonstration remained peaceful.

At the park, speakers from many unions spoke of the need for workers' solidarity and militancy, and presented the strikers with checks and gifts of food. One local gave the strikers a check for \$10,000.

This is just a sampling of the kind of solidarity that will be needed to win this

strike and others as the ruling-class offensive deepens.

Meat workers at the John Morrell plant in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, just 70 miles north of here, went on strike September 1. The owners of that plant have been encouraged by the apparent success of the IBP bosses in reopening their plant with the aid of state troopers and the National Guard. The bosses at John Morrell are asking for many of the same concessions that IBP has demanded and hope to break or weaken the union there.

September 11 should be seen as a beginning of further solidarity with the embattled IBP workers. Union locals can invite strikers to their cities to explain the issues in the strike, they can take up collections at union meetings and plant gates, they can send representatives to the picket lines to see the strike for themselves.

In this strike the labor movement is hobbled by its ties to the Democratic Party. In Nebraska for example, many labor officials did not attend the August 21 rally because they were busy campaigning for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bob Kerrey, who has supported the use of state troopers against strikers.

To take on the rich and their government, the union movement needs its own party. It needs a labor party that would campaign in support of the IBP strikers and other workers, that would demand an end to the use of cops and troopers to break strikes, that would fight to get rid of "right-to-work" laws in Nebraska and other states.

Nicaragua

Continued from Page 1

were to complete it by December.

"The destruction of this equipment may slow us down, particularly in maintenance, but it won't stop the project," regional government official Wilfredo Barreto told *Intercontinental Press*.

"It may take a few months longer, but we'll finish it."

The clinic will be the loss most immediately felt by the peasants of this isolated region. Prior to the blast it provided free medical care to 15,000 people, more than half of them children.

"On average, a doctor and medical assistant here treated over 100 people a day," regional health director Clarence Silva said as he pointed to a heap of twisted tin, all that remained of the clinic.

"This is a very poor area. Under Somoza no medical care whatsoever was available. Today 95 percent of the patients come on foot or on horseback, on trips ranging from six hours to two days," Silva continued.

"Now, until we can rebuild the clinic, they will have to go 30 kilometers further to Waslala for medical care."

The first road to connect some of the most isolated villages in Central America. A clinic serving thousands of patients who never before saw a doctor.

For U.S. imperialism these are merely two more targets in its ongoing secret war to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution.

From *Intercontinental Press*

Rally set for jailed draft resister

BY SYLVIA HANSEN

SAN DIEGO — The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has rejected a motion that antiwar activist Ben Sasway be released on bail.

Sasway was immediately imprisoned on August 26 after he was convicted of failure to register for the draft. He will be sentenced October 4.

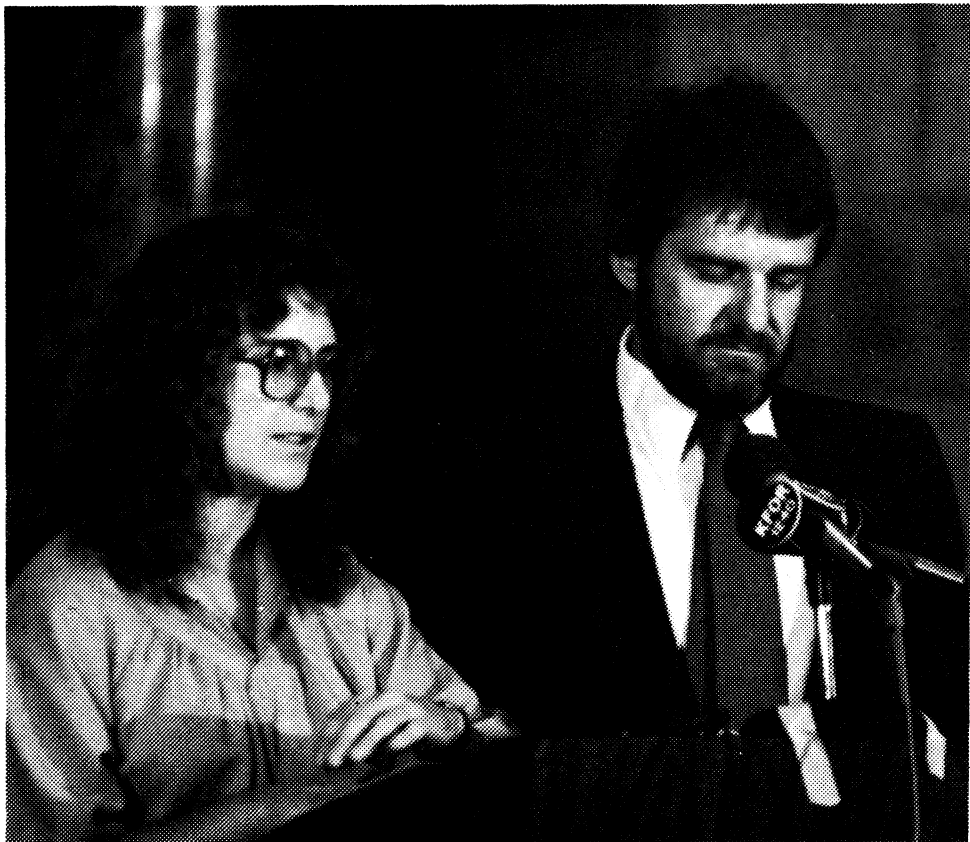
Meanwhile, a rally sponsored by the Draft Resisters Defense Fund is being planned here in San Diego to support Sasway and all draft resisters. It will occur on Sunday, October 3, at Newtown Park from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The event will include a walk to the federal prison where Sasway is being held.

In addition, candlelight vigils will be held at the federal prison every Sunday evening till sentencing.



Benjamin Sasway

Militant/John Naubert



Militant/Michael Carper
Socialist Workers candidates Cheryl Porch and Joe Swanson said their opposition to U.S. wars and draft is most popular plank in their campaign.

Why Nebraskans signed petition to place SWP on the ballot

LINCOLN, Neb. — The working people, farmers, and others who signed the Socialist Workers Party's petitions took a different view of the campaign than did the Nebraska capitalist news media and state officials.

In the farm town of Auburn, Joe Swanson approached a farmer and his wife at a grocery store.

"I asked him to sign and gave him a leaflet to read. He said he didn't know much about socialism, and most of what he'd heard wasn't good.

"I'm working now," he told me, "but I'm gonna be laid off soon. I don't think I can get through another year because of the interest I owe to the banks.

"I really want to stay on the farm — that's where I was raised, it's what I enjoy. So I'm willing to listen to an alternative." Then he signed my petition."

Petitioners found a good response in Alliance, a small town in western Nebraska where several thousand rail workers live and work. One campaigner flagged down cars coming out of the rail yard and signed up 15-20 rail workers before the company chased him away. Many merchants on the town's main street posted campaign leaflets in their windows.

The socialists' opposition to the draft and to the U.S. government's war policies got the most enthusiastic response.

One petitioner told this story:

"Two young guys came up to me at a supermarket. When I asked them to sign, the first one said, 'You say he's against the war?'"

"I said yes and gave him a leaflet.

"OK, I'll sign," he said, 'cause I know what it's like.'

"I asked him where he'd been stationed, since he was too young to have been in Vietnam.

"I was in the marines in the Persian Gulf during the hostage thing [in Iran]. We were always on 24-hour alert. Nobody knew what was going on, whether we'd have to fight or not."

"What do you think about U.S. troops going into Lebanon?"

"That's my old unit."

Joe Swanson also talked to a 22-year-old Black man.

"He said he'd learned a trade in the Navy and he was working in a filling station.

"After four years, I could probably get work off and on," he said, "but it's a rotten deal to have to go into the service to get a skill.

"We need programs that teach trades so we don't have to go in the military. I feel like I wasted four years. But I was lucky there was no war."

Swanson explained, "I told him Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans are

never going to get all the rights they should have — that all working people should have — until we get a change of government.

"He replied, 'I really can't argue with that — I just don't see it happening real soon.'"

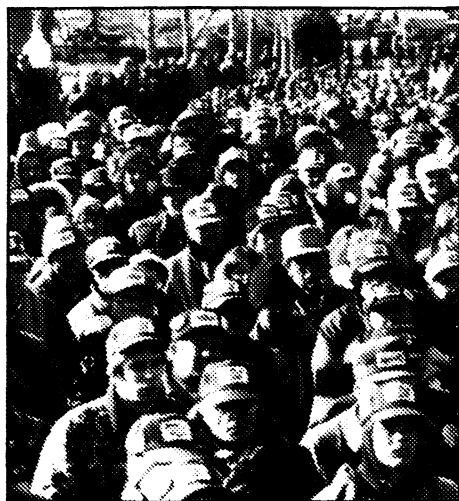
The broad support for the socialists' ballot rights was shown in a statement issued to the press at the time of the filing. It called on the secretary of state to place the candidates' names on the ballot and declared:

"Although we are not necessarily supporters of Swanson and Porch, we support the right of all Nebraskans who want to vote for them to do so, and we support the right of working people to participate fully in the electoral process."

Signers included Joe Schmucker, president, J.V. Casmer, vice-president, and three other officers of United Transportation Union Local 305; Dee Rourke, local chair of the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers Local 736; and Orville Jones, local chair of the Yardmasters of America. Also signing were Deb Staley, president of the Lincoln National Organization for Women; Dick Kurtenbach, executive director of the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union; Paul Swanson, local chair, and David Ficke, president, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Local 1320.

