

Socialist defends abortion rights

BY PAT GROGAN

NEW YORK — "Ronald Reagan has declared war against the rights of women to choose safe, legal abortion," said Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York.

In one of his first acts following his inauguration, Reagan delivered a telephone message to the January 22 national "March for Life" organized by foes of women's rights. Each year on that date, opponents of legal abortion protest the Supreme Court's Jan. 22, 1973, ruling that made abortion legal.

"I feel a great sense of solidarity," Reagan told the members and supporters of the "right-to-life" organizations. "The momentum is with us."

In the past month, under growing pressure from supporters of women's rights, a number of opponents of abortion rights have been arrested on charges of bombing abortion clinics. All of those arrested are active in or supporters of antiabortion organizations — the same ones Reagan supports.

"At a time when abortion clinics are being blown up by misnamed 'right-to-lifers,'" González told the *Militant*, "The president of the United States makes a major address — not to say that the constitutional right of women to abortion will be protected, but to encourage the very forces responsible for violent, illegal attacks against women's rights."

In his speech, Reagan gave the mildest possible admonishment to the violent foes of abortion rights, while making clear his sympathy for them.

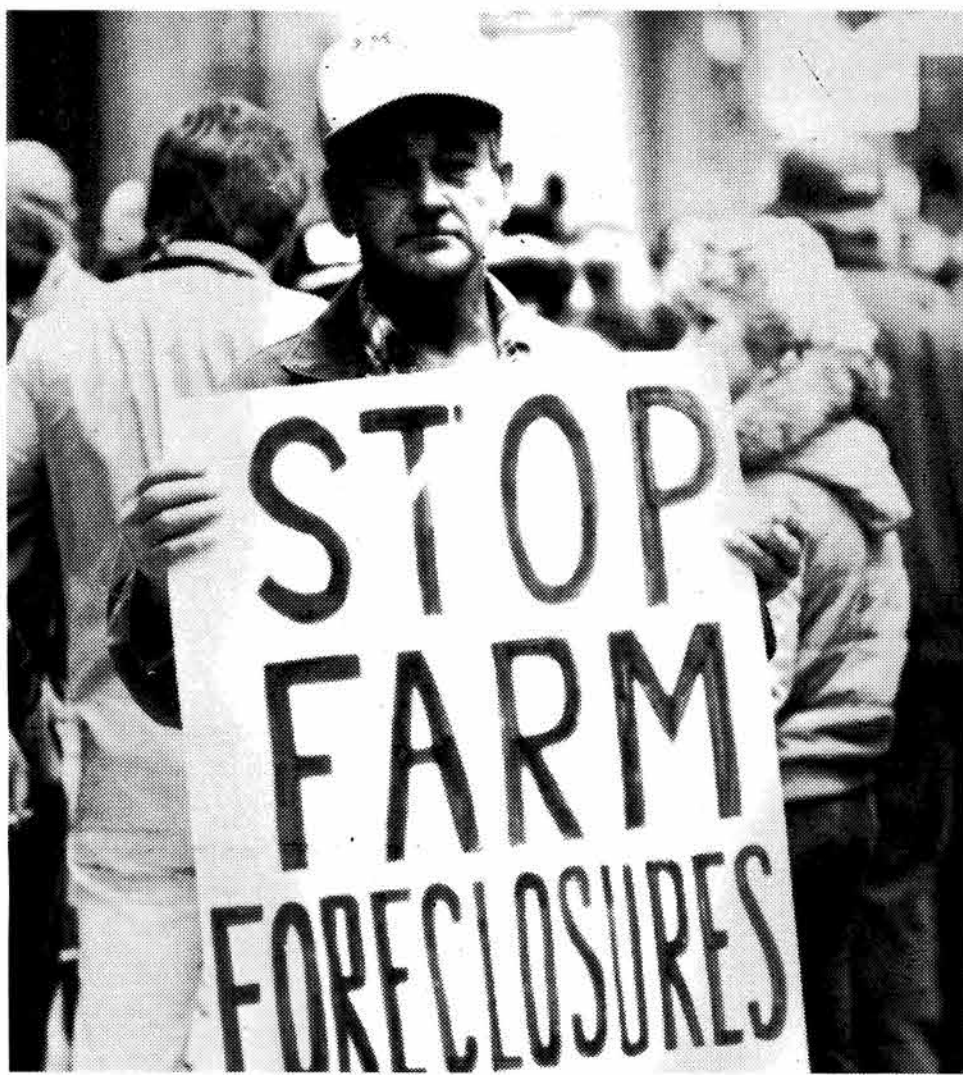
Reagan reiterated his support for the so-called human life amendment to the constitution, which would outlaw abortions, even those necessary to save the life of the woman.

"Twelve years ago," González said, "women won the right to make a fundamental decision that affects every other aspect of our lives — the right to decide whether, when, and how many children to bear."

"But in recent years," González said, "the right to legal abortion has come under intense fire. Those who bomb the clinics are the shock troops in a broad offensive against abortion rights that also takes place

Continued on Page 11

Thousands of farmers demand gov't aid



Picket at Chicago farm protest last fall. New series of demonstrations in Midwest mobilized thousands of working farmers to demand government aid.

BY STEVE WATTENMAKER

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Thousands of family farmers rallied on the steps of the state capitol here January 21 to demand aid for farmers caught in the worst agricultural crisis since the depression of the 1930s.

Schools were closed for the day in 34 rural districts across the state so students could join their families in the protest. At the request of rally organizers, small businesses in many farming communities shut down for the day as well.

Estimates of the crowd ranged up to 10,000, making it one of the largest protest rallies at the state capitol in years. In addition to farm families, trade unionists from the United Auto Workers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; United Steelworkers; Teamsters; Minnesota Education Association; Communications Workers of America; and United Food and Commercial Workers joined the demonstration in a show of support for the beleaguered small farmers.

The massive turnout for the protest highlighted the depth of the farm crisis across the Midwest. In Minnesota alone, the state agriculture department estimates that 13,000 of 100,000 family farmers will be forced off their land in the next two years.

Within the past several weeks large meetings and demonstrations were held in a number of states. On January 17 a crowd of 5,000 farmers packed the municipal auditorium in Sioux City, Iowa. A week earlier, 1,000 farmers demanded action from state officials in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Leading off the speakers at the St. Paul rally, Merle Hansen, president of the North American Farm Alliance, told the gather-

Continued on Page 9

Nicaragua seeks peace; U.S. wages war

BY TOM LEONARD

In the past few weeks, Washington has increased its diplomatic and political pressure on Nicaragua as part of escalating its shooting war against the Sandinista revolution.

In rapid fire order, Washington:

- Walked out of the World Court when that body agreed to hear Nicaraguan government charges that the U.S. government was illegally supporting paramilitary actions against Nicaragua, including U.S. responsibility for mining its harbors.

- Unilaterally broke off diplomatic talks with Nicaragua that have been going on in Manzanillo, Mexico, since last June.

- Announced plans to push for congressional approval to resume direct military aid to the CIA-organized counterrevolutionaries who are waging war against Nicaragua.

- Sent 1,300 U.S. troops to join the 125 that are permanently stationed in Honduras in preparation for large-scale military "maneuvers" in March and April.

- Blocked a loan of \$60.3 million from

the Inter-American Development Bank, which Nicaragua had applied for to develop agriculture. In blocking this loan, Washington is also holding up loans to other Latin American countries.

These hostile moves underline the urgency of organizing the largest possible participation in the April 20 antiwar march and rally in Washington, D.C., which has been called by the April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice coalition. The call has already been endorsed by a broad array of peace groups, Black, Latino, and women's rights organizations, and trade unions.

The U.S. government's latest moves follow on the heels of the Pentagon's recent delivery of more sophisticated aircraft to the Salvadoran Air Force, which is already notorious for its indiscriminate bombing of civilians in areas controlled by the popular forces of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front.

Following the lead of Washington's breaking off of negotiations with Nicaragua, the U.S.-backed governments of El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Honduras have announced they will boycott a meeting called by the Contadora countries which was to take place in February.

Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama — the four countries whose governments make up the Contadora group — drafted a program for a negotiated settlement of the military conflicts in Central America which Nicaragua had agreed to sign last November.

The U.S. government, however, said it was dissatisfied with the plan and has been pressing for more concessions from the Sandinistas.

Continued on Page 12

Yale clerical workers win victory, sign pact

BY JOHN STUDER

The year-long struggle of clerical and technical workers at Yale University to win union recognition and a decent contract has scored a victory. On January 22, workers voted 890 to 2 to approve what chief negotiator for the union, John Wilhelm, termed "an excellent contract."

The union, Local 34 of the Federation of University Employees, is a 2,600 member affiliate of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union. This victory has national importance. It is a step forward in the fight of the labor movement to organize office workers, most of whom are women.

Following almost a year of inconclusive negotiations, Local 34 was forced on strike in September 1984. Their militant strike won support from unionists, students, and women's rights fighters all across the country. On December 4, as Christmas break loomed, local members returned to work,

vowing to continue the struggle for better wages and working conditions inside.

The local set a new strike deadline of January 19 — the opening of the spring school semester. They pushed it back one week as negotiations progressed. The contract includes significant gains — including a 20 percent plus wage increase over its three-and-one-half-year duration, as well as cost-of-living protection, a dental plan, and improvements in working conditions.

The victory at Yale gives a boost to similar organizing drives at other universities, including Harvard and Columbia. Columbia workers, heartened by the Yale victory, say they will strike the school on February 4 if it does not recognize the union and begin negotiations.

At the heart of these fights is the issue of comparable worth: the struggle to bring wages paid women to levels comparable to men. This fight has been centered on the battle to win union representation in order

to be able to fight to raise wages.

One of the reasons for Local 34's victory was the support for their strike by Yale's other unionized employees. The membership of Local 35, which organizes Yale's 1,000 dining hall and maintenance workers, honored the picket lines throughout their sister local's strike.

Local 35 is now in negotiations with the university itself. The contract expires January 26. Because of the clerical workers' victory, Local 35 members are more confident. Phil Voight, Local 35's chief steward, reports that Yale is showing "more of a willingness to settle, because they don't want to disrupt another semester."

The clerical and technical workers voted unanimously at their ratification meeting to walk out in solidarity if Local 35 is forced to strike. And one of the victories codified in their new contract is that Local 34 has the uncontested right to respect other unions' picket lines.

—SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE—

BY ELLEN BERMAN

BOSTON — Recently the Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party here decided to expand our regular plant gate sales to include P and L Sportswear, an East Boston Garment shop which employs about 400 to 500 workers, and Malden Mills in Lawrence, Massachusetts, a textile plant of close to 1,000 workers. P and L is back to work after a lengthy layoff. Both plants are organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union (ILGWU).

Last summer, the Puerto Rican and Dominican communities in Lawrence, suffering from a long history of discrimination, were involved in a rebellion against racism which attracted national attention. Many Latinos work at Malden Mills, one of the few remaining plants in the town of Lawrence, which was once a center of the textile industry in the United States.

The first sale at Malden Mills took place as the third shift was going into work. Since we don't usually sell a lot of papers at our other plant gate sales, the sales team took only four *Militants*, two *Perspectiva Mundials*, and one *Young Socialist* with us.

In 15 minutes at the gate, all the papers were sold. This was before many workers had even arrived. Lots of workers stopped to ask what we were selling. We told them: "This is a radical paper that is against what the U.S. govern-

ment is doing in Central America."

This was especially interesting to Latino workers. One young worker bought a copy of *Perspectiva Mundial*, and then pointed to the *Young Socialist* and asked what it was. He then decided to buy the *Young Socialist* too.

We plan to sell regularly to both first and third shift workers at Malden Mills. Next time we'll bring more papers.