The Lincoln Coalition of Rail Union Crafts, at its September 1 meeting, voted to send a protest message to Secretary of State Allen Beermann against the exclusion of the socialist candidates from the ballot.

The messages reads in part: "While delegates do not necessarily agree with the views of Swanson and Porch, we are nevertheless in agreement that your ruling these candidates off the ballot is a serious abridgment of the democratic rights of workers to run candidates for elected office."



Neb. officials kick workers off ballot

BY DUNCAN WILLIAMS

LINCOLN, Neb. — State officials here have moved quickly to keep working-class candidates off the ballot in the November general election.

On August 30, Secretary of State Allen Beermann ruled that Joe Swanson and Cheryl Porch, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, had not turned in enough valid signatures of registered voters to secure a place on the ballot.

The socialist candidates filed their petitions August 23 with more than 3,700 signatures. Two thousand are required. Swanson called the signature requirement "an undemocratic barrier to the rights of working people to participate in the electoral process and a weapon used by the Democratic and Republican parties to maintain their political monopoly in government across the United States."

The drive had taken considerable expense and effort; often petitioners had been denied the right to petition at shopping centers, supermarkets, discount stores, and other heavily traveled locations.

Swanson told a well-attended news conference at the filing that the signatures had been collected "at county fairs, at plant gates, on campuses, in the Black community, at antiwar and women's rights rallies, and in farming communities."

"We talked to strikers at the Iowa Beef plant in Dakota City, picketers at Hinky Dinky stores in Omaha and Lincoln, laid-off rail workers, farmers facing bankruptcy, and working people all over who are fed up with the two-party system that promises nothing but more wars, more crises, and more hardship."

This kind of talk and publicity were not pleasing to the local rich people. So they made their feelings known on August 25 in an editorial in the *Omaha World Herald*.

"There is little reason for Nebraska voters to pay much attention to Joe Swanson's candidacy for governor," the lead editorial that day began.

It went on to protest "the ease with which such candidates are able to get their names onto the ballot," and urged

Republican incumbent Charles Thone and Democrat Bob Kerrey not "to alter any debate plans they might have in order to include Swanson."

After this editorial appeared, Lee Terry, the election commissioner of Douglas County, told the press that only 34 percent of the 1,036 signatures collected for the socialists in Omaha were valid. The aim was clearly to discredit the socialist candidates and their petition effort.

Swanson and Porch explained in an August 27 statement the reason the election officials were trying to keep them off the ballot: "We offer a program for the working people and farmers of this state and we favor independent political action by the workers and farmers against the Democrats and Republicans and their two-party monopoly."

"These two parties are taking the United States into war in Central America and the Mideast. They are jailing young men for refusing to register for the draft. They are using workers' and farmers' tax money to finance police attacks on the strikers at Iowa Beef Processors. Their policies are causing record unemployment, higher taxes, and more and more farm bankruptcies. And they are trying to keep all opposition to these policies out of the election."

The technical basis for excluding the socialists is also full of holes. The officials — all paid political appointees of the two capitalist parties — admitted that many signatures ruled invalid were of registered voters who had moved and put down a different address.

In addition, nearly 90 percent of the signatures gathered at a July 4 Black community picnic in Omaha were ruled invalid.

The socialist candidates will continue the fight to get on the Nebraska ballot.

The Nebraska Socialist Workers campaign is urging that protest messages be sent to Secretary of State Allen Beermann, State Capitol, Lincoln, Neb. 68508.

The socialist campaign will also be holding a protest rally on September 11 at the University of Nebraska East Campus Union in Lincoln. For more information, call the socialist campaign office at (402) 475-2255.

Trial of N.C. socialists postponed

BY GREG McCARTAN

RALEIGH, N.C. — Judge Phillip Redwine has delayed the trial of Steve Craine and Jeff Miller, two Socialist Workers Party campaign supporters who are charged with "disrupting a picket." The new trial date is set for October 22.

The charges stem from a march and rally for the Equal Rights Amendment here on June 6. Craine and Miller participated in the rally and also collected signatures to place the SWP on the ballot.

Shortly before the march stepped off, the Raleigh police imposed a ban on all petitioning and campaigning. The two were arrested, without warning, while discussing the ban with rally organizers.

Meryl Lynn Farber, SWP candidate for Congress in the 5th District in North Carolina, responded to the delay by explaining, "The charges against these two campaign supporters should be dropped immediately. This is an attack against everyone's right to peacefully assemble to air our grievances. It's also an attempt to make our campaign look illegal. They are prosecuting us for our ideas."

Messages demanding that the charges be dropped against Craine and Miller should be sent to: Randolph Riley, District Attorney, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, N.C. 27602.

Please send copies to Socialist Workers 1982 Campaign, 216 E. Sixth St., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101.



Militant/Arnold Weissberg

Criminal charges against her campaign supporters are "an attack against everyone's rights," said Meryl Lynn Farber, socialist candidate for Congress.

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New York Black political convention held



Militant/Mohammed Oliver



Militant/Duane Stilwell

Socialist Workers candidate Veronica Cruz (above) argued Blacks need course independent of Democrats and Republicans. Many convention participants were attracted to socialist literature table (left).

Continued from Page 16

en election we are never more than 5 percent of the vote. Whereas, my Jewish constituency which represents 11 percent of the voters, are always 32 percent of the total vote, in terms of the ultimate decision. And I say where is my 4 percent? Where did they go?

"Why didn't they show up to help out? Don't they understand that Tom Bradley will never be elected governor of the state of California unless they vote?"

Brown continued, "there ought not to be anyone Black anywhere in this state 18 years or older who isn't registered to vote.

"You can't fool politicians by rallies," Brown warned. "You can't fool politicians by none of that. We look at the numbers." He was referring to numbers of votes.

"I can assure you that Mr. Koch will find it almost impossible to continue on his anti-Black role, if somehow you begin to seriously count in the political process."

Brown said that in California, "we've made it a condition of your continued existence to participate in politics. If you want, and excuse me folks, an ass kicking, you just fail to vote in California. If you want your job to disappear, you just fail to vote in California if you're Black."

Putting a Black in office is the first step to implementing Black political goals, Brown urged. "Your first goal must be to put somebody in to implement your resolutions before you make them," he said.

Electoral politics workshop

These themes were backed up by the organizers of the electoral politics workshop. The chair of this workshop was Bill Perkins who works at the City Board of Elections.

Overall the workshop conveners and panelists urged Blacks to take an active part in Democratic and Republican clubs and caucuses in order to win elections and appointments.

But there was far from unanimous agreement on this political strategy at the convention. There were many who did not accept the perspective that Blacks must get out the vote and elect more Black Democrats or Republicans in order to win political gains. They didn't get a clear hearing at the convention because in a number of workshops discussion was discouraged or not allowed.

But ideas that took issue with the political goals of the convention organizers did come out during the convention.

In the electoral politics workshop, for example, a heated discussion began the session. Some people wanted to discuss the issue of independent political action first and foremost. By this they meant forms of political action outside of the framework of the Democratic and Republican parties.

They were told that comments on this subject had to wait for near the end of

the workshop program, when presentations on independent political action were scheduled. Comments on the topic outside of that time slot were ruled out of order.

Those who participated in the International Affairs workshop, however, were encouraged to join in a full and open discussion that took place there.

As a result, this workshop offered several hard-hitting resolutions that were applauded as they were read and approved by the convention as a whole.

Israel condemned

One resolution demanded "that the United States cease its military support of Israel and seek to bring peace to the Middle East by restoring to the Palestinians their territory and property which was taken from them."

The resolution also condemned the genocidal invasion of Lebanon by the Zionist state of Israel with the direct consent of the United States and further called "for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Lebanon."

Another resolution denounced the "one-track priority of U.S. policy which generally supports imperialist aggressions, monopoly capitalist corporative and reactionary regimes, and is obsessed with arms production and sales, not to mention the unspeakable perils of nuclear war aroused by such a policy."

The workshop also demanded an end to U.S. economic and trade relations with the racist apartheid regime of South Africa and political asylum for Haitian refugees.

Labor workshop

One of the recommendations that came out of the labor workshop put convention organizers up in arms. That recommendation was that a majority of the members of the continuations committee be Black workers. This committee's job is to meet to discuss the results of the convention and decide what next. The motivation for the motion was that Black workers must play a central role in leading Black political action and that the convention should give encouragement in this direction.

John Davis, editor of the *Amsterdam News* and a convention convener, called the proposal "preposterous." He said that a union card from AFL-CIO head Lane Kirkland doesn't make a Black worker any Blacker or any more capable than a Black lawyer or any other Black person. Black lawyers are just as capable, he asserted. As a matter of fact, he said, a group of Black lawyers and professionals even organized and paid for this convention. He emphasized the "paid for."

Davis also noted that the proposal insulted the unity of Blacks as "one family" with no fundamental divisions among us. This was a prominent theme of the convention organizers.

Veronica Cruz was also among those who took issue with the political per-

spectives of convention organizers. Cruz is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress from the 16th Congressional District, the seat now held by Charles Rangel in Harlem. She and several campaign supporters attended the convention. Their table outside the convention attracted a lot of interest from Blacks, who bought \$150 of the socialist literature offered there.

In an open letter to convention participants, Cruz stated:

"Who are our political enemies and who are our friends? Answering this question is the first step toward organizing an effective fightback.

"The root of our political problems is the U.S. government and the class of bosses, bankers, and multinational corporate kings who run the country. They profit from racism and economic exploitation. That's why these problems exist. And this wealthy minority uses their most effective political weapon — the Democratic and Republican con game — to keep us disoriented and immobile. These parties share the same political perspective. They're tools of the bosses and any Black person who identifies with them falls into their two-party trap.

"Malcolm X said, 'We won't organize any Black man to be a Democrat or Republican because both of them have sold us out,'" said Cruz. "Malcolm's words are a good starting point for our political discussion today."

Heart of problem

Cruz told the *Militant*:

"I think many people left this convention disappointed. They came looking for a genuine discussion that could point to-

ward a new independent political road for Blacks. Instead, what were they offered?

"The perspective that getting to the polls to vote for Democrats and Republicans is the key to developing their political power.

"Exactly the opposite is the truth," said Cruz. "The Democratic and Republican parties are the heart of the problem. It's only by consciously rejecting these parties and their problems that we can organize an effective political fight against the racism and economic exploitation of capitalism.

"Willie Brown lied to us today," Cruz said. "In spite of the fact they've tried to use the vote in California, Blacks are still getting an 'ass kicking' and they're still losing jobs, along with other workers. And voting more Democrats and Republicans — Black or white — into office only contributes to the problem.

"We need Black leadership that won't be bought and sold by the capitalists," Cruz declared. "That's why ex-cop Thomas Bradley as governor of California is no more the solution for Blacks than more Charles Rangel in the 16th Congressional District in New York is a solution.

"That's also why Blacks are not one big happy 'family,' as the organizers of the convention claim. Those Blacks who seek to divert us politically into the Democratic and Republican parties do not represent the majority of us. Their political strategy contradicts the basic interests of Black workers and the unemployed who are the majority of the Black population.

"I support the call raised by some activists leading up to this convention that we organize an independent political party of Blacks in order to politically mobilize the Black community," said Cruz. "I think the National Black Independent Political Party, launched two years ago, is an example of such a party. Its program points out that the Democratic and Republican parties oppose the interests of Black people.

"This step points in the direction the entire working class must take — to form a party of labor to fight for the interests of working people against the bosses' parties. My campaign statement to this convention points out that this is 'a fight for political power. Because the real solution to our problems is to run this country ourselves along with those who share our class interests. We need to replace the government of millionaires and capitalists with a workers and farmers government like the one that's leading the Black people of the Caribbean island of free and revolutionary Grenada.'

"That's the way Black liberation can be won."

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Where Milw. socialists stand on nuclear freeze measure

BY NANCY COLE

MILWAUKEE — A bilateral nuclear freeze referendum will be on the ballot in Wisconsin when primary voters go to the polls September 14.

The text of the referendum asks: "Shall the Secretary of State of Wisconsin inform the President and the Congress of the United States that it is the desire of the people of Wisconsin to have the government of the United States work vigorously to negotiate a mutual nuclear weapons moratorium and reduction, with appropriate verification, with the Soviet Union and other nations?"

By voting "yes" on this referendum, says a flyer from the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign, "Wisconsin can send a message to the world."

But the freeze campaign is not aimed at the real threat to world peace. That was made abundantly clear at a recent event organized by the Milwaukee Jobs and Peace Campaign, sponsor of a November ballot measure that also calls for a bilateral nuclear freeze, along with a transfer of some military funds to social needs.

The August 31 meeting provided a forum for Democratic candidates running in Wisconsin's 5th Congressional District.

All six Democrats who participated in the meeting support the bilateral freeze initiative (as do three of the four other Democrats in the race).

Socialist Workers Party candidate Cheryll Hidalgo, also running in the 5th Congressional District, was excluded from the panel by Jobs and Peace organizers.

'Bad defense strategy'

Most of the capitalist candidates oppose such weapons as the MX missile and the B-1 bomber. Why?

"I believe Congress is not being told the truth about their real costs and impact on the economy," explained Judge Frederick Kessler during the forum.

Alderman Kevin O'Connor said the Trident submarine is "bad defense strategy" because so many nuclear warheads are stored in one place.

State Assemblyman James Moody stressed the "mix of armaments" as key to the discussion on military spending, adding that some of the "most expensive are nuclear."

The Jobs and Peace Campaign organizers posed no question to the candidates that challenged this prowar theme at the forum.

One of the more revealing questions was asked by a retired United Auto Workers member, a veteran of decades of peace demonstrations. What could the candidates tell us to do now, she asked,

explaining that she had marched a year ago on Solidarity Day in Washington, D.C., and again on June 12 in New York.

The answer came in unison: vote for the bilateral freeze in September and for the Jobs and Peace proposal in November. State Senator Warren Braun took it the next logical step and urged peace supporters to join his campaign and "vote for me."

While not permitted to join the debate, socialist candidate Hidalgo distributed a statement to the 50 or so in attendance. Her campaign starts from a totally different perspective: the cause of today's wars and the threat of nuclear war is rooted in the drive of the U.S. bankers and businessmen to make profits by exploiting working people around the world. The U.S. capitalists will use any military means — including nuclear weapons — to protect their profit system.

Hidalgo's statement said: "The bilateral freeze proposal accepts the claim that the main danger of war comes from Soviet aggression and communist 'subversion' in the colonial world, that such threats make unilateral U.S. disarmament unthinkable.

"The freeze idea puts an equals sign between the real warmakers, who are in Washington, and their victims. By ignoring the real source of war, it allows Democratic and Republican politicians to claim to be for a 'peace' solution while voting for the largest war budget in world history (\$1.6 trillion in the next five years).

"For this reason, I urge the people of Wisconsin not to vote on the bilateral nuclear freeze measure. It is a diversion from what working people should be doing to fight against Washington's wars."

Hidalgo's statement pointed to ominous developments just that week: U.S.-supported Israeli troops moving deeper into Lebanon; the release of figures showing a sharp increase in government

and right-wing murders in El Salvador after Reagan certified the dictatorship's "progress" on human rights; the statement from a U.S. State Department official hinting at an attempt to overthrow the workers and farmers government in Nicaragua; and the conviction and jailing of draft resister Benjamin Sasway.

"You can't be for these policies and be for genuine peace at the same time," Hidalgo concluded.

The nuclear freeze organizers say otherwise. They proudly point to the referendum's "bipartisan" support.

"Governor [Lee] Dreyfus and all five [Democratic and Republican] candidates for Governor" support it, boasts the campaign's publicity, as do "an overwhelming majority of Democrats and Republicans in the Wisconsin State Legislature."

A more efficient military?

While not all supporters of the freeze proposal adopt such a line, public spokespeople for the Jobs and Peace Campaign echo the politicians' reactionary calls for a more efficient military.

At a June 2 rally, steering committee member Roger Quindel railed about the bad gas mileage of the M-1 tank and concluded, "We can have a better defense system for a lot less money and that's what this campaign is all about."

In an opinion column in the August 7 *Milwaukee Sentinel*, Quindel wrote, "No one argues with the need for a strong national defense. But it won't happen by sacrificing our economy and our people to an arms race we are already winning."

Similar lines of argument were used by George Wagner, another Jobs and Peace spokesperson, at a July 19 Milwaukee Common Council committee hearing on the referendum.

Of 30 people who testified, only one addressed the issue of wars the U.S. government is waging today.



Socialist congressional candidate Cheryll Hidalgo.

That was the Socialist Workers candidate for lieutenant governor, Margo Storsteen, who pointed to the U.S. government — not the Soviet Union — as the threat to world peace, noting that the real nuclear danger was posed by U.S. military intervention in Central America or the Middle East.

The Socialist Workers Party is not alone in recognizing the aim and content of these referenda campaigns. The Central America Solidarity Coalition has discussed the question several times and twice voted not to endorse the Jobs and Peace campaign because it serves to miseducate Americans about U.S. intervention in Central America.

Storsteen explained, "Workers and farmers are the ones who pay for Washington's wars and it's we who have the power to end those wars."

"The bilateral nuclear freeze campaign aims to divert antiwar sentiment into political support for the Democratic and Republican parties, the two parties of war."

"To effectively carry out the fight against their war policies, we need an independent labor party based on a fighting trade union movement. This party would be a genuine antiwar party."

"My campaign stands for building such a party as the first step to disarming the U.S. warmakers by replacing their government with a government of workers and farmers. We believe this is the real — and only — road to world peace."

Calif. farmworkers discuss elections

BY JANICE LYNN

SALINAS, Calif.—Mel Mason, socialist candidate for governor of California, brought his campaign to farm workers in this agricultural city September 2.

Accompanied by campaign supporters, Mason talked to dozens of farm workers and their families at a large shopping center in the Latino community and had a lengthy discussion with another group in front of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW) headquarters here.

At a recent UFW convention, 89 Democratic Party candidates were endorsed, with the glaring exception of gubernatorial candidate Thomas Bradley and his running mate for lieutenant governor, Leo McCarthy.

A UFW official explained that the union was concerned about Bradley's positions in support of the big growers.

UFW President César Chávez told the *Monterey Peninsula Herald* that there was not enough of a difference between Bradley and Republican gubernatorial candidate George Deukmejian for the union to make an endorsement.