In Boston we have found it challenging to organize regular plant gate sales because of cold weather and the fact that sales team members work different shifts. The majority of the plants we have prioritized are outside of Boston proper, at least 20 to 30 miles from where most of us live, which also makes transportation a problem. However, we have organized fairly regular sales at both the General Motors plant in Framingham and the General Electric plant in Lynn, as well as now planning regular teams at Malden Mills and P and L.

Previously, we sold at another small garment shop in East Boston. About 95 percent of the work force there are Portuguese, and the other 5 percent are Hispanics.

Almost all the Latinos will buy a copy of *Perspectiva Mundial* whenever we sell there. Since we don't have enough sales teams to continue that sale, now, but did have such good success selling there before, we decided we should go back to the gate at least



Workers from the GE plant in Lynn, Massachusetts, at the Aug. 27, 1983, demonstration for jobs, peace, and freedom in Washington, D.C.

once more to try to convince these *Perspectiva Mundial* readers to buy subscriptions and get on the Militant Forum mailing list as a way of keeping in touch.

At General Motors there are a number of workers who regularly buy the *Militant*, both inside the plant and at the gate. We sell between two and seven papers on each sale. Sometimes when the plant is operating on Saturday, we sell at the gate twice a week.

Some workers roll down their windows and have their dollar bills sticking out as they approach the gate where we sell. Recently a *Militant* supporter inside the plant who hadn't yet seen the latest *Militant* had to borrow a copy from a coworker who had bought it at the plant gate that day.

We also try to cover two shifts at the General Electric plant in

Lynn which employs 6,000 workers and is organized by the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE).

The work force here is different from the auto and garment plants where we sell. This GE plant, which has contracts with the Pentagon, hasn't suffered the same layoffs and cutbacks as other industries. In fact, employment has expanded in the last three months. This has created a sense of security among many workers. There are also fewer Blacks, women, and Latinos than in other industries in the area.

Because of the importance of GE in this area, the key role of the IUE, plus the fact that issues like automation, Quality of Work Life circles, and the increasing war drive of Washington are having an effect on this work force, we feel it

is important to continue selling at the gate even though the volume of sales is currently low.

We have also found that the more regular our sales are at GE over a period of time, the more papers we sell. We have had a great deal of success when we organize sales inside the plant as well.

We try to pay attention to the composition of the *Militant* sales teams. For example at the GE sales we have found it is useful to have both people who work there as well as people who don't. It also helps to have people who work at GM and GE sell at plant gates other than their own. That way they get to share experiences with workers from other industries.

Active supporters of the SWP are also getting involved in plant gate sales. Two supporters are members of regular teams.

To deal with the problems of sales team members on different shifts and too few cars, we have tried to institute regular teams that sell at the same plant gate at the same time every week. We also try to schedule sales early enough in the week so that if the weather is bad we can reschedule them.

Each team has a captain who is responsible for the sale. Each team tries to meet at least once every month. When the sales teams have a chance to sit down and discuss problems and ideas about how to improve the sales, we have a lot more success — both in involving everyone and in selling papers.

Socialist coal miner runs for mayor of St. Louis

BY BOB MILLER

ST. LOUIS — Bruce Kimball, a member of United Mine Workers of America Local 2295, declared his candidacy for mayor of St. Louis on January 17 and submitted more than 4,300 signatures on petitions demanding that he be placed on the ballot as the Socialist Workers Party candidate in the April 2 elections.

Kimball was accompanied to the Board of Election Commissioners by a dozen campaign supporters and spoke to the media before filing the petitions. "Our campaign, unlike the Democrats' and Republicans'" he explained, "is required to file 2,236 signatures of registered voters to be placed on the ballot. We want to emphasize and make public," he continued, "that we are prepared to wage a political fight to have our campaign placed on the April ballot."

The socialist candidate further explained that he has received letters of endorsement for his right to be on the ballot from prominent community activists.

The endorsers include leaders of the American Civil Liberties Union; Missouri National Abortion Rights Action League; Original Tiffany Neighborhood Associa-

tion, an organization of Blacks fighting discrimination in housing; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; and the Latin America Solidarity Committee.

Kimball has also retained legal counsel to help ensure that the democratic right of the SWP to be on the ballot is not abridged by the Democrats and Republicans who run city hall.

When asked by the media why he thought there would be efforts to keep him off the ballot, Kimball said that the capitalist class and their two political parties are constantly trying to whittle away the democratic rights that working people have won through struggle. Women, for example, won the right to legal abortions, he said. Yet the ruling rich are constantly attacking that right.

The socialist candidate said he is campaigning for a workers and farmers government — a government of, by, and for working people which would use the vast resources and technology of this country to aid in eliminating hunger, poverty, and disease all over the globe. Such a government will place human needs before profits.

Continued on Page 9



Bruce Kimball (right), coal miner and Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate, petitioning for ballot status in St. Louis.

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Nicaragua: new sugar mill adds 8,500 jobs

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

TIPITAPA-MALACATOYA, Nicaragua — The new sugar mill that was inaugurated here January 11 will have a major impact on Nicaragua's economy. Jaime Wheelock, Nicaragua's minister of agrarian reform and agricultural development, outlined in his speech at the opening ceremonies what the refinery will mean for Nicaragua.

Named the Victoria de Julio (July Victory) mill, the installation is the largest in Central America. It was built with extensive Cuban aid. Cuban president Fidel Castro came here for the inauguration of the plant, and in his speech announced that Cuba was canceling Nicaragua's debt of \$73.8 million. This represents much of the cost of the machinery and construction of the refinery.

Wheelock gave the crowd gathered at the ceremony a detailed report on the long-range reasons for investing in this type of agroindustrial complex.

First, he noted that sugar production is already a large industry in Nicaragua, employing 34 percent of all manufacturing workers. The new mill will employ some 2,000 workers and indirectly create



Militant/Michael Baumann

Women workers from new mill at rally in support of Patriotic Military Service.

another 6,500 jobs.

The six existing refineries in Nicaragua, Wheelock explained, are old and inefficient, to such a degree that in some cases cane must be hauled 60 miles from where it was cut to the refinery. This means a big loss of the syrup in the cane and thus of

sugar yields, as well as high transportation costs. The average hauling distance to the new mill is 3.7 miles.

Unlike the existing mills in Nicaragua, which use imported oil as fuel, the Victoria de Julio plant will be completely self-sufficient in energy and will even produce ex-

cess electricity during nonharvest time. This will be done by using the ground-up cane pulp as fuel as well as by planting some 10,000 acres of fire wood. This will save Nicaragua \$6 million a year, and will also mean that a large portion of the plant will operate year round, eliminating the "dead time" that traditionally plagues sugar industry workers.

In addition, the dam that is being built to irrigate a large part of the 50,000 acres involved in the project will also be used as a source of hydroelectric power.

Studies are now under way to expand the Victoria de Julio facilities to include a distillery capable of producing more than 100,000 liters of ethyl alcohol a day from cane molasses, a byproduct of the sugar-refining process. This alcohol could be used to produce gasohol (a mixture of alcohol and gasoline which can be used in automobiles) and as raw materials for the plastics industry.

When in full production several years from now, the plant will increase Nicaragua's sugar production by 50 percent, at the same time lowering production costs. The estimated cost will be U.S. \$2.30 per 100 pounds, among the lowest in the world, and half the current average cost in Nicaragua. The mill is expected to bring in \$50 million a year in foreign currency earnings.

On Cuba's role in planning and building the Victoria de Julio refinery, Wheelock pointed out that this was possible not only because of Cuba's "formidable" experience in sugar production, but also due to Cuba's own, more advanced economic development.

"Without the contribution of the Cuban revolution it would have been totally impossible to build this refinery. And it also would have been impossible without the determined political willingness of the Cubans, from Pres. Fidel Castro to the workers of the September 5 refinery in Cienfuegos, Cuba, who decided themselves to sponsor this project.

"This is a collective work, of the Cuban revolution and of the Nicaraguan revolution."

40 die in Havana-Managua flight crash

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — On January 19, a Cuban passenger plane bound for Managua crashed after taking off from Havana. This tragic accident killed all 40 persons aboard.

In addition to the 25 Cubans killed, 10 Nicaraguans and several activists, from other countries perished.

News of the crash was received here as a big blow, on top of the daily deaths suffered in Nicaragua at the hands of the U.S.-government-organized war.

The Nicaraguans killed included: Mercedes Aceveda and Raití Balle, wife and daughter of Marcos Balle, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Cuba; Doris María Morales Tijerino, daughter of Commander Doris Tijerino and Ricardo Morales Avilés, an early Sandinista leader killed by Somoza's National Guard; Noel González, vice-president of the Central Bank of Nicaragua; Francisco González, a leader of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST); and Hans Gutiérrez, of the Planning and Budget Bureau. Sandy Pollack, codirector of the U.S. Peace Council and a National Council member of the U.S. Communist Party, also died in the crash. The Sandinista National Liberation Front's daily, *Barricada*, printed a prominent obituary on her.

The bodies of the 10 Nicaraguans were flown to Managua on January 20, accom-

panied by a Cuban delegation including José Ramón Fernández, vice-president of the Council of Ministers; Ricardo Alarcón, vice-minister of foreign relations; and Manuel Piñero, head of the Department of the Americas of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The flight from Havana was met at Augusto C. Sandino Airport in Managua by Commander Daniel Ortega, president of Nicaragua; Vice-president Sergio Ramírez; and Tomás Borge, Victor Tirado, Bayardo Arce, and Carlos Núñez, all members of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Speaking in the name of the revolutionary government and the National Director-

ate, Carlos Núñez recalled that the Nicaraguan people suffer daily tragedies because of the aggression against their country by mercenary bands financed by the U.S. government.

Doris Tijerino, speaking of the loss of her 10-year-old daughter, said, "my sorrow is great but I understand how much greater is the sorrow of the mothers whose children have been assassinated by the mercenary bands."

There will be a memorial meeting for Sandy Pollack at the Riverside Church, 120th Street and Riverside Drive in Manhattan, on Saturday, February 2, at 3:00 p.m.

Pres. Reagan tells Blacks: 'stop complaining'

BY MOHAMMED OLIVER

Following the January 16 release of the National Urban League's annual "State of Black America" report, President Reagan claimed that certain unnamed Black officials have twisted his record.

"I have come to the conclusion," said Reagan, "that maybe some of those leaders are protecting some rather good positions that they have, and they can protect them better if they can keep their constituency aggrieved and believing that they have a legitimate complaint."

"If they ever become aware of the opportunities that are improving," Reagan asserted, "they might wonder whether they need some of those organizations."

Reagan said that more than a million Blacks have found jobs since he took office, but that these job gains have been ignored.

Among those blasting Reagan's statements were John Jacob, president of the National Urban League, and Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Jacob, in introducing the league's "State of Black America" report, said, "In virtually every area of life that counts, Black people made strong progress in the 1960s, peaked in the 70s, and have been sliding back ever since."

He cited employment as one example. In 1975, the Black unemployment rate was 14.1 percent — nearly double that of white workers, whose unemployment rate stood at 7.6 percent. In 1984, however, Black unemployment rose to 16 percent — more than double the current 6.5 percent rate for white workers.

In addition to the increasing unemployment, Blacks have been hard hit by cuts in social services and racial discrimination in housing and education. Those Blacks lucky enough to have jobs are, along with other workers, the targets of an employer

drive to lower wages. Racist cop terror against Blacks has also increased.

These attacks on the Black community by the ruling class and its government in Washington have emboldened the most right-wing and racist opponents of Black equality.

It's for these reasons that the overwhelming majority of Blacks opposed Reagan's re-election bid. And, while the majority of those Blacks voting cast their ballots for Democratic Party candidate Walter Mondale, millions of other Blacks refused to vote, seeing no real alternative between the two capitalist parties.