Mason and his supporters asked the farm workers what they thought about the UFW's stand.

Many had not heard about it. Others remembered signing petitions to place Mason's name on the ballot. Several thousand signatures were collected from Salinas farm workers and their families. They were surprised to learn that Mason was being undemocratically excluded from the ballot by state officials and agreed to write protest letters to the secretary of state.

At the UFW headquarters, one farm worker told Mason he was interested in supporting someone who was independ-

ent of the two ruling parties. "We need something new," he said. The Democrats and Republicans were both *cabrones* — an expression he explained meant tricksters or cheaters.

The farm workers were especially interested in hearing Mason's stand on undocumented workers and what he thought about Reagan's "amnesty" plan.

Mason explained that his campaign was for an immediate halt to all deportations and for full, legal rights for all workers. He said he was for abolishing *la migra* — the immigration police.

Mason also blasted the Simpson-Mazoli anti-immigrant bill in Congress as a dangerous fraud. In order for "amnesty" to be granted, undocumented workers would have to show up before the hated *la migra* to try to prove they have been in the country since 1977.

Many of the farm workers expressed their belief that Latinos were being used as scapegoats for the country's economic problems.

Mason also talked about his opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America.

The farm workers concurred. "The fight is here," Jesús Torres commented. "We don't have to go anywhere else."

Torres told Mason that the farm workers were concerned about the maintenance of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB). He explained how the ALRB had helped the UFW win important gains — guaranteeing their right to organize in the fields and enabling them to win higher wages and better working conditions.

"We need the union for our protection," he told Mason. He was glad to hear of Mason's support to union strug-

gles, and that Mason had walked the picket lines with hotel and restaurant workers who recently won an 18-day strike in Monterey County.

Mason fielded a number of other questions about his program and about his involvement in community struggles as a city councilman in nearby Seaside.

"I'm not a communist," Torres told Mason, "but we both don't like this system."

Judge turns down Mason ballot appeal

BY DAVE PRINCE

LOS ANGELES — On August 31 a suit was filed by Mel Mason in the California Superior Court to force Secretary of State March Fong Eu to place him on the November ballot.

Mason, a socialist, is running for governor of California. State officials claim that of the 214,699 signatures collected to place him on the ballot, less than half are valid.

At the special court hearing, Mason's attorney Robin Maisel requested a stay of the printing of the November ballot until Mason's suit could be heard. He argued for an immediate and full hearing on the brief.

Judge John Cole ruled against Maisel's motions and in effect ruled Mason would not be on the ballot.

The Mason campaign is preparing to file suit in Federal court.

Protest letters and telegrams should be sent to: Secretary of State March Fong Eu, 1230 "J" St., Sacramento, Calif. 95814. Send copies to Mel Mason for Governor Committee, 2864 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94609.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

How to Fight Racism in the Schools. A panel discussion by community activists and parents on how to defend our students from racist attacks and continue the fight for equality in education in the Jefferson County School District.

Speakers: Adlene Abstain, project director, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Bob Cunningham, member, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; Craig Honts, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 3rd District; Rev. R. D. Robinson, Shawnee Presbyterian Church.

Sun., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. 809 E Broadway (near Shelby). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

Nicaragua: religious sects aid CIA plans



Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomás Borge

Militant/Michael Baumann

School officials attack radical professors

BY ALAN WALD

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Important attacks on democratic rights have recently occurred at Keene State College in New Hampshire and at California State University at Long Beach. Both cases involve direct interference by university administrators in the teaching activities of faculty members and in the content of courses available to students.

The Keene State events have centered around the persecution of Craig McDonough, an Associate Professor in the Economics Department. The administration's attack on McDonough first began in February 1981, when he was censured for telling the *New Hampshire* newspaper that he believed the role of the radical teacher was to raise consciousness about the need to "overthrow capitalism." As a result, all his summer 1981 courses were cancelled and his student workers dismissed.

The following year harassment increased when McDonough and sympathetic students established a Center for Revolutionary Education at the college. According to McDonough, he was ordered by the dean not to advocate political views or to distribute political literature on the campus.

His Marxian Economics class was spied upon, his office was broken into and political materials destroyed, one of his radical textbooks was seized by an administrator, and he was assaulted in the hallway by two part-time staff members.

In addition, he received notice of the termination of his contract in early May 1982, just after most students had already left the campus for the summer.

In June, a group of students responded to the situation by announcing a forum on "Oppression in the Schools." The administration cancelled the forum. But the American Civil Liberties Union took the university system to court and won the case in July.

Further reading on the Nicaraguan revolution

Sandinistas Speak by Tomás Borge, Carlos Fonseca, Daniel Ortega, Humberto Ortega, and Jaime Wheelock. 160 pp. \$4.95

Nicaragua: An Introduction to the Sandinista Revolution by Arnold Weissberg. 48 pp. \$9.5

The Nicaraguan Revolution edited by Pedro Camejo and Fred Murphy. 80 pp. \$2.25

Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$.75 for postage and handling.

At California State University at Long Beach, the harassment has been directed against the Women's Studies Program and was initiated by the Grace Brethren Church, a local fundamentalist sect. The church sent nonstudents to sit in on classes offered by the program and to observe what was said about feminism, reproductive rights, gay rights, and Marxism. Letters were then sent to the university and state officials protesting "the prolesbian emphasis in the classroom and in the textbooks used in the Women's Studies Program."

According to Sondra Hale, Director of the Women's Studies Program, a meeting was then held that consisted of members of the church, representatives of several state senators and assemblymen, and top university officials.

Two complaints were subsequently lodged against the Women's Studies Program: "prolesbianism" and "Marxist revolutionary ideas" (a charge based on posters seen in Sondra Hale's office).

As a result, the administration has now begun a review of the content of courses offered by the program, with the threat of altering or even eliminating all or part of Women's Studies.

Those interested in more information about the Keene State events, should contact the Fund for Academic Freedom, P.O. Box 201, Walpole, N.H. 03608. For further information about the Long Beach situation, write Sondra Hale, Director, Women's Studies, California State University, Long Beach, California 90840.

South Koreans sentenced to death

A South Korean court sentenced two men to death and two women to life imprisonment on August 11 on charges of setting fire to the U.S. cultural center in Pusan last March. Ten others received sentences of from two to 15 years imprisonment. One person died in the Pusan fire.

All but three of the defendants were charged under South Korea's National Security Act, which makes it illegal to advocate socialism or communism.

Moon Bu Shik, 23, who was one of the two sentenced to death, charged that he had been tortured into signing a false confession that he had tried to establish a socialist system in South Korea. Moon admitted organizing the arson against the U.S. cultural center on March 18, 1982. He stated: "I wanted to protest U.S. support for the military-led Korean Government, to let the Americans know the anger of our people over the Kwangju incident and to protest humiliating remarks made by some U.S. officials about South Korea."

In May 1980 an uprising took place in the city of Kwangju to protest the rule of South Korean military dictator Chun

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — A large number of religious sects, some well known and others of extremely obscure origins, appeared in Nicaragua, beginning almost the day after the revolution came to victory in 1979.

Working hand in glove with the counterrevolutionary bands, the sects began by heading for the most remote and backward areas of the country. There they spread a doctrine of opposition to virtually all major campaigns of the revolution, including literacy, vaccination, and enlistment in the militias.

More recently they have begun to establish themselves in larger cities.

Minister of the Interior Tomás Borge reported July 15 that there are now known to be at least 48 different religious sects operating in Managua alone, with 351 "places of worship."

A total of 99 different sects are known to exist throughout the country, he said, operating 1,500 "temples."

Two facts make clear that this does not represent a spontaneous flowering of evangelical devotion.

First, many of these sects are based in the United States and they encourage political opposition to the revolution. These include the Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and Seventh Day Adventists.

Second, many of the "pastors" of these new sects are former members of ousted dictator Somoza's National Guard and of his secret police. "We were a little

slow in understanding the danger these sects represented, and far too slow in beginning to make it public," Vice-Minister of the Interior Luis Carrión said in an interview in the Managua daily *Barricada* July 16.

Those days are over.

Borge made his announcement about the sects before an outdoor meeting here of several thousand workers, who responded with angry chants of "CIA! CIA!" and "Throw them out!"

Carrión's interview, extensively quoted on radio and television, was printed under the headline: "The Sects Pouring into Nicaragua are Part of the CIA's Plans."

The sects serve as the ideological advance-guard of the armed counterrevolution. They come to rural areas, preaching that there is no need to obey the political and civil authorities, urging people not to join the militias and reserve battalions and not to defend the revolution.

"I want to call attention very clearly," Carrión said, "to the fact that an enormous number of ex-National Guards are now evangelical pastors."

They are "acting in accordance with the CIA's plans against Nicaragua. They have been given the role of carrying out the ideological and propagandistic offensive, while the armed units carry out the military operations."

From Intercontinental Press

Nicaraguan women set up co-op

BY JANE HARRIS

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "We had always worked alone in our houses. It's a good experience to work collectively," Lidice Roiz explained, referring to the fact that she and nine other *compañeras* now own and operate their own sewing cooperative.

Located next door to one of Managua's main shopping centers, Centro Comercial, the cooperative does a brisk business. "And our prices are much more fair — they're for the working woman!" Roiz, who is in charge of the enterprise, points out.

The founding of this cooperative and 14 others like it is one of the achievements of the Association of Nicaraguan Women — Luisa Amanda Espinosa (AMNLAE).

In addition to sewing cooperatives, AMNLAE activists have established a cooperative for shoemakers, and five cooperatives where vegetables are cultivated.

Through the efforts of AMNLAE, working together with the Ministry of

Housing, a boarded-up Somozaist construction company was turned into "Nueva Nicaragua," a spacious sewing cooperative and clothing store with ample room for displays.

"To get started we made and sold *nacatamales* (a favorite Nicaraguan dish) and raised 5,000 cordobas (10 cordobas = US\$1)," Roiz recalled. "*Compañeras* brought cloth that they had in their homes. We worked without pay for four months."

Today, the women have established a system of prices for each type of garment. Cooperative members are paid based on how much they produce. On the average, an individual member's income has risen 300 cordobas a month above what they used to make working by themselves.

"Conditions are much better for us now," Roiz continued "but it's still hot and we could use a fan."

"Another problem is that the co-op doesn't have money to buy sewing machines so more women can be included. So far, each woman has brought her own machine and she is the owner of it."

Support from AMNLAE was instrumental in getting the operation started on a professional basis. At present, an AMNLAE *compañera* volunteers her bookkeeping services while a cooperative member is taking classes at the Banco Popular (the People's Bank) to learn how to do it herself.

From Intercontinental Press

Fidel Castro Speeches

Cuba's Internationalist Foreign Policy 1975-80

Since 1975, Cuba's foreign policy has deeply affected the course of world politics. Few of Castro's speeches are readily accessible in English. What does exist in print generally dates back to the 1960s or even earlier. This book represents a step toward filling that gap.

391 pp., \$7.95. Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. Include \$.75 for postage.

—THE GREAT SOCIETY—

Suggestion Dep't — An Australian businessperson was reportedly swindled out of \$500



Harry Ring

for shares in a nonexistent Mexican ranch where cats were to be crossed with snakes so the off-

spring could shed fur. We don't know who handled the deal, but it surely sounds like someone who belongs on Wall Street.

Media at work — A *Miami Herald* story on Cuba's military was headlined, "Reports put Cuba's forces second only to U.S. in Caribbean Basin." That's like putting me and some of my even poorer friends in the same room with David Rockefeller, doing a financial survey, and reporting: "Ring second only to Rockefeller in wealth."

Maybe it got wings — A dozen American fundamentalists, led by James Irwin, a former astronaut, tried to scale Mt. Ararat in Turkey in search of Noah's ark which, the bible recalls, was left high and dry there after the great flood. Two climbers reached the summit but couldn't locate the ark.

Ain't it the truth — "It's a myth that people drink more whiskey in a recession or depression. People cut down on their drinks budget." — A Scotch Whiskey Ass'n official on

the drop in sales.

It figures — Thirty-three companies with profits of \$100 million or more paid no federal taxes last year. Tenneco (oil and shipbuilding) broke the \$1 billion mark and billed the government for \$43.7 million in tax credits and deductions.

Natch — "Firms find recession a good time to reduce employee benefit costs" — News headline.

Getting by — Last year, 109

top corporate execs "earned" more than \$1 million each.

Sounds reasonable — "Detroit stresses luxury cars — '83 models designed for more affluent" — News headline.

Counterrevolution, Inc. — Top international political and corporate figures will serve as advisers to "Kissinger Associates." Headed directly by Henry K., the firm will offer "strategic planning" advice to select corporations. Retainer fee a reported \$250,000.

—CALENDAR—

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Rally to Protest INS Attacks on Immigrant Workers: Stop the Simpson-Mazzoli Immigration Bill! No Raids, No Deportations! Stop the Deportation of Hamid Sodeifi! Sun., Sept. 12, 5 p.m. 613 E Indian School Rd. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (602) 274-7399.

Tucson

Young Socialist Alliance Discussion Group. Sundays, 7:00 p.m. University of Arizona, Student Union Bldg., Rm. 280. For more information call (602) 882-4304 or 747-9144.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

U.S. Intervention in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. Speakers: Alex Palacios, representative of the Nicaraguan consulate; representatives from Comité "Farabundo Martí," Casa El Salvador, Guatemala Information Center, *Denuncia* (Argentine magazine in exile), Socialist Workers Party, South California District of the Communist Labor Party, U.S. Anti-Imperialist League (USAIL), Vencemos Brigade, Chile Democrático, Chile en Lucha. Music by "Aukalampu." Sat., Sept. 11, 7 p.m. 2936 W. 8th St.

FLORIDA

Miami

Palestine Freedom Fight. Speakers: Talal Alsakka, president, General Union of Palestinian Students; Pat O'Reilly, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 17, 8 p.m. 1237 NW 119th St., N. Miami. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 769-3478.

African Freedom Struggle Today. Speaker: Jerry Hunnicutt, Socialist Workers Party; others. Fri., Sept. 24, 8 p.m. 1237 NW 119th St., N. Miami. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 769-3478.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Workers' Rights vs. Employers and the Government. Speakers: Chris Hoepfner, fired Lockheed worker, International Association of Machinists Lodge 709; Leamon Hood, area director, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers; James Parker, organizer, Printing Specialties & Paper Products Union #527; Sidney Colbert, shop steward, Teamsters Local 528; Martha Gaines, president, Atlanta American Civil Liberties Union; Rev. Fred Taylor, Southern Christian Leadership Conference staff; Sam Suboh, member, Palestinian Congress of North America; Venus Tayler, member, Mothers Committee to Stop Child Murders; John Studer, executive director, Political Rights Defense Fund. Sat., Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m. Dunbar Center, 447 Windsor St. (off Georgia Ave. near stadium). Donation: \$3. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

The Palestinian Struggle After Beirut. Speakers: representatives from Palestine Solidarity Movement, Socialist Workers Party, others. Fri., Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m. 555 W Adam. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (312) 559-9046.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

"Now We Are Awakened" — Women in Nicaragua. A slide show. Speaker: to be announced. Sun., Sept. 12, 7:00 p.m. 6404 Woodward. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 875-5322.

MINNESOTA

Twin Cities

Truth About Nicaragua: A Report From Fact-finding Tour. Speaker: Kathy Wheeler, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Minnesota. Fri., Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling, St. Paul. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

The Case of the Legless Veteran: James Kutcher. A film documentary of a man who fought and defeated the witchhunters during the Joseph McCarthy era. Sat., Sept. 18, Solidarity hour 6:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. First Unitarian Church, 5007 Waterman. Donation \$5. Ausp: Political Rights Defense Fund. For more information call (314) 725-1570.

OHIO

Cincinnati

Grand Opening of Militant Labor Bookstore. Speakers: Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth; Victor Rubio, Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador; Rachel Knapik, Socialist Workers Party candidate for lieutenant governor; Essie Hughes, chairwoman, Cincinnati National Black Independent Political Party. Sun., Sept. 19, 4 p.m. open house, 5:30 p.m. reception and program. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2.50 (reception and program). Ausp: Militant Labor Bookstore. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

No More Vietnams: The Fight Against the Draft and Washington's Wars. Speakers: Rev. Dan Buford, author, *Feet of Clay in the Black Community*; Kathleen Denny, Young Socialist Alliance; Suzanne Doerge, Central America Task Force. Sun., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

OREGON

Portland

Korea: A Time for a Change. A slide show. Sun., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. 711 NW Everett. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Bookstore Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

The American Economic Crisis: Reagan Makes Workers Pay the Price. Speaker: Jim Miller, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. 711 NW Everett. Donation: \$1. Ausp: Militant Bookstore Forum. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg

Israel's War Against the Palestinians. Speaker: Mark Zola, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Pennsylvania. Fri., Sept. 17, 7 p.m. Harrisburg YWCA, 215 Market St. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (717) 234-5042.

Philadelphia

The Draft & U.S. War in Central America. Speakers: Andrew Walden, 20-year-old draft resister, member of Young Socialist Alliance National Committee; Kathy Emminizer, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m. 5811 N Broad St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 927-4747.

TEXAS

Dallas

Protest U.S.-Israeli War on Palestinians. Speakers: Fred Stanton, Socialist Workers Party; representative, General Union of Palestinian Students. Sun., Sept. 19, 7 p.m. 2817 Live Oak. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 826-4711.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Political History of Zionism. Speaker: Ike Nahem. Sun., Sept. 12, 7:00 p.m. 3106 Mt. Pleasant, NW. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

The Draft and How to Fight It. Speakers: Michael McMillen, Madison draft resister facing indictment; representatives from Young Socialist Alliance and Wisconsin Committee Against the Draft. Thurs., Sept. 16, 7 p.m. Fireside Lounge, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Union. Ausp: YSA and WCAD. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

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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, 611 E. Indian School. Zip: 85012. Tel: (602) 274-7399. **Tucson:** SWP, P.O. Box 2585. Zip: 85702. Tel: (602) 622-3880 or 882-4304.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 2864 Telegraph Ave. Zip: 94609. Tel: (415) 763-3792. **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, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

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

FLORIDA: Miami: SWP, YSA, 1237 NW 119th St., North Miami. Zip: 33167. Tel: (305) 769-3478.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 504 Flat Shoals Ave. SE. Zip: 30316. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: SWP, YSA, 555 W. Adam Zip: 60606. Tel: (312) 559-9046.