In a January 15 meeting with some 20 Blacks, President Reagan tried to pull together a group of Black "leaders" more favorable to the current administration. In a cynical move, the meeting took place on the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., the

slain Black civil rights leader. The session also conveniently fell the day before the Urban League released its Black America report.

The group that met with Reagan calls itself the Council for a Black Economic Agenda. Its members include businessman Robert Woodson, chairman of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, and Arthur Fletcher, a former senior official in the Nixon administration. The council's delegation also included former Reagan administration officials.

Woodson claimed the group reflected the views of the Black community and that its goal was "to establish a strategic alliance between the Black community and the Reagan administration."

According to Woodson, the White House played no role in the group's formation.

NYC April 20 Coalition to meet January 30

NEW YORK — The first meeting of the New York Coalition for the April Actions for Peace, Jobs, and Justice has been called for Wednesday, January 30 at 7 p.m. It will be held at the offices of the Headwear Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) at 39 West 37th Street, 7th floor.

The April 19-22 actions will demand: "Stop U.S. military intervention in Central America; Create jobs, cut the military budget; Freeze and reverse the arms race;" and "Oppose U.S. government and corporate support for South African apartheid and overcome racism at home."

The centerpiece of the days of protest will be an April 20 march on Washington, D.C.

The call for the New York coalition meeting was signed by a broad list of prominent officials. These included Rep. Major Owens, State Assemblyman Frank Barbaro, City Council members Ruth Messinger and Miriam Friedlander, Rev. Ben Chavis of the United Church of Christ, Ernesto Jofre of ACTWU, Henry Foner of Local 1-FLM United Food and Commercial Workers, Syd Bykofsky of United Hebrew Trades, and Rev. William Sloane Coffin of Riverside Church.

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Eastern Airlines: new battle over pay cuts

BY LOUIS LONG

MIAMI — On Dec. 31, 1984, a one-year concession contract, which had been lauded by management as a "model" of cooperation between Eastern Airlines and its employees, expired. Under the club of threatened company bankruptcy, Eastern workers had agreed in 1983 to a one-year pay cut of 18 to 22 percent in exchange for company stock redeemable in 1986 and four seats on the company Board of Directors.

On New Year's Eve, Eastern President Frank Borman announced the company's intention to deepen the attack on the work force in new contract negotiations by unilaterally extending the 1983 pay cut beyond the one-year deadline.

Eastern's 20,000 unionized workers are represented by the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA); the Transport Workers Union (TWU), which represents flight attendants; and the International Association of Machinists (IAM), which organizes the mechanics, baggage and freight handlers, and cleaners. The IAM is the largest union, with more than 12,000 members. In addition, the airline has more than 10,000 nonunion employees.

Union members, outraged at the announcement of the extension of the pay cut, forced management to retreat. On January 18, company and Machinist union officials announced at a press conference that the 18 percent would be restored through January 31.

Eastern workers welcomed the news that they would be receiving the \$200-300 the company had attempted to hold back. But there is much cynicism about what the new contract will include. Charles Bryan, IAM District 100 president, appeared at the press conference with company spokesmen Jack Johnson and William Usery, the former U.S. Secretary of Labor who is now an adviser to Eastern. The three announced that the contract, which is to be worked out by January 31, would include new wage concessions and productivity increases — with the goal of helping Eastern show a healthy profit in 1985.

The January 18 retreat by the company from its New Year's Eve attack has fueled a big discussion among workers at Eastern about how the union can most effectively protect its membership.

1983 concession agreement

The 1983 concession agreement culminated after months of bitter negotiations. These negotiations came in the context of deepening attacks on workers in the entire airline industry, highlighted by the Reagan administration's union-busting attack on the Professional Air Traffic Controllers' Organization.

Furthermore, as the employer magazine, *The Economist*, put it, "Lurking behind every set of labour negotiations is the threat that managements will imitate Mr. Frank Lorenzo, chairman of Continental Airlines." In 1983, Continental filed for bankruptcy and then resumed operations with 35 percent of its former staff working for only half of their former pay.

Eastern president Borman similarly threatened bankruptcy in order to force concessions on Eastern workers. The bankruptcy threat was based on debts the company had piled up. It owed \$2.4 billion to other corporations, mostly to those owned by the same capitalist interests who dominate Eastern: the Rockefellers and their related companies, including Chase Manhattan Bank and the Boeing corporation.

Under this bankruptcy threat the unions agreed to concessions, including pay cuts. The unions also agreed to increase productivity by 5 percent in exchange for seats on the company Board of Directors, the initiation of "Employee Involvement Committees," and eventual distribution to the workers of 25 percent of the company's stock as compensation for the pay cut.

The basic premise of this contract is the false notion that workers and Eastern management have a common interest in Eastern's profitability. By trying to rope union officials and workers into feeling they are jointly responsible with the owners for managing and running the company, Eastern hoped to make workers pliable to company demands for union-weakening concessions.

Balance sheet on cooperation

A lot of paper and ink was invested by both management and union officials in praising their joint cooperation effort. Machinists' union president Bryan called it a "philosophy of true dignity on the job through mutual respect and shared responsibility."

Eastern workers are now trying to assess the lessons of this year-long experience.

Borman sent out a "Dear Fellow Eastern Employee" letter December 31 that summed up the basic premise of "shared responsibility": "... nothing is as important to an employee's financial security as a profitable company."

When the unions signed the one-year pay cut in 1983 — which has cost each Eastern worker approximately \$5,000 — they also agreed to help increase profits by finding \$75 million in productivity savings. In maintenance, IAM members developed plans saving hundreds of work hours on engine overhauls and other operations. The *Wall Street Journal* reported that IAM workers alone saved Eastern \$28 million. But instead of new jobs, or higher



Eastern Pres. Frank Borman: Informs airline's 20,000 unionized workers that 'shared responsibility' means \$2 million for him, wage cuts and speedup for them.

wages, that \$28 million went to the Rockefeller banks in debt payments. And the company success in getting union cooperation in boosting productivity and profits has just whet management's appetite for more.

The stock-for-wages scheme

Workers are supposed to get 25 percent of company stock at \$6 a share. That's what their 18 to 22 percent wage cut is going for. They pay now and are supposed to receive the stock in 1986. But the stock has dropped one third in value in 1984 alone.

And while each Eastern worker was forced to buy about \$100 of stock a week, people who know what is going on were selling. Borman himself sold thousands of shares — he said he needed cash because his mother-in-law was sick. Eastern's senior vice-president, Russell Ray, sold 2,000 shares at \$7.50 before it dropped in value to \$4. And retired board member Lawrence Rockefeller sold 60,000 shares in March, 40,000 in April, and 100,000 more in August.

Increasingly workers are wondering what their shares will be worth in 1986.

Union members of the board?

Despite having their "own" representatives present, workers have only heard about two votes by the Board of Directors in 1984. One, the December 31 pay cut, which the union representatives opposed, was shoved down workers' throats. The other was a vote to give President Borman a five-year contract, at \$2 million, which the union representatives supported.

The real problem is that as long as the board operates to maximize profits, it is going to side with Borman, Rockefeller, and the banks against the workers — no matter how many union officials are sitting in the room.

The Employee Involvement Commit-

tees, which were set up as part of the 1983 package, have done nothing to improve working conditions at Eastern. By weakening the union, they have, in fact, weakened workers' ability to have some measure of control over working conditions.

These committees are set up as an alternative to the union and cut across its capacity to fight to defend the workers. One union steward noted that although there has been a big speed-up drive by the airline, there has been a substantial drop in the number of grievances filed in 1984.

Any illusion that the 1983 agreement meant that the basic conflict between Eastern workers and Eastern employers was shattered when Borman unilaterally announced that the pay cuts would continue into 1985. And the real role of Eastern's Board of Directors was shown when it voted overwhelmingly on January 4 to "strongly endorse" the wage cuts. They said it was "in accord with the prudent business judgment owed to all the stockholders, including our owner-employees."

New contract fight

The balance sheet on Eastern unions' cooperation effort with the airline has been a sapping of the union and its ability to fight against the profit drive of the owners.

A bad precedent for Eastern's current contract negotiations was set last summer by United, the largest airline in the United States, when it forced a two-tier contract on its workers. Depending solely on when they were hired, there are now differences of 27 to 53 percent in pay between United workers doing exactly the same job. Such two-tier contracts break up workers solidarity and strengthen the company against the union.

Drawing the lessons from the year of "shared responsibility" will be crucial for workers in preparing to meet the next round of Eastern's take-back demands.

200 protest arrest of refugees

BY HALKET ALLEN

PHILADELPHIA — More than 200 people braved frigid temperatures January 16 to demonstrate at the Federal Building against the arrest of three undocumented refugees from Guatemala.

Joel, Gabriella, and their three-year-old daughter Lucy were arrested as part of a nationwide crackdown on the sanctuary movement. They had been living in a local Methodist church since last August.

Joel, a former union organizer, was tortured by police in Guatemala. If he and his family are sent back to Guatemala, they may well face death.

Members of the church quickly raised \$3,000 in bail to free the family from jail. They will fight deportation.

The arrests here follow a pattern across the country. More than 60 refugees taking sanctuary were arrested in a three-day sweep January 12-14 in Phoenix, Tucson, Seattle, Rochester, and other cities.

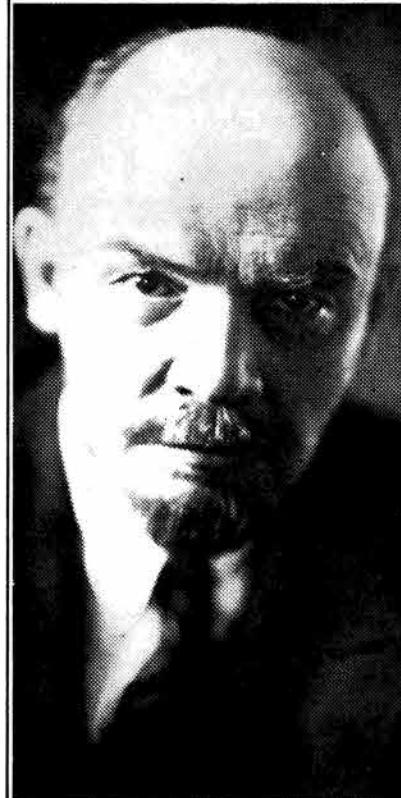
On January 14, immigration cops announced the indictment of 16 activists in the sanctuary movement, including three Catholic nuns, two priests, and a Protestant minister. Supporters of the movement to protect the refugees vow they will use the court case to put the government on trial.



Philadelphia protest against arrest of refugees demands "Hands off Central America!"

Militant/Halket Allen

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'Pattern of racism' in Seaside, Calif.

Socialist condemns racist city councilman, supports broad protests

BY ELIZABETH STONE

SEASIDE, Calif. — Over the past several months, Blacks in this city in central California have been protesting a racist attack on their community by Berdine Houser, a Seaside city councilman.

The protests began December 6, when the *Monterey Peninsula Herald* printed an article quoting Houser making vicious, racist remarks about Seaside's Black elected officials. Houser, who was a candidate for mayor of Seaside in the November election, made the remarks after he was defeated by Black incumbent Lance McClair. In this same election, a 3-2 Black majority was elected to the city council.

Houser's racist tirade was directed against the entire Black community of Seaside: "You go back and see where the Blacks have taken over. That's what they want to do in Seaside. Pretty soon everything on Fremont and Broadway will be boarded up. You won't have a job anywhere. I've seen them [Blacks] in action. I know what they can do."

The day the quotes appeared, the city council meeting was packed with protesters. Person after person took the mike to condemn Houser. During the following weeks, a number of protest meetings were held, sponsored by the NAACP and the Citizens League for Progress, a Black community organization. Both organizations called on Houser to resign.