INDIANA: Bloomington: YSA, Activities Desk, Indiana Memorial Union. Zip: 47405. **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, c/o Jim Sprall, 803 W. 11th St. Zip: 50613. **Des Moines:** YSA, P.O. Box 1165, Zip: 50311.

KENTUCKY: Louisville: SWP, YSA, 809 E. Broadway. Zip: 40204. 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: Boston: SWP, YSA, 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Zip: 02215. Tel: (617) 262-4621.

MICHIGAN: 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.

NEBRASKA: Lincoln: YSA, P.O. Box 30209. Zip: 68503. Tel: (402) 475-2255.

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

3341.

NEW MEXICO: Albuquerque: SWP, YSA, 1417 Central Ave. NE. Zip: 87106. Tel: (505) 842-0954.

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Labor and the fight for desegregation

The capitalist economic crisis is wreaking havoc with the lives of U.S. workers and farmers.

But the blows fall unevenly. Those suffering the greatest from layoffs, inflation, cutbacks in social services, and attacks on democratic rights are Blacks and Latinos. The capitalist offensive has *increased* the inequality they already face.

This is a major question the labor movement must address.

One of the central arenas of the attack on Black and Latino rights is in education. There has been a concerted effort by the employers for years to push back the gains won in the fight for desegregated schools.

What is at issue in this fight is centuries of discrimination against Blacks and Latinos, enforced in great part by segregating them into the lowest paid jobs, the worst housing, and inferior schools.

The civil rights movement of the 1960s established that "separate but equal" schools meant fewer funds for Black schools, rundown facilities, less textbooks, and fewer, poorer-paid teachers.

Blacks fought to overcome this by demanding the abolition of separate Black and white schools, which perpetuated this inequality. Through the desegregation of the schools, Blacks gained a greater chance for an equal education. Studies have shown that where desegregation has been implemented, the education of all children — Black and white — has improved.

Desegregation in education requires busing, because of the segregated housing patterns of this society. In the workplace, it requires affirmative action quotas to force the racist employers to hire and promote Blacks.

A fresh attack on school desegregation is now being carried out through the Reagan budget. The budget for this school year means sharp cuts in funds for local desegregation programs.

New York City, which received \$6.2 million for desegregation projects in 1981-82, is scheduled to get only \$9,000 under its block grant for the new school year.

Buffalo's schools will receive \$1 million, compared to \$7 million in 1981-82.

Milwaukee, which received \$6.9 million last year, is getting a block grant of \$2.6 million this year, of which \$1.8 million is allocated for desegregation.

The slashing of federal funds for desegregation, which further encourages attacks by local officials on Black and Latino education, comes at a time when millions of Blacks and Latinos are still attending segregated schools.

A recent report by the Joint Center for Political Studies found that nearly half the Black students in the Northeast attend schools that are at least 90 percent minority. This compared with 23 percent in the South.

The study found that in Illinois 68 percent of Black students are in schools where less than 10 percent of the students are white.

In New York state, 56 percent of Black children are in such schools. The other states with the highest

proportion of segregated schools are Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Missouri, and California.

New York state headed the list in discrimination against Latino students. Fifty-seven percent of them are in schools where less than 10 percent of the student body is white. Segregation of Latino children is also especially high in Texas, Illinois, and New Jersey.

The ruling class and its representatives in government argue that the recession means programs like desegregation or affirmative action are no longer practical. "There is just not enough money to concentrate on those big desegregation programs that were operated in some school systems," says Allen King of the Federal Department of Education.

This while the Reagan administration plans to spend \$1.5 trillion on war in the next five years.

This reactionary view finds its echo in the labor officialdom. Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), has mimicked this argument in his attempt to overturn portions of the desegregation plan in Boston.

What particularly irks Shanker is the court order that the percentage of Black and Latino teachers hired in Boston through affirmative action cannot be reduced when layoffs occur. That court order was a victory for the teachers union, advancing the fight to desegregate jobs in the schools.

At the AFT convention this summer, Shanker overrode objections of a significant number of delegates and gave AFT endorsement to a suit to overturn the Boston affirmative action plan. His argument was exactly that of the employers — in a recession, there's going to be less equality.

Shanker is dead wrong. The fact is that *in the midst of the recession*, in Boston affirmative action gains have been preserved — through the struggle led by Black and Latino teachers and their allies.

Under the Boston court order, 20 percent of the city's teachers must be Black and 8 percent Latino. These percentages have been maintained through the period of layoffs in the Boston schools.

Shanker's reactionary perspective is poison for the labor movement. Now is precisely the time that the unions should be in the forefront of combatting every attempt to deepen race or sex discrimination. These attacks pave the way for intensifying attacks on the whole labor movement. They help divide the working class further and pit white against Black, instead of workers against the employers and their government.

Desegregation in education, in the workplace, and in housing has been an advance for the working class. By overcoming some of the inequalities imposed by the rulers on the most oppressed workers, it has strengthened labor as a whole. It has helped forge greater unity among workers, which is essential to counter the blows coming down on the class as a whole.

The continued attacks on desegregation of the schools and desegregation of the workplace through affirmative action must be roundly condemned by the union movement.

Defend Missouri farmer Wayne Cryts

Missouri farmer Wayne Cryts is once again in a battle with the courts and cops. Cryts gained national attention in February 1981 when he removed his soybeans from a bankrupt grain elevator. He was jailed earlier this year because he wouldn't give the names of other farmers who helped him repossess his crop from a second grain elevator. A judge also slapped him with a \$287,000 fine.

On August 14 Cryts was jailed again. Federal marshalls seized a van he was driving in Gravette, Arkansas, claiming the vehicle could be used as payment toward the fine. They jailed Cryts for resisting their attempts to take the van. He was later released.

On August 24 a federal bankruptcy judge approved a plan to seize Cryts's assets. Cryts could lose his farm if the court moves ahead with its plan.

Thousands of working farmers face loss of their crops and their livelihood with the escalating number of bankrupt grain elevators. According to the law — written for the banks and corporations, not working people — when elevators go bankrupt the courts can rule that assets go first to the banks. Too bad for the farmers whose property was stored there.

Cryts and the American Agriculture Movement are seeking support in this fight and they deserve 100 percent backing from the labor movement. One important example of solidarity has come from machinists. Both the Midwest Machinists Conference and District 837 of the International Association of Machinists in St. Louis have endorsed the Wayne Cryts Defense Fund and donated money to it.

Workers and small farmers face a common enemy in the corporations, landlords, and banks and their government. The capitalists are increasingly using weapons like the courts and the cops to beat back the attempts of farmers and unionists alike to resist their attacks.

The use of state troopers and the National Guard against striking meat packers in Dakota City, Nebraska, is another example.

The fight to defend Wayne Cryts and get out the word on his case is in the interests of all working people. It can help strengthen the common battle of workers and farmers to defend their living standards and rights.

Greatest foe of U.S. & Mexican workers is American imperialism

The foreign policy of the U.S. imperialists in the face of the current Mexican economic crisis is to try to wring still more profits out of the workers and peasants of that oppressed nation.

For working people in the United States, opposition to Washington and Wall Street's attacks on workers in Mexico is in our own class interest.

This was the message of a speech delivered in Mexico by then national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, James P. Cannon on March 30, 1938.

In 1938, Mexican president Lázaro Cárdenas announced the nationalization of the imperialist-owned oil fields, which caused a furor among the imperialists. The SWP sent several of its leaders to Mexico to express solidarity with the common struggle of Mexican and U.S. workers against U.S. imperialism.

Cannon delivered his speech to a rally of a thousand workers, peasants, and students at the Casa del Pueblo in Mexico City. Printed below are excerpts from Cannon's speech.

* * *

Comrades, it's a great pleasure and honor for us on the last night of our visit to Mexico to be present in this wonderful meeting of militant workers in the Casa del Pueblo. We came as representatives of a workers' organization in America to see this wonder-

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

ful country and its great revolutionary people, and we feel that here tonight is the real representative of the real proletariat of Mexico.

The greatest robber of Mexico and all of the Latin American people is U.S. imperialism. It is also the greatest enemy of the U.S. workers.

The main purpose of our visit was to get better acquainted with the Mexican workers so that we can discover ways of fighting together — the workers of the U.S. and the people of Mexico against the imperialists of the United States. The Mexican people, who have already gone through revolutions, can teach us much about how to fight for our rights. We have learned much on our visit here, especially from the unions of this organization and their leaders.

In the last days the action of expropriating the oil companies of the United States and Great Britain meets with the full approval of all revolutionary American workers. When we return home our plan is to organize mass meetings to tell the truth of the struggle of the Mexican workers and urge support for them among the American workers. The most important thing for the Mexican people and for the people of all Latin America is to be independent of U.S. imperialism. Everybody who fights against U.S. imperialism is our friend and comrade.

The Mexican workers, together with the workers of the United States and of the whole of this great continent, from South America to Canada, must unite in one movement to struggle against American imperialism. The goal of our struggle must be to form the United States of all America in a socialist republic. We are confident that the workers of the Casa del Pueblo will be fighters in this great struggle of liberation of all the people of this continent. The Fourth International regards every honest worker struggling for freedom as a friend and brother and wants to enroll under one banner to free him from oppression by imperialism and capitalism in general.

We know that we cannot overthrow the imperialists of America without the aid of Latin American people who are oppressed by the same imperialism. . . .

The expropriation of the companies is an action which inspires the workers of the entire world. It is too bad that you have to pay these robbers who have been robbing Mexico of its natural resources. In principle the Fourth International is in favor of expropriating the capitalists without any compensation at all. If the Mexican people have to pay compensation it is because they have not yet received enough support from the workers of the United States. We hope to organize a strong enough movement in the United States, under the slogan of expropriating the capitalists, so that we can return the wealth to the workers to whom it belongs.

When that time comes, we will expropriate not only the oil companies, but all industry, not only of America but all other capitalists and proclaim the social revolution. Then all the great beauties and riches of the continent will belong only to the people and workers.

New gov't policy: more death, less safety in mines

BY KIPP DAWSON

Coal mine fatalities are up. U.S. government enforcement of safety in coal mines is down. And if the Democrats and Republicans have their way, both trends will snowball.

United Mine Workers Deputy Director of the International Safety Division, Danny Davidson, recently announced that 1982 coal mine fatalities are occurring at the highest rate since the record year of 1975. By July 15, 71 coal miners had already died in the mines.

A joint Democratic-Republican attack is undercut-

UNION TALK

ting federal regulations and enforcement of safety for workers in all industries. Government inspection agencies, including the Mine Safety and Health Administration, have had their funds and staffs heavily cut back.

But the worst could be yet to come, and just around the corner.

In a front-page article the August 1-15 issue of the United Mine Workers *Journal* reports:

"With little advance warning, the federal government has decided to re-open almost all underground coal mine safety regulations for possible changes, an issue coal industry organizations and companies have been hoping for for years."

The *Journal* reports that Ford B. Ford, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health, has announced a review of Part 75 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This is the section which covers almost all coal mine health and safety regulations now in effect.

Ford claims that the review is designed to promote "efficiency."

UMWA President Sam Church told the *Journal*, "When you blow the smoke away from the rhetoric about simplifying, updating, consolidation, and reorganization, what you'll see is a bunch of coal companies and their friends drooling over a chance to save a few bucks and operate without regard to the men and women who mine their profits."

What do the coal companies and their friends want?

The *Journal* cites a recent 165-page Consolidation Coal Co. report as an example.

Entitled "Cost/Benefit Analysis of Deep Mine Federal Safety Legislation and Enforcement," the report concludes, "Costs of these provisions have outweighed the benefits. . . . Unnecessary regulations need to be eliminated."

The Consol report calls for changes in every area of mine safety including methane monitoring, pre-shifting, dust sampling, ventilation, roof control, electrical equipment, and more.

Is it a coincidence that the Ford announcement indicates that the U.S. government "review" will focus on the areas of roof support, blasting and explosives, and ventilation plan requirements — the heart of mine safety?

In fact, the safety that *does* exist in coal mines today is a product of the work of the UMWA and its members. Federal mine safety legislation was not enacted until the massive rank-and-file coal miners movement of the 1960s brought about the Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969.

And today safety in the mines is enforced in proportion to the vigilance and united action of coal miners through our union.

In 1981, for example, more than 90 percent of UMWA mines had accident incidence rates below the national average. While 155 coal miners died in the mines in 1981, only 50 of these were UMWA miners.

While the UMWA is the backbone of enforcing safety in the mines, cuts in the number of inspectors and in government safety regulations severely limit its ability to protect the lives of coal miners.

And cuts in federal safety enforcement are even more deadly for the thousands of coal miners who have no union to protect them.

To date the UMWA has announced only one action to respond to this latest attack. The *Journal* announced that the International Safety Division had created a task force to put together the UMWA's proposals on Part 75. "The task force also outlined ways the UMWA can use the review as an opportunity to fight for long-sought after improvements in mine safety," the *Journal* reports.

The government's "review" of Part 75 is not an isolated incident. It is part of the bipartisan attack on the lives and living conditions of all working people and farmers. Task forces alone cannot turn it around.

Coal miners have repeatedly shown their concern and willingness to act on behalf of our own safety, and against threats to working people as a whole. Recent coal contract strikes have all had safety issues as one of their focuses.

There is no doubt that when a real campaign is launched to *take on* the Democratic and Republican attacks on working people, coal miners will be among its leaders. The latest government attacks on mine safety show that such a struggle is already long overdue.

Kipp Dawson is a member of UMWA Local 1197 in Cokeburg, Pa.

LETTERS

Response to reader

In response to a letter by Ronald A. Sims entitled "Stalinist invention?" which appeared in the July 9 edition of the *Militant*, certain points must be raised. The writer refers to Fidel Castro's speech to Cuban youth in which Castro counterposes the two principles: "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs," and "from each according to his ability, to each according to his work." The writer asks if "to each according to his work" is not a "Stalinist invention and distortion of Marxian socialism."

When Marx wrote "to each according to his needs" he was referring to an advanced state of socialism, namely communism, which requires various stages of transition and technological development before it can be fully realized.

Many societies have discovered in their efforts to make the transition from capitalism to socialism that the old patterns and values tend to linger. They have found that it is difficult to develop a socialist consciousness in the people because they are accustomed to the values of the dying capitalist society. The Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Nicaragua, have all found it necessary to offer incentives for the time being and to adhere to the principle of "to each according to his work" along with ideological training to enhance socialist consciousness.

When it comes to the practical implementation of socialism, "To each according to his work" serves two functions: it serves to reinforce the concept of the dignity of labor as opposed to the belief that indolence is the ultimate level of human "success" and it serves to increase the rate of technological development in socialist societies so as to bring them closer to communism and the point where "to each according to his needs" is a practical reality.

In other words, "to each ac-

cording to his work" is a necessary phase in the gradual transition from socialism to communism. It helps to strengthen socialism and paves the way to a fuller appreciation for the primacy of labor in socialist ideology and the ability of a social system to be so productive that it can provide for "each according to his needs."

Matthew Hawkins
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Illegal matches?

If you go to Cuba and buy a box of matches you can be accused of violating the Trading With the Enemy Act. And should you try to pass this small box with its dozen matches through U.S. Customs, it will surely be confiscated. This happened to one Puerto Rican who, together with 300 others, traveled to Cuba — defying Reagan's travel ban — to be with the Puerto Rican team participating in the 14th Central American and Caribbean Games held in that country August 7-18.

According to the August 27-September 2 issue of *Claridad*, a Puerto Rican socialist weekly, customs officials were especially zealous in confiscating every single object manufactured in Cuba brought back to Puerto Rico by the 300 sports fans. Articles confiscated included, besides the matchbox mentioned above, records, souvenirs, newspapers, liquor, and books.

Claridad adds that one customs agent was so immersed in his job of "protecting" us from Cuban products that he even tried to confiscate a Puerto Rican flag, confusing it for a Cuban flag. And this guy was Puerto Rican himself!

R.K.
New York, New York

Distorted view

Ten months ago I eagerly embraced your platform of fighting back against Reagan's inhuman policies of racism, budget cuts, and war. In fact, it has become

obvious that I still agree wholeheartedly with these principles. However, after reading the *Militant* several times, it became apparent that the Socialist Workers Party holds a very distorted view of democracy.

While accurately observing that Reagan's regime is undemocratic and likewise that the Salvadoran junta is especially barbaric, you foolishly embrace Fidel Castro in Cuba and the Sandinistas in Nicaragua as being examples of "workers democracies."

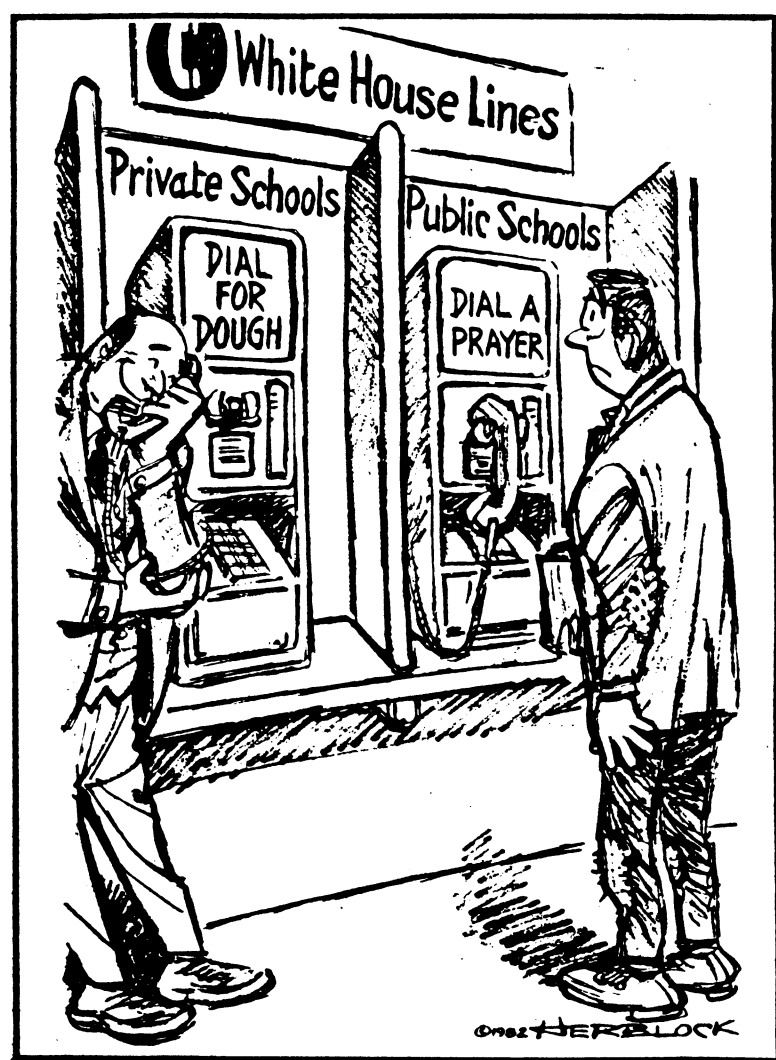
This simply is not true. All indications are that Cuba is now even more repressive than it was under Batista and that Nicaragua's revolution was betrayed by the Sandinistas.