Socialist discusses fight against racism

The *Militant* was able to talk with Ken Collins, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Seaside's city council in the November elections, about these protests and about his campaign's program for fighting racism.

Collins explained that socialists in Seaside have worked to broaden the protests by discussing the issue not only with Blacks, but also with Latinos, trade unionists, and other working people in the Sea-

side and Salinas areas.

"We point out that the problem of racism is not just the problem of Houser, bad as he might be," Collins said. "We point to the whole pattern of racism in this area, racism which is practiced by the hotel owners and other employers who discriminate against Blacks and Latinos. We point to the racism practiced by the cops who have harassed Blacks for years, especially young Blacks, and the racism pushed in the capitalist-owned media."

"For example," said Collins, "there has been a whole campaign in the newspapers about 'crime' in Seaside, associating the fact that Seaside is 30 percent Black with the false charge that the town is overrun with prostitution, drugs, and violence."

"Earlier there was a campaign to close down the park here. The cops harassed people in the park, or arrested them with no cause. They claimed there was nothing going on there but drug dealing. But that wasn't true. People used the park to play baseball, basketball, etc."

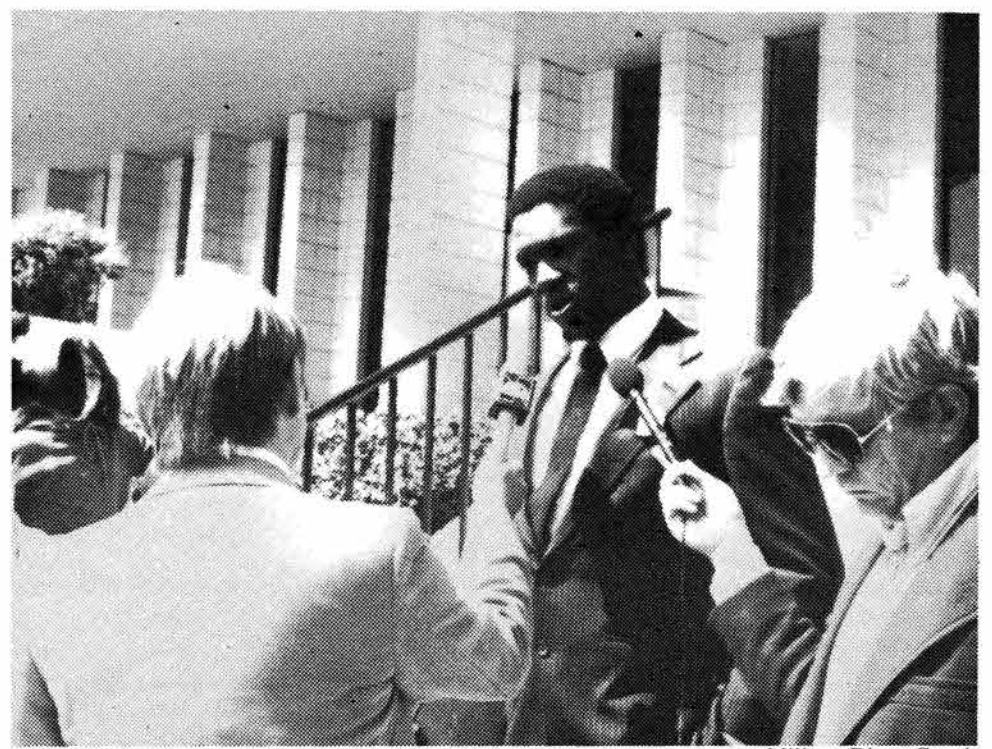
"And they tried to close down a local spot in the Black community known as Ebony Lounge, raising a hue and cry about there being a den of rapists, robbers, and so forth hanging out there. Then they raided the place. But they found nothing to prove their case."

"So we say that Houser is just part of this broader problem," explained Collins.

'A working-class town'

He pointed to the fact that Seaside is an overwhelmingly working-class town. It's here where many of the people live who work in the hotels and restaurants on the Monterey Peninsula, which is a tourist center. The majority of people in Seaside are either Black, Latino, or Asian.

"It is to the benefit of the wealthy hotel owners and landlords to see white workers, Mexican workers, Filipinos, and other Asians blaming Blacks for unemployment



Militant/Diane Cantú

Ken Collins, socialist candidate for Seaside City Council in November elections, speaking to reporters last August.

and the other problems working people have," Collins said. "This takes the heat off the real culprits — those who are responsible for our low wages, for unemployment, for the high rents — the ruling rich families and their two parties, the Republicans and Democrats."

"The rich benefit from racism," Collins emphasized, "by paying Blacks and Latinos low wages. And they use racism to divide the working class. Because we know that whenever the bosses want to break a union, or attack our standard of living, the first thing they try to do is divide us."

"When I was a picket captain during the 1982 strike at the Hyatt Hotel, I saw this."

National context of racist attacks

Collins stressed that it is necessary to put the racist attacks in Seaside in a national context. He described how Mel Mason, the 1984 Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate and former Seaside city councilman, was able to do this in a front page interview in the December 16 *Seaside Post*.

Mason explained that Houser's remarks came in the context of a national drive to roll back civil rights gains of Blacks, other oppressed minorities, and women, and to lower the standard of living of the working class. "The framework in which all this is happening is the ever escalating war the U.S. government is waging in Central America," Mason said.

Collins also made the U.S. war a central issue in his campaign for city council. "Racism at home and attacks against working people in the Caribbean and Central America go hand in hand," he said.

Collins explained the way the capitalists siphon resources into imperialist wars instead of using the money to meet the needs of working people. In his campaign, Collins proposed affordable public housing for all who need it to deal with the housing shortage and high rents in Seaside. He called for money now spent on war to be spent on housing.

Because there is a nearby army base at Ft. Ord, there are many Seaside families with members who are soldiers or who work at the base. Campaigners for Ken Collins went to Ft. Ord to pass out leaflets, distribute the *Militant*, and hold informational pickets opposing the U.S. invasion of Grenada and the U.S. war in Central America.

"We got a very good reception from the soldiers," Collins said. "I think in all the times I was there I only heard two negative comments. And several soldiers came to our meetings to hear more."

"The question of war is a life and death question for these soldiers. They are part of 'fast attack' units that could be sent anywhere, at anytime, to fight."

Democrats, Republicans: no solutions

I asked Collins how he views Lance McClair and the other Blacks who were elected to the city council.

"We are for the right of Blacks to equal representation in government," Collins said, "and of course we will fight for the right of any Black candidate, no matter what their party, to serve in office without being subjected to the kind of racist attacks made by Houser."

"At the same time, we did not support McClair or the other candidates who ran who are Democrats or Republicans. These candidates do not have an answer to the problems of Blacks or other working people in Seaside. In fact, they are going in the wrong direction because they support the procapitalist program of the Democratic and Republican parties, which are controlled by the ruling rich."

"Another example — McClair supports a utility tax in Seaside, which is a tax that falls heaviest on workers. We are opposed to the utility tax. We are for taxing the rich, who can afford it."

"What we are saying," declared Collins, "is that we need to break from the system where a tiny minority of wealthy families — real-estate people, big-business people, and so forth — is determining the priorities of this country, based on what is profitable for them."

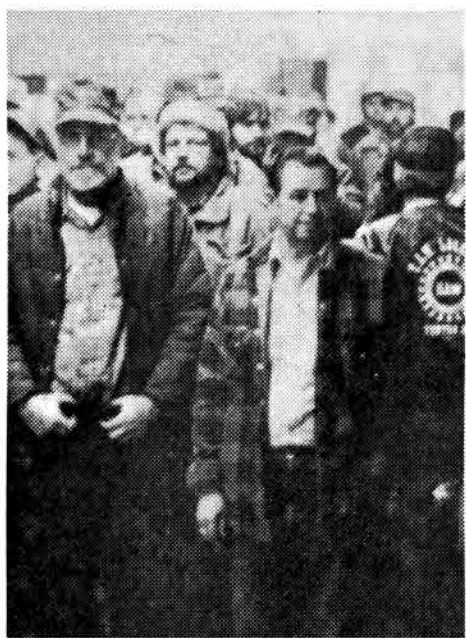
"Workers, who are the majority, need to organize an independent political party, a labor party based on the unions and controlled by working people, to help lead the massive fight necessary to take political power away from the rich and their parties."

Collins said he thinks that the anti-capitalist program of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) is an important step in that direction: "The main idea being put forward by the NBIPP is the need for Blacks to struggle for their interests independent of the Republicans and Democrats. Members of NBIPP have been active here educating on NBIPP's ideas through films and discussions, going to demonstrations, and attending state and national NBIPP meetings."

Collins said that when he mentioned NBIPP — or the idea of building a labor party — during his campaign, he got a very good response from Blacks and other working people. The positive response was reflected in the 1,115 votes he received. This vote total also registered support from workers who are familiar with the role Collins played in the 1982 Hyatt strike and who also know about the broad defense campaign successfully waged against an attempt by the Hyatt and the cops to frame Collins on a false charge of arson.

"People may not have agreed with everything we said, but they liked the idea that there was a candidate who is a trade unionist and Black rights fighter, who will stand up all the way for the interests of working people," Collins commented. "They also recognize that our party is discussing a serious perspective for trying to deal with the problems of racism, war, unemployment, and so forth — and they like that."

USWA ends lead strikes



UAW Missouri State News
Striking USWA lead miners in Boss, Missouri, welcome the UAW members who brought food and clothing to support strikers.

BY MARTY PETIT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Three locals of lead miners, organized by the United Steel workers of America (USWA) in Salem, Missouri, have settled three strikes that had lasted several months. The three companies they struck were demanding union-busting concessions, including wage cuts, reductions in medical benefits, work-rule changes, and an open shop.

The more than 1,000 lead miners are members of USWA locals 6242, 7447, and 7450. The three companies were St. Joe Mining Co., AMAX Lead & Zinc Co. and American Smelting and Refining Co.

In early December after an eight-month strike, Local 6242 settled with St. Joe in a contract that allowed the company to have an open shop. The agreement also didn't require management to call back 400 striking workers. The owners only had to agree that the strikers should be able to receive

unemployment benefits. So far, only 18 Local 6242 members have been called back to work. Together with foremen and the 150 workers who scabbed on the strike, they are operating the mine. Before the strike, 550 workers were employed there.

On December 29, local 7447 at AMAX ratified a new contract by a vote of 299 for and 142 against, with 60 not voting and 6 invalid ballots. The strike had lasted over six months. A member of the local who returned to work on January 3 reported that the company has already cut back several jobs and has started laying people off. Six union members who were fired by the company while on strike did not get their jobs back. Their cases will be assigned to an arbitrator. The workers also lost approximately \$2.54 an hour in wages.

Local 7450 has also settled with American Smelting and Refining.

On December 15 I travelled with other United Auto Workers members down to Salem for a Christmas party and rally for the Local 7447 lead miners who were still out on strike at the time.

On the way down, in Rolla, we joined up with other UAW members and formed a caravan of pick-up trucks filled with food and clothing for the miners. Some 100 UAW members and 1,500 miners and their families attended the rally and party held in the National Guard armory in Salem.

A speech was given by Jerry Tucker, assistant director of UAW Region 5. He noted that we are observing the 50th anniversary of the sit-down strikes and organizing that led to the formation of the UAW and the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the CIO. He said that auto workers carry a debt to mine workers who helped found the CIO. Therefore, he said, it is only fitting that "we have a great feeling of solidarity with all of you today." He also warned that all workers face attacks by the employers and that solidarity must become the road of the future.

Auto workers donated \$28,300 to the striking miners, to add to the \$15,000 already donated during previous caravans led by St. Louis UAW locals.

North American and Miskito Indians: both victims of U.S. government's policies

The following article is reprinted from the Dec. 6, 1984, issue of the English-language weekly *Barricada Internacional*, the international weekly of the Sandinista National Liberation Front of Nicaragua.

What is now the United States of America was formerly the domain of hundreds of Indian nations. By the late 1800s, when U.S. territory had been extended to the Pacific shores, the U.S. government had left behind a trail of broken treaties with the native inhabitants and decimated entire tribes.

Although the native American Indians are now the poorest minority in the U.S., their concerns extend to the indigenous peoples of other countries in the world. Vernon Bellecourt, Antonio González and Janice Denny, members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and the International Indian Treaties Council (IITC), visited Nicaragua in November to examine the situation here, express concern over U.S. aggressions and share their solidarity: from the first victims of U.S. hegemony to the most recent ones.

This was not the first visit of the kind. "We have come here on several occasions over the past four years and always found the doors open. Nicaragua has never hidden anything. There is an openness about the situation of the Indian peoples here: they admit mistakes have been made and show the attempts to rectify those errors," explained Bellecourt, a member of the White Earth Ojibwa nation in the state of Minnesota.

He added that the same is not true for Honduras. Although, along with other non-governmental and human rights organizations, the IITC has sought invitations from the Honduran government in order to investigate the whereabouts of Miskitos who have been kidnapped and taken to that country, "we have received no cooperation on that order and have not been able to go there. It makes one suspect, what do they have to hide?"

Elections

This latest visit coincided with Nicaragua's recent elections. The AIM representatives visited polling places in Managua and Masaya, and a few days after the elections visited the Atlantic Coast. "We found that people had really looked forward to the elections: many had never participated in this kind of process before, and were voting because they finally felt part of a free, democratic process," said González, a Chicano-Indian from California.

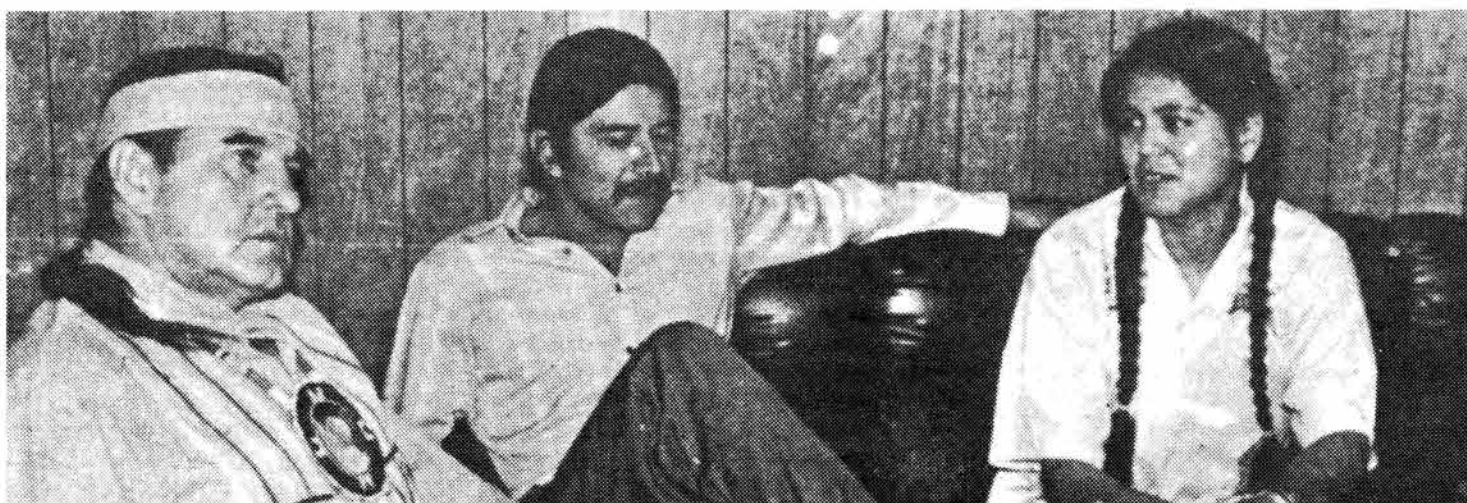
It is interesting, they noted, to compare these elections with the first ones held in the United States in 1789, thirteen years after that country's independence. "In those elections only white male landowners could vote. No women, or people of color, or white workers. Of course Indians, who were a majority then, could not vote because we had been declared the enemy. What resulted was obviously a government based on racism, sexism and greed."

Here the government was elected by popular vote, they pointed out, whereas, in the United States, hypothetically, a president could be elected by the electoral college without having won the popular vote. In addition, the level of abstentionism in the United States is much higher than in Nicaragua.

In Puerto Cabezas, the major port on the northern Atlantic Coast, the visitors shared in a celebration of the election results with the residents of the El Cocal barrio. "People were happy about the outcome and anxious to see how they are given a voice through the vote, how the elected officials will implement a policy that will help unify the nation and bring the Atlantic and Pacific regions closer together," noted González.

Consensus

This summarizes what Bellecourt viewed as a growing consensus among Indian leadership in Nicaragua. "There is a difference from when I was last here two years ago. At that time, there were more separatist feelings among the people on the



Members of American Indian Movement delegation (left to right): Vernon Bellecourt, Antonio González, Janice Denny.

Atlantic Coast. I felt much less of that now. There seems to be interest in self-administration, in playing a more active role in the decisions and development of their communities, but as part of the revolutionary process and the nation as a whole.

"I also found more willingness to defend the Revolution and the advances it has brought to the Indian people," he added. "There have been concrete improvements over recent years in the areas of education and health care, for example. Clearly, much more could have been done if it weren't for U.S.-backed aggressions."

The counterrevolutionary war has had a high cost for the indigenous people of the Atlantic Coast. In early 1982, thousands of Miskitos were evacuated from the Río Coco, which divides Nicaragua and Honduras, as the area had become a virtual battlefield. Although those relocated have been granted land and been provided with social services they never had before, many still long to return to their traditional lands.

One of the main concerns of the Miskito Indians is currently family reunification. "We met one woman," González recalled, "who we were told was very ill, but she didn't look sick. They explained to us that she had a broken heart; she wanted the fighting to end, to be able to go back home and live in peace."

Due to their history, the Native Americans understand the anguish caused by displacement. However, the AIM representatives make a clear distinction between the removal of U.S. Indians from their lands and the evacuation of Miskitos from the Río Coco. "This was an emergency measure for their own security due to a military situation. We have received assurances from the government that as soon as the

situation becomes normal, these people will be able to return to their lands," Bellecourt noted.

This is quite different from the situation in the United States, added Janice Denny, who is from the Potawatomi nation in Wisconsin. She cited the example of the Navaho Indians who, in the late 1800's, were forced from their traditional agricultural lands to an area in northern Arizona that was so barren, it was considered unsuitable for human life. "But they adapted, and began to grow their sacred corn and make that desert their home. Now, the U.S. government has set 1986 as a deadline to forcibly remove 12,000 Navaho and Hopi Indians from that area, because they have discovered that 55 percent of the U.S. uranium deposits are located there. No thought is given to the well-being of the Indians; the only motive is profit," she explained.

U.S. Indians, as well as other minorities, have been severely affected by the Reagan administration's cutbacks in social services, such as child care and public health programs. The U.S. Indians feel that in spite of the great limitations in Nicaragua, a poor country being threatened by the most powerful country in the world, the government here is truly concerned with the well-being of the people in general and the Indian peoples.

"For example, the Nicaraguan government has given amnesty to up to 300 Indians at a time, and has provided guarantees for those who have taken up arms to return and live peacefully as part of society. This is definitively a humane measure and part of the government's effort to bring about the reunification of the Indian people," said González.

The purpose of their visit was not to judge, Bellecourt explained, but rather to

take back information to share with the U.S. people about the real situation in this country, to talk about the plight of the Nicaraguan people and specifically the plight of the Indians.

Psychological war

"We must educate the public, let them know what's happening here," said González. "In the U.S. mass media there is a real psychological preparation for people to see Latin Americans as an enemy and threat. There have been recent movies and television programs aimed at presenting this picture and glorifying the U.S. armed forces in order to justify future military actions. It's important to get the U.S. people to think about what it's like here. The U.S. is constantly threatening this country, trying to terrorize and disrupt it with mercenary attacks. In the U.S., this situation would be the equivalent of having 1.5 million mercenaries along the Canadian border and 250,000 along the southern border. People have to realize that."

González, a Vietnam veteran, is involved in draft counseling in the California area. "I was wounded twice in Vietnam. I know that the Indians and Chicanos and Blacks are the ones sent to the front lines of battle, and the ones killed in any conflict. We tell our people not to go into the army because they will be sent to Latin America to shoot against Indian brothers and sisters."

"I admire the valiant attitude of the Nicaraguan people," González said, summarizing the feeling of the three representatives. "The people here know what they are up against and are ready to defend their country and their rights, even with machetes if necessary. I think more people should come from the United States to see and feel this admirable spirit."

Castro speech on U.S. accord in 'IP'

The U.S. and Cuban governments signed an accord on migration policy on Dec. 14, 1984 — the first agreement of any kind between the two governments since 1977. The U.S. agreed to admit up to 20,000 Cuban immigrants per year, and Cuba will repatriate about 2,700 people who entered the United States in the 1980 Mariel "boatlift" but whom the U.S. authorities consider "excludable."

The February 4 issue of *IP* reprints a speech by Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro that was televised hours after the agreement was concluded.

In explaining the accord to the Cuban people, Castro answered the many imperialist lies about the Cubans who left in 1980.

They were not, as the U.S. propagandists claim, mental patients or criminals. "Criminals did leave here," he said, "but they left on January 1 [1959], the date of the triumph of the Cuban revolution."

Those who left via Mariel, Castro recalled, were "self-centered people who have no spirit of sac-

rifice or who are afraid of the risks of living in Cuba."

Castro reiterated that "making a revolution and building socialism is a task for free and conscientious people."

The current issue of *IP* also reports from Britain on how rail workers are aiding the miners' strike and advancing their own demands as well.

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'Bring union power into fight against war'

YSA antiwar campaign will get out truth about Nicaragua, Cuba

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

NEW YORK — The National Committee of the Young Socialist Alliance met here in mid-December to discuss and decide on the YSA's activities over the next several months.

The leadership meeting included representatives from almost 40 cities. The majority of YSA members are industrial workers, and the YSA focuses its political activity in nine national industrial unions: United Auto Workers; International Association of Machinists; International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; International Union of Electronic Workers; United Steelworkers; United Mine Workers; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; and United Transportation Union.

Half of the YSA National Committee members are women and 35 percent are Black or Chicano.

The most important decision made by the meeting was to join with the Socialist Workers Party in a campaign to deepen organized labor's opposition to the U.S. government's war in Central America and the Caribbean. The focus of this effort will be building the April 20 antiwar march on Washington, D.C., which has been called and is being organized by a broad array of peace groups; Black, Puerto Rican, and Chicano organizations; and unions.

Deepen union opposition to war

In the opening report to the YSA leadership, Peter Thierjung, YSA National Secretary, proposed the YSA "throw all our forces and resources into a sustained effort to deepen trade union opposition to the U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean."

Today, the U.S. imperialists are waging a war that has two battlefields. One is in Central America and the Caribbean, where Washington is trying to halt and roll back the anticapitalist revolutions taking place there. The other battlefield is in the United States, said Thierjung, where the capitalists, in their drive for increased prof-

its, are on the offensive against working people and their allies — working farmers, Blacks, Latinos, and women.

Thierjung explained that the YSA's antiwar work is focused on a campaign to convince, involve, and work with broader forces in the trade unions to get out the truth about the U.S. war, the revolutions in Nicaragua and Cuba, and the freedom struggles in El Salvador and throughout the region.

The U.S. war in Central America is a key issue for the unions, Thierjung explained. The U.S. government and the employers will more and more use this war as a weapon against our unions and our ability to organize against the employers' attacks. As the war deepens, more sacrifices will be demanded from U.S. workers, including more cuts in social spending to pay for the war and the sacrifice of the lives of young workers on the battlefield. To defend themselves, the unions need to lead a fight against U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

Debate, discussion in labor movement

Thierjung pointed out that a debate and discussion are already taking place in the labor movement over what stance the unions should take toward U.S. intervention. This has provided antiwar forces in the unions with important opportunities to win greater support.

Nicaraguan and Salvadoran unionists on speaking tours in the United States have received a good response from unionists here.

Delegations of U.S. trade unionists have gone on fact-finding tours to Nicaragua and El Salvador to see firsthand the effects of the U.S. war there. Some union locals, as well as some international unions, have passed resolutions opposed to U.S. intervention. Union publications have carried articles critical of U.S. involvement in the region. And in some areas, there has been modest participation and representation by the labor movement in demonstrations, marches, picket lines, and coalitions against the U.S. war in Central America



Militant/Halket Allen

Sales of *Young Socialist* help deepen opposition to U.S. war.

and the Caribbean.

Activities like these are important to bringing the power of the unions into the fight against the war, Thierjung explained. He underscored the impact that fact-finding tours of U.S. unionists to Nicaragua, or speaking tours here by Nicaraguan and Salvadoran trade unionists, can have on winning workers and the unions to oppose the war.

Thierjung cited a recent tour of U.S. working farmers and farm workers to Nicaragua, which was sponsored by the North American Farm Alliance (NAFA) and OXFAM (Oxford Committee for Famine Relief), as an example for the unions, as well as a way to involve farm workers and working farmers in the fight against U.S. intervention.

Build April 20

The YSA this spring will focus its activities on building the April 20 Action for Peace, Jobs, and Justice. A central demand of the demonstration is for an end to U.S. intervention in Central America.

This action already has the support of the International Association of Machinists and the United Food and Commercial Workers. It provides an opportunity for antiwar forces in the unions to increase their efforts to educate on the war and organize union participation in the action.

Local coalitions are being organized to build the April 20 action in cities around the country. They can reach out to the labor movement, as well as Blacks, Puerto Ricans and Chicanos; women's rights fighters; and young people.

YSA members are involved in these local coalitions as unionists and as antiwar activists.

Support to SWP election campaigns

The meeting also heard a report by YSA National Committee member Ellen Haywood, which discussed the YSA's participation in the 1984 Socialist Workers Party presidential, state, and local election campaigns.

Aggressively getting out socialist ideas and supporting the SWP campaign of Mel Mason for president and Andrea González for vice-president was a challenge that the young fighters of the YSA met with enthusiasm. The result was that 58 young workers and students joined the YSA over the course of the campaign.

Haywood pointed to sales of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the *Young Socialist*, the YSA's newspaper; publicizing SWP bookstores and Militant Labor Forums; and supporting 1985 local election campaigns as ways the YSA will continue to campaign for socialism.

Work with other socialist youth groups

A report was also given on the YSA's collaboration and work with sister socialist youth organizations around the world.

Over the past year, YSA leaders have traveled to other countries to attend the meetings of youth organizations.

YSA leaders made trips to the Domini-

can Republic to attend the founding convention of the Socialist Youth Bloc, and to West Germany to an international summer youth camp of youth groups that support the Fourth International.

In addition, YSA leaders participated in fact-finding trips to the British coalfields, where miners are on strike. They traveled to Denmark, West Germany, and Sweden to attend conferences of youth organizations of the Fourth International.

The meeting approved a report by YSA National Committee member Jackie Floyd, who proposed that the YSA hold its next national convention in Chicago, Illinois, April 5-8. This convention will mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the YSA.

Floyd explained that the convention will discuss the YSA's political work, and that it will be important to bring young people interested in discussing socialist ideas and joining the YSA to the convention.

The convention will be publicized through the *Young Socialist* as well as the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. The YSA is organizing speaking engagements for national leaders to build the convention.

The committee also voted to step up the YSA's work in support of the case of Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born worker and a leader of the YSA and the SWP. Marroquín is trying to obtain permanent residence status — a green card — from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), so that he can live and work in the United States.

Marroquín meets all the qualifications for the card, but the INS has been trying to deport him for more than seven years because of his socialist ideas.

The YSA pledged to increase its involvement in the effort to force the INS to stop stalling and grant Marroquín his green card.



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

YSA National Secretary Peter Thierjung

Wanted

Young fighters to change the world

The Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) is a nationwide organization of young fighters with a political program and the determination to change the world.

We are committed to mobilizing opposition to the U.S. aggression against our brothers and sisters in Central America and the Caribbean.

At the center of our activity this spring is building support for the April 20th demonstration in Washington, D.C., that will demand, "No U.S. intervention in Central America!"

We believe that the fight for justice and freedom is a worldwide struggle by working people to end war, racism, sexism, unemployment, exploitation, and the soci-

ety that causes them: capitalism.

We are convinced that young people today have no future, unless we fight for a new society to meet human needs, not big business profits: socialism.

Participation in politics for us means joining in this struggle here in the U.S. where the worldwide battle for justice and freedom will ultimately be won.

We are young people — Blacks, Latinos, women, men, workers, students, and unemployed — all joined together in 45 chapters across the U.S. fighting for this common goal.

We invite you to join us in fighting for a worthwhile future. Join us on April 20th! Join the YSA!

Join us at the 24th national convention of the Young Socialist Alliance!

Chicago
April 5-8, 1985

- ☐ I want to attend the YSA convention. Send me information.
- ☐ I would like to join the YSA. Contact me.
- ☐ Enclosed is \$3.00 for six issues of the *Young Socialist*, the bimonthly YSA publication.
- ☐ Please send me a catalogue of socialist literature.
- ☐ Please send me a bundle of _____ *Young Socialists* to distribute. (45¢ each for 10 or more.)
- ☐ Enclosed is \$1.50 for the *Organizing the YSA* handbook.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Union/School/Organization _____
Phone _____
Mail to: YSA, 14 Charles Lane, New York, NY 10014. Telephone (212) 989-7570

Pa. cops raid church, jail unionists, clergy

BY MARK WASHINGTON

PITTSBURGH — Early in the morning of January 4, more than 40 Allegheny County Sheriff's deputies surrounded Trinity Lutheran Church in nearby Clairton, broke down the door, forced their way in, and arrested the unionists and church members barricaded inside. It was the latest move in the effort by the Lutheran Synod to seize control of the church from its council and minister, Rev. Doug Roth. Last November, Roth was jailed for refusing to relinquish his ministry at Trinity Clairton.

The church hierarchy has been trying to remove Roth from his position because of his involvement with unionists and other ministers in protests against unemployment and union-busting.

The eight arrested include four Trinity Clairton church council members, along with Lutheran minister Rev. William Rex, Marine and Shipbuilding Local 61 Pres. Darrell Becker, a laid-off welder, and a member of the Teamster local that was bro-

ken in a strike last November at the Passavant Health Center. The center is owned by the Lutheran Synod of Western Pennsylvania. The council members were sentenced to serve 60 days in jail and to pay fines of \$985 each to the Synod for refusing to surrender control of their church. The others were sentenced to 30 days.

In addition, Roth will spend an extra 20 days in jail, beyond his original 90-day sentence, for continuing to preach at the church before the takeover via tape-recorded sermons from his cell.

The arrests come in the wake of the announcement by LTV Steel Corp. that 500 workers at its Aliquippa plant will soon lose their jobs. The plant's work force has dropped from 9,400 in 1979 to 2,200 today. U.S. Steel is planning to begin permanent demolition of its idled Duquesne Works on February 3, despite efforts by the Steelworkers union to hold off the wrecking ball.

The arrests at Trinity Clairton are aimed at intimidating workers from organizing to protest such cold-blooded actions by employers. Roth and members of his congregation came under fire from the Lutheran hierarchy because of their involvement with the Denominational Ministry Strategy (DMS) and the Network to Save the Mon/Ohio Valleys. The DMS and the Network are among the most vocal of the local groups blasting the devastating impact



Pastor's wife Nadine Roth and two other supporters of Pittsburgh-area unionists' fight against unemployment, being led off to jail in earlier arrest.

'NBIPP Newsletter': Join the struggle against apartheid!

BY JOHN STUDER

The second issue of the *NBIPP Newsletter*, the publication of the Manhattan chapter of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP), is now available. The publication, which covers news from across the country, promotes the need for a political break from the two parties of war and racism: the Democrats and Republicans.

This issue features a statement being distributed by members of the NBIPP in Washington, D.C., headlined "U.S. Out of South Africa." Explaining that "without the military, economic, and political aid of Washington, U.S. corporations, and other imperialist countries, the apartheid regime would collapse," the article states "we in NBIPP call on all supporters of human rights and Black freedom to join in the efforts of the Free South Africa Movement."

Other newsletter articles cover NBIPP party-building conferences held in Baltimore and in California over the past few months, and the fight against police brutality in New York City.

An article entitled "Blacks and the Nicaraguan Revolution," by Miriam McCray of the Manhattan chapter, describes the advances of the Nicaraguan people since their 1979 revolution. It explains that "While health, education, and welfare programs which are designed to meet our community's needs are being slashed here, programs such as these are being funded and expanded in Nicaragua under the FSLN [Sandinista National Liberation Front]." McCray adds that major beneficiaries of these advances are the "27,000 Blacks who live on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast."

McCray explains that these advances are "threatened by the aggression practiced against them daily by counterrevolutionaries who enjoy the full backing of the United States government."

To find out firsthand what conditions are really like in Nicaragua, and to best prepare to defend the revolution and popularize its example, McCray urges readers to visit the country. She suggests joining the international work brigades. These brigades are being organized to help Nicaragua bring in its coffee and cotton harvests and as an act of international solidarity. She also points to plans by the Manhattan NBIPP to organize a tour some time early this year.

This four-page newsletter will be of interest to all working people concerned about the fight against the U.S. war in Central America and U.S. backing for apartheid. It also advances a perspective of independent Black and working-class political action.

Copies can be ordered for \$0.25 each from Manhattan NBIPP, c/o Yvette Montero, 108 W 143 St., Apt. 6E, New York, N.Y. 10030.

Cuba baseball: winner in any league

BY BILL KALMAN

CLEVELAND — As much as the U.S. government wants to suppress the truth about the Cuban revolution, the truth has a knack for getting out. Working people in the Cleveland area were recently exposed to some of this truth through a rather interesting medium: the sports pages of one of the city's big dailies — the *Cleveland Plain-Dealer*.

The paper featured a three-part series in December written by special projects writer Russell Schneider. Schneider covered the 28th World Amateur Baseball Series held in Havana during October.

The series, entitled "The Cuban Connection," contained interviews with Cuban baseball players, government officials, and others who attended the games.

Schneider noted that "there is no animosity shown visitors to Cuba from the United States." This despite the fact that the Cuban people have been the target of aggression by Washington for 25 years. He quoted Sergio Martinez of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations: "We don't dislike Americans. In fact, we admire the American people very much. But not the

American government because it is unfriendly."

The Schneider series also did a good job of describing what the spirit of Cuban baseball is like: stadium signs that read "We are people prepared in sport and defense" and thousands of fans cheering for good plays whether performed by the Cuban national team or its opponents. He noted the celebration as the Cuban amateurs routed the U.S. team, 10-1, winning the overall championship. Schneider also reported that when Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro attended a game — and he attended all the games the Cuban team competed in — "the fans cheered, clapped their hands, stomped their feet, and tooted their horns" each time he entered the stadium.

Cubans are proud of their baseball team for good reasons. Tom Ravashiere of Toledo, Ohio, who was head umpire for the Amateur Series, maintained: "Not only am I convinced the entire Cuban team could play in the big leagues... it's my opinion that they'd finish ahead of the Indians."

Besides the impressive talent of the players, Schneider captured some of the other factors that explain the national baseball craze. Since the Revolution, profits have been taken out of sports, and human dignity, development and solidarity have been put back in. Sports participation has expanded on all levels, especially for women. As Miguel Angel Masjuan, a

oil during a Christmas pageant at Shadyside Presbyterian Church. Two of those arrested January 4 will be tried on trumped-up charges in connection with the incident.

Supporters of the jailed activists have vowed to continue their fight. The Sunday following the arrests about 100 people attended services on the lawn of Trinity Clairton. The police prevented them from conducting services inside the church.

Cuban sportswriter, told Schneider, "Sports is one of the people's rights and everybody should have the right to practice and play, or to just watch."

Cuban players are dedicated to maintaining their amateur status. Victor Mesa, the Cuban center fielder who was selected Most Valuable Player of the series, said the big salaries of professional players in the United States resulted from the fact that U.S. sports are part of "the capitalist system." The players indicated, nonetheless, an eagerness to play against the U.S. professional teams. Juan Luis Suse, Cuban commissioner of baseball, told Schneider, "We are available for a confrontation to test our forces."

After the arrangements had been made for such a test in 1977, the U.S. State Department and then-Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn prevented the New York Yankees from travelling to Cuba to play against the national team.

Comparing Cuban baseball today to that under the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista 25 years ago, head umpire Ravashiere said, "The biggest difference is that now the fans get in free. Before the revolution, they had to pay." When Schneider asked him about the uniformed guards he saw in the stadium, Ravashiere responded "There were a hell of a lot more of them in 1959 when Batista was in power."



Cuban President Fidel Castro congratulates Victor Mesa, a member of the Cuban national team that won the World Amateur Baseball Series.



Cuban Connection

Baseball love affair in Cuba

Politics takes a vacation whenever there's a game

By RUSSELL SCHNEIDER

third and Japan, with the same

OCAW local hears British miner

The January-February 1985 issue of the *OCAW Reporter*, the national publication of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW), reports on the North American tour of Steve Shukla, a striking British coal miner. Shukla is from the Armthorpe branch of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

The article describes Shukla's meeting with OCAW Local 1-5 in Martinez, California, to "publicize the miners' struggle against the British government, to generate support in North America and raise funds to aid in the strike."

The *Reporter* points to the value of the tour. It quotes Local 1-5 member Mike Baer, "Steve's talk proved to be a spark for a lively question-and-answer session. The discussion spanned the whole range from the miners' strike to union-busting American style, and how we as union members can fight such attacks. He stressed the importance of international union solidarity

all through his talk."

The paper notes some of the central experiences pointed to by Shukla that have helped to maintain the unity and determination of the strikers. Shukla emphasized the importance of having "the full backing of the NUM top leaders behind the strikers," pointing to the fact that "Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, has played an active role throughout the strike, both on the picket line and in negotiations."

Shukla also singled out the role of the miners' wives in the strike, explaining "the women, through the action committees they have organized, have helped to create a real unity."

The *Reporter* concludes that the striking miners are in need of both solidarity and financial aid from workers throughout the world. Contributions can be sent to: NUM Miners' Solidarity Fund, Cooperative Bank, Account #30 000009, Sheffield, England.

France sends more troops to New Caledonia

BY WILL REISSNER

French President François Mitterrand announced on January 20 that he was ordering more French troops to the nickel-rich Pacific island of New Caledonia, where the indigenous Kanak people are pressing for independence from France. The additional troops will join more than 6,000 French security forces already on that island of 140,000 inhabitants.

The independence movement is led by the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), a coalition of 10 proindependence groups, which established a "provisional government of Kanaky" on Dec. 1, 1984.

"France intends to maintain its role and strategic presence in this part of the world," Mitterrand stated in a speech on French television. He added, "I have asked the prime minister . . . to take all necessary measures to this end, particularly regarding installations for the strengthening of the military base in Nouméa," the capital of the colony.

While deliberately avoiding the word "independence," Mitterrand also endorsed a plan developed by his special envoy to New Caledonia, Edgard Pisani, for a referendum to be held in New Caledonia in July on nominal independence for the island "in association with France." Under Pisani's plan, the French government would retain control over New Caledonia's currency, foreign and military policy, police, and broadcasting system.

The Pisani plan would also guarantee the property of the 50,000 French settlers on the island, which is 750 miles east of Australia and some 12,000 miles from France.

Mitterrand also announced in the January 20 speech that he would call a special session of the National Assembly in Paris to extend the state of emergency invoked by Pisani on January 12.

The television address was made upon Mitterrand's return from a surprise 12-hour visit to the island, after a 25-hour flight from Paris. While in New Caledonia, Mitterrand was met by demonstrations of French residents opposing any change in the island's present colonial status.

Reagan administration officials have indicated that Washington strongly hopes for a continued French presence in New Caledonia. In a January 10 interview with a Paris radio station, U.S. ambassador to France, Evan Galbraith, argued that New Caledonia could become "another Grenada," and expressed the hope that any solution would "maintain the status quo with the presence of France."

U.S. national security adviser Robert McFarlane said in Paris that France plays "a very positive role in Pacific affairs." McFarlane added, "the U.S. respects that and is confident that France will continue to play a positive role in ways that only France can determine."

Since Nov. 18, 1984, when the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front mounted a successful Kanak boycott of

elections to the island's local assembly, 14 Kanak activists have been murdered by supporters of continued French rule. Among those killed were two brothers of FLNKS leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou, and Eloi Machoro, minister of security in the FLNKS's provisional government of Kanaky.

New Caledonia was seized by the French in 1853. During the 19th century there were a number of uprisings by the Kanak natives of the island as French settlers grabbed most of the land on the fertile west coast, driving out the Kanak inhabitants.

Until the end of World War II, the Kanaks were obliged by French law to live only on reservations.

Today most Kanaks live on reservations or in traditional villages on the island's east coast, where they survive through subsistence agriculture or fishing.

The mountainous interior of the country is the site of huge French-owned nickel mines. New Caledonia is one of the largest nickel producers in the world, and nickel accounts for 92 percent of New Caledonia's total exports.

As a result of a French policy of fostering French settlement on the island the Kanak population is now slightly less than half the island's total.

About 35 percent of the population is French, with most of the 50,000 French residents living in the city of Nouméa.

There are also about 16,000 natives of other French colonial possessions, such as the Pacific colonies of Tahiti and Wallis and Futuna, and the Indian Ocean colony of Réunion. Some 10,000 Indochinese, mostly Vietnamese, make up the remainder of the population. The Indochinese were brought to New Caledonia when their homelands were still under French colonial rule.



Some of 6,000 colonial troops already occupying island nation of New Caledonia.

Kanak proindependence forces had placed great hopes in Mitterrand's 1981 election as president of France. Mitterrand's Socialist Party had been on record in favor of New Caledonia's independence, and Mitterrand himself had spoken favorably about that prospect before coming to power.

But once in power, the SP government backtracked, insisting that all the settlers, many of whom are in New Caledonia on a short-term basis, be given a voice in the island's future status.

Under pressure from the success of the November 18 Kanak election boycott, Pisani called for the right to vote on New Caledonia's independence "in association

with France" to be limited to those who have resided in New Caledonia for at least three years.

The FLNKS, however, demands that only those with at least one parent born in New Caledonia be allowed to vote on the island's future status.

FLNKS leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou has denounced the French government for calling for Kanak participation in negotiations while simultaneously carrying out "a policy of repression exclusively against the Kanak people." Tjibaou also bitterly pointed to the French government's refusal to disarm "the reactionary colonialist population" despite massacres of Kanak activists. **From Intercontinental Press**

Thousands of farmers demand gov't aid

Continued from front page

ing that "it's sad, but if we are to save our rural communities, we must have an uprising the likes of which we have never seen. We must have a major change, and this is only a beginning."

Hansen was also asked by the chairperson to take note that January 21 marked the birthday of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In his remarks Hansen warned that farmers "must not be blinded and conquered as we have in the past with prejudices against labor and Blacks. They are our allies."

Hansen also took on an aspect of the ultra-right-wing ideology that has influenced a layer of the farm protest movement.

"We must also guard against the new/old scapegoat which is being offered up to take us away from our real problems. I'm speaking of the nonsense that there is some kind of international Jewish conspiracy behind our problems. That is nonsense of the first order," Hansen said.

Bobbi Polzine and Carmen Fernholz, farm activists speaking for Groundswell, a coalition of state farm groups who sponsored the protest, read a series of demands to Minnesota's Gov. Rudy Perpich and state legislators who attended the rally. Polzine explained that the list had been compiled by holding meetings in farm communities across the state.

Among the demands were:

- That the state government enact a 120-day moratorium on farm foreclosures that would automatically renew every 120 days until farmers receive commodity prices high enough to support a minimum of 15 percent return on their equity.

- An emergency guaranteed-loan program so farmers will have necessary credit to plant this spring.

- That the federal government grant a one-year grace period on repayment of outstanding farm loans.

"If our government in Washington can spend billions of dollars for Star Wars in space," Polzine said, "it can certainly find that kind of money for food on earth."

Speaking next, Governor Perpich refused to respond to the demands, choosing instead to assure farmers he understood the depth of the crisis on the land and would

work with state legislators on a farm bill. Perpich received respectful but not enthusiastic applause from the crowd.

In contrast, thunderous clapping followed the announcement that a group of unemployed iron-ore miners from Minnesota's economically depressed Iron Range had travelled to the rally. Shouts of "Put them back to work!" were mixed in the applause.

Speaking for United Auto Workers Local 879 representing workers at Twin Cities Ford truck assembly plant, Ron Mathis told the demonstrators the rally had proven "labor and rural America will stand together. Big business and government will not be able to divide us from this point on."

State auto workers head Bob Killeen also underscored labor's solidarity with the

fighting family farmer.

"When we leave here we may have to go on to Washington for a mass protest," Killeen said. "And if we do, we will ask international unions across this country to give you their support."

Killeen drew strong applause when he told the rally "consumers and workers in the cities must understand that supermarket prices are not the result of what is happening on the farms today."

"Farmers must understand," he continued, "that we will no longer be divided by the bullshit that workers make too much money. A worker who makes \$20,000 a year spends \$22,000."

During the rally, protest organizers announced that farm movement leaders from counties across the state would meet within a week to plan future actions.

Angry farmers picket Chicago grain traders

BY NELSON GONZÁLEZ

CHICAGO—More than 350 farmers from 10 states organized a picket line in front of the Board of Trade here January 22.

"We are here to draw attention to the most unjust marketing system, which is doing nothing more than the exploitation of labor," said Wayne Cryts, president of the American Agriculture Movement of Missouri and a leader of the protest.

Twelve farmers were arrested when they attempted to enter the Board of Trade, which is the nation's largest futures exchange in agricultural products.

Thirty-five more farmers, including 12 women, were arrested the following day in a similar picket at the Mercantile Exchange, which trades in livestock.

At a meeting prior to the first picket, solidarity with the farmers was expressed by Charlie Pearl, president of the Central Missouri Labor Council (AFL-CIO), and the Rev. George Riddick, vice-president of Operation PUSH.

Riddick received a standing ovation when he pledged the support of Chicago's Black community to the farmers' efforts.

Miner runs for mayor of St. Louis

Continued from Page 2

Kimball, who has visited Nicaragua, said he would use his campaign to tell the truth about the Sandinista government, which is run by workers and farmers and fights for the interests of working people. His campaign, he said, will help build the April 20 demonstration in Washington, D.C., against U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean.

Kimball intends also to continue building solidarity among U.S. working people for Britain's National Union of Mineworkers, which is on strike.

Among the top priorities of the campaign, Kimball emphasized, are defending cross-district busing to ensure desegregation of the schools, the fight against the housing discrimination suffered by Blacks, and organizing to stop police brutality and racist attacks.

Kimball also told the media that the socialist campaign would extend solidarity to unionists on strike at St. Louis Ship and at the General Motors plant in nearby Wentzville, Missouri. Campaign supporters participated in vigils at abortion clinics to protest the terrorist attacks against a woman's right to choose, and police inaction in defending the clinics.

As Kimball was leaving from his shift at

Exxon's Monterey #2 mine in Albers, Illinois, to go to the Board of Elections, a co-worker shouted out, "Hey, mayor — hope you win the elections."

The next day, following coverage of his campaign on KTVI and KSDK television, many of Kimball's coworkers in the mine came by to wish him luck, find out more about the campaign, and ask why he thought the Democrats and Republicans didn't want a socialist on the ballot. Some said they would vote for him if they lived in St. Louis.

Other miners had learned about the campaign earlier that week after reading a letter to the editor of the *St. Louis Dispatch* written by Greg Relaford, another member of mine workers Local 2295, about the socialist campaign and democratic rights.

Relaford, chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance in St. Louis, wrote, "As the Democratic and Republican parties move to escalate their war in Central America and the Caribbean and step up their attacks against unions, Blacks, women, and farmers, more and more workers and oppressed will want to fight against the parties of the rich. We can expect that the Democrats and Republicans will attempt to put more obstacles in the way of other parties seeking ballot status."

Martin Luther King rally in Philadelphia protests apartheid

BY LYNN ALLEN
AND CHERYL PORCH

PHILADELPHIA — Although not an official federal holiday until next year, January 15 — Martin Luther King Day — was celebrated here in a big way.

The week's highlight was an evening rally and all-night vigil at City Hall. The rally was called to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., and to protest the South African government's apartheid policy.

Some 700 people attended the rally, standing outside in bitter cold to hear the speeches. In addition, hundreds of subway riders who usually pass the rally site stopped to see what was going on, many stopping and listening for a while.

Nearly 100 people braved the bone-chilling cold and stayed throughout the night.

Mayor Wilson Goode opened the rally with official city support for the evening's program. King, he noted, had called for economic sanctions against South Africa in 1965.

Henry Nicholas, president of the Hospi-

tal and Nursing Home Employees Union District 1199C, urged unions to redouble their efforts to divest union pension funds from banks doing business with South Africa.

A recurring theme of the rally was the link between the fight against apartheid and the struggle for human rights in Central America. Several speakers, including City Councilman Angel Ortiz and poet Sonia Sanchez, denounced U.S. intervention in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Grenada, as well as Washington's backing for South Africa.

A number of Central American solidarity groups participated in the rally. Feminists from Solidarity with the Central American and Caribbean People carried their banner. Activists from the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador were also on hand. "Embargo South Africa — Not Nicaragua," read one sign.

The rally occurred on the same day that the Immigration and Naturalization Service arrested Central American refugees in several cities, including a family of three Guatemalans in Philadelphia. A protest



Militant/Halket Allen

Unions, solidarity and peace groups joined in sponsoring Philadelphia rally.

rally scheduled for the next day was announced from the podium.

David Ndaba, special observer to the UN Mission for the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, received one of the best responses from the crowd. He greeted the rally in the name of imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela and the other

prisoners, strikers, and students fighting for peace and freedom in South Africa. In calling for economic sanctions against the apartheid regime, he explained that Black South Africans are "determined not to oil the chains to make them more comfortable, but to break the chains. We are not trying to reform but abolish apartheid."

Dozens of organizations endorsed the rally, including several labor unions, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1971 and Service Employees International Union Local 668 had banners at the demonstration. One of the most visible contingents was the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

Some of the other groups carrying banners were: University of Pennsylvania Southern Africa Solidarity Alliance; Temple University Coalition for Social Justice and Disarmament; Friends Peace Committee; Jewish Labor Committee; Philadelphia National Organization for Women; and the Delaware Valley Gay and Lesbian Alliance. A prominent Irish flag was carried by Irish Northern Aid (NORAI).

The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance sold a number of books at a literature table. More than 30 copies of the *Young Socialist*, which featured an article about South Africa, and about 20 copies of the *Militant* were sold.

The next day, the city council tabled Bill 251, a proposed ordinance that would prohibit the city from entering or renewing contracts with any business that has investments, licenses, or operations in South Africa or Namibia.

600 attend King meeting in Toledo

BY MARK FRIEDMAN

TOLEDO, Ohio — As part of a week of activities honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 600 people, mostly Blacks, gathered January 15 to hear Rev. Floyd Rose at the Family Baptist Church.

Rose, the outgoing president of the Toledo NAACP, has been instrumental in initiating NAACP protests against police brutality, school segregation and tracking, and the U.S. invasion and occupation of Grenada.

His speech — titled "An Imaginary Letter from Dr. King" — was Rose's rendition of what King would say if he were alive today.

"You have guided missiles in the hands of misguided men. . . .

"Through systematic exploitation, 2 percent of the richest people in America own 20 percent of all the real estate, 50 percent of all the stocks, 70 percent of all tax-free municipal bonds, and 30 percent of all the money in the checking accounts of American banks.

"There is something wrong with that. There is something wrong in a nation where those who are able to pay the most are required to pay the least, and those who are able to pay the least have to pay the most."

Dealing with U.S. foreign policy, Rose commented: "Inch by inch you are getting deeper and deeper involved in Central America, in countries whose language you

cannot speak . . . and whose form of government you have no right to determine.

"Your government has contributed over \$30 million in military aid alone to the most ruthless and repressive regime in the world — the government of South Africa. . . . The great American corporations that reap huge benefits from the sweat, blood, and tears of Blacks place profits above people."

Rose reviewed the gains of the civil rights movement and the subsequent in-

crease in the number of Black elected officials. "But," he continued, "in the long run you must become aware of the limited gains that your trips to the ballot box have brought you. . . . Power lies with those who make decisions, not with those who make choices. Those who control the land, the money, the police, and the political machinery make decisions."

Elections, he said, "may change the color of the ruler, but only economics will change the rules."

Albany picket hits apartheid

BY RAY PARSONS

ALBANY, N.Y. — More than 200 people picketed the federal office building here January 17 to protest Washington's support to the racist regime in South Africa.

Leaders of several area unions and pastors of churches in Albany's Black community joined the action, which was sponsored by the Albany NAACP and the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism.

Ten people were arrested in civil disobedience actions in connection with the protest. These included John Funicello, a member of the Albany Labor Council, who was representing the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employ-

ees; Larry Wittner of the United University Professors; and several pastors of Black churches.

The Albany action was called as part of the wave of anti-apartheid demonstrations occurring nationwide, organized by the Free South Africa Movement.

The Militant Labor Forum held a discussion on South Africa here on January 11 which helped build the picket line.

'No U.S. support to S. Africa'

Continued from back page

Conference" at the Sheraton-Washington Hotel. The conference featured three South African trade unionists, including Phirosaw Camay, head of the 250,000-member Council of Unions of South Africa, who had recently been released from jail. The three were among the leaders of the recent strikes by Black South African workers.

On January 11, the South African unionists marched in the embassy protest, telling reporters that only international pressure led to their release. Hundreds of Black labor and political leaders continue to be held incommunicado in South Africa's jails.

Each day different groups, large and small, more or less organized, participate in the protests. Despite a freezing drop in the temperature, the average size of the protests is growing.

On January 13, 100 gay rights activists marched from DuPont Circle to the embassy, chanting anti-apartheid slogans.

On January 16, nearly 100 nurses and doctors picketed the embassy on "South Africa Health Day." They brought attention to the outrageous inequality of medical treatment mandated by apartheid. The D.C. Nurses Association brought some 40 nurses who carried signs that read, "Divest

Now!"

The Steve Biko Health Collective, a Black organization of health workers named after the martyred South African leader, also participated that day. The group had previously sent medical supplies to Nicaragua.

Leaders of the Free South Africa Movement continue to stress that they plan to build and expand these protests over the coming months.

Many of the organizations that are components of the anti-apartheid protests are also actively opposed to Washington's escalating intervention in Central America and the Caribbean and are supporters of the April 20 national antiwar march on Washington.

TransAfrica, the organization whose initiative led to the embassy protests and the formation of the Free South Africa Movement, is on the steering committee of the April Action for Peace, Jobs, and Justice, which called the April 20 mobilization. One of the four major demands of the demonstration is for an end to U.S. "government and corporate support to South African apartheid."

Solidarity between U.S. working people and the struggling people of Central America and South Africa is linked every day on signs at the embassy protests.

Maurice Bishop Speaks



A collection of interviews with and speeches by the prime minister of Grenada during the years of the Grenada revolution, 1979-83. Includes an introduction explaining events that led to the overthrow of the revolution, the assassination of Bishop, and the invasion by U.S. troops.

Appendix contains statements of Cuban government and Fidel Castro on the killing of Bishop, the U.S. invasion, and Cuba's role in Grenada.

352 pages. Price: \$6.95. Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for postage and handling.

Vietnamese, Kampuchean troops pound rightist guerrilla bases

BY TOM LEONARD

Counterrevolutionary guerrillas fighting the government of Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia) are suffering sharp defeats at the hands of Vietnamese and Kampuchean troops.

This is despite the fact that these bands are receiving plenty of financial, political, and military aid from Washington, the proimperialist regime in Thailand, and the Stalinist leadership of the Chinese workers state.

To defend Kampuchea from these reactionary bands, Kampuchean and Vietnamese troops launched a military campaign last November against their bases, which straddle Kampuchea's border with Thailand.

So far at least nine of an estimated 20 guerrilla bases have been captured or cleared out, and others are under attack. In some cases, Kampuchean and Vietnamese troops have overrun bases defended by much larger forces.

The bases are operated by three counterrevolutionary groupings, the largest of which is headed by Pol Pot, who ruled Kampuchea from 1975 until 1979. Pol Pot's Stalinist Khmer Rouge regime was overthrown in 1979 by Vietnamese troops and Kampuchean insurgents. Vietnamese troops had entered Kampuchea following an invasion of southern Vietnam by Pol Pot's army in December 1979.

Under the rule of the Khmer Rouge, several million Kampucheans perished as victims of executions, starvation, and disease.

An example of the effectiveness of the Kampuchean-Vietnamese campaign was the capture of the large Ampil base, which was controlled by the right-wing Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) that is led by former Kampuchean banker, Son Sann.

Despite being defended by 5,000 guerrillas in entrenched positions, Ampil was overrun in a matter of hours on January 7 by a smaller force of Kampuchean and Vietnamese troops. They had waited until 23,000 civilians evacuated the base before beginning the battle. This explains why civilian casualties have been low in the current fighting despite continuing lies in the capitalist news media about alleged Vietnamese atrocities against defenseless civilians.

Allowing civilians to evacuate before the start of fighting has prevented the rightist guerrillas from using them as shields against the advancing Kampuchean and Vietnamese troops. KPNLF spokesman Penn Thal bitterly complained after the fall of Ampil about the role of the civilians in the fighting, saying, "They just want to run and run."

But if the civilians in the camps ran, so did the KPNLF troops once the fighting at Ampil began. So complete was their rout that one observer friendly to the KPNLF had to admit, "It was a complete debacle."

While reports in the U.S. capitalist press have focused on fighting around bases controlled by the KPNLF, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge bases have also been attacked and at least two have been overrun in the current fighting. Vietnamese officials say that the Khmer Rouge have suffered 1,000 casualties since the current Kampuchean-Vietnamese