In fact Edén Pastora, the renowned "Commander Zero," has had to flee Nicaragua after exposing the Sandinista fraud. But even more brutal has been their treatment of their Indian population. The Indians have been rounded up and thrown into concentration camps to be liquidated Nazi-style. With "democracies" like this who needs a dictatorship?

More recently I have been appalled by the position taken by the SWP regarding the war in Lebanon. You regard Yassir Arafat as being a freedom fighter whose just cause is being subverted by Israel's policies and genocide and aggression.

An accurate examination of the historical facts should expose this myth. In 1948, on the very date that the Israeli state was born, it found itself the victim of an unprovoked assault by its hostile neighbors who attacked from every side. The peaceful inhabitants of Israel were forced to defend themselves against an enemy whose stated aim was the annihilation of Israel.

Miraculously, Israel turned back the cold-blooded onslaught. Since then the civilized people of Israel have made continuous attempts to make peace with their neighbors.



Although he may cynically speak of peace, Arafat is a diseased man whose barbarism knows no bounds. He is a freedom fighter only in the sense that he fights against freedom.

I must insist that you stop sending me your rubbish.

John Kerman
North Cape May, New Jersey

Impressed

Fraternal greetings of solidarity to you in your just struggle for the freedom of the masses from exploitation, economic and political oppression, as well as social injustices by capitalism, imperialism, colonialism and their agents. I wish to inform you that I have been impressed by your good work through the *Militant* and being myself a vic-

tim of the ills of the society and the world at large, I wish to subscribe to your newspaper.

I am sincerely hoping that you shall continue your good work and shall not retreat an inch from your anticapitalist and nonaligned position on the issues that adversely affect our well-being.

J.H.
Christiansted, St. Croix

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

Behind Mexico's economic crisis lie decades of U.S. domination

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The big business press is nearly unanimous in proclaiming that oil and poor management are the causes of Mexico's near bankruptcy.

But Mexican president José López Portillo came closer to the truth in his September 1 State of the Union address where he announced the nationalization of Mexico's domestic banks. He placed the blame for Mexico's crisis on "the trap of a hostile world, led by powerful countries for their own benefit, maintained permanently against the developing countries."

Two days later, tens of thousands of Mexican workers and peasants demonstrated at the National Palace in favor of the nationalization and against the parasitic bankers.

The crisis in Mexico, a country often pointed to in the last several years as a positive example of the possibilities of economic development in semicolonial countries under capitalism, has its roots in decades of imperialist domination, combined with the shock of the current world economic crisis.

Mexico's economy is dominated by U.S. corporations, a fact that has served to block Mexico's development. U.S. investors account for 72 percent of all direct foreign investment in Mexico. Four-fifths of all Mexico's exports go to the United States, while an equally high percentage of all Mexican imports come from this country.

The variety of ways in which imperialism exploits Mexico has led it, like other Third World countries, to become an exporter of raw materials. The international capitalist recession has resulted in a declining demand and dropping prices for oil and other Mexican exports, such as silver, copper, and coffee. This coincides with a steady rise in the prices of manufactured goods which Mexico must purchase from the imperialist countries.

This has forced the Mexican economy

into its worst crisis since the depression of the 1930s.

This crisis is reflected in the collapse of the peso and an inflation rate that is expected to rise above 100 percent this year. There is a standstill in the vital construction industry, spiraling bankruptcies, mushrooming unemployment, and projections of zero economic growth for several years. This means sharply declining living standards for workers and poor farmers.

Mexico is unable to maintain payments on the country's \$80 billion foreign debt, which is the highest in the world.

\$60 billion of this debt comes from more than 1,000 commercial banks around the world. One banker quoted in the *New York Times* pointed out that some major U.S. banks have the equivalent of up to 90 percent of the total invested in them by their stockholders on loan to Mexico.

As the chief international economist of Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. put it, "Mexico and the U.S. are so thoroughly integrated that we have to consider it financially a part of the U.S." This accounts for the shock waves that went rippling through Wall Street and the entire international banking system when Mexico announced that, in effect, it was bankrupt.

And *Business Week* pointed out, "Mexico has a 1,500-mile border with the U.S., is the U.S.'s third-largest trading partner, and is seen by the Reagan Administration as a democratic bastion against rising communist insurgency in Latin America."

The United States Treasury, along with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), quickly arranged a multi-billion dollar package of emergency credit to Mexico. But the imperialists never give anything unless they plan on getting more in return. They fully intend to use these latest loans and the renegotiations on the \$10 billion debt due this year to get their pound of flesh out of Mexican workers.



Mexican workers and peasants rally in support of nationalization of domestic banks.

Washington has already succeeded in forcing Mexico to sell the United States more oil and gas at bargain basement prices.

The imperialists are also calling for an end to Mexico's "economic nationalism." That is, they want Mexico to open its doors even wider to exploitation by foreign capital.

And the IMF is sure to demand a heavy dose of austerity measures.

This comes on top of austerity moves already announced by Portillo on August 1, which included sharp increases in the prices of gasoline, electricity, tortillas, powdered milk, bread and other staples, as a result of the lowering of government price subsidies.

The drastic devaluation of the peso in August further reduced purchasing power of Mexico's toilers, since they will continue to earn the same number of pesos while prices skyrocket.

The crisis in Mexico, and imperialism's "solutions" — which intensify the exploitation and oppression that is at the root of the problem — will only lead to more and bigger crises down the road.

The U.S. government is also hoping it can use this economic squeeze to get Mexico to take a foreign policy stance which is more in line with Washington's.

In his state of the union address, however, Portillo reiterated his opposition to U.S. support for the Salvadoran dictatorship and called for negotiations with the rebel forces.

Portillo also spoke about Nicaragua, repeating Mexico's friendly stance toward the government there. Alluding to the stepped-up U.S. military moves against Nicaragua, Portillo condemned "artificial armed interventions" and called for the Nicaraguans to be left in peace.

Meanwhile, on this side of the U.S.-Mexican border, Washington is utilizing the Mexican economic crisis as a pretext to step up its illegal raids and roundups of undocumented workers, claiming a massive new influx of Mexican workers has begun.

This increase in arrests and propaganda is part of the government's political moves to whip up support for the reactionary Simpson-Mazzoli immigration bill, now in Congress.

New York Black political convention fails to make break with Democrats

BY NAN BAILEY

NEW YORK — "Assuming responsibility for our destiny," was the theme of the New York City Black Convention — 1982, held August 21 at Community College of New York.

Over 1,000 Blacks responded to the call for the convention. The call, publicized for several months, was a militant appeal to action endorsed by more than 200 prominent Black New Yorkers.

"The Black communities of New York City are under siege," the call said, in part. "The policies of President Reagan and Mayor Koch make plain that the governmental commitment to abolish poverty has been rescinded.

"Clearly, Black New Yorkers are in a state of crisis more egregious than at any time in recent history.

"To look to government, whether local, state, or federal, for a way out of the crisis is to nurture a dangerous delusion. To expect assistance of any significance from the private sector is to misunderstand the most elemental characteristics of capitalism.

"It is therefore, out of a profound sense of urgency that we, the undersigned,

issue this call to convention to all Black New Yorkers who have an understanding of the times and who, in a time of ultimate peril, will know what we ought to do."

Black elected officials from throughout the state attended. Many who came were Democratic party workers or officials. Unity Party, New Alliance Party, United African Party, Socialist Workers Party and Communist Party supporters were there. Local Black ministers, members of the National Black United Front, and of the National Black Independent Political Party were there. And hundreds of unaffiliated Blacks came to check out the Black convention to see if it would live up to the militancy of the convention call.

They were greeted by James Dowdy, who opened the meeting. Dowdy was coconvener and principal organizer of the convention. He is president of the Harlem Commonwealth Council, a corporation which oversees the development of private businesses in the Harlem area.

The central political framework offered by convention organizers was out-

lined by Willie Brown, a Black Democrat who is Speaker of the California Assembly. Brown was the convention's keynote speaker.

Crisis in Black movement

Brown's speech noted a crisis in the Black movement. He acknowledged the steady worsening over the last 20 years of the unemployment, housing, economic, and general social status of Blacks. He said national Black organizations like the NAACP and Urban League are ineffective and powerless to lead in solving the problems.

Brown outlined his strategy for Black liberation in the 1980s. Get out the vote and elect more Black officials, Brown said. This was the heart of his strategy. He criticized Blacks for not making full use of their voting power:

"You ought to be about the business of politics like nobody else," he told the audience. "I'm always shocked when I notice that 9 percent of the voters in my state happen to be Black and on any giv-

Continued on Page 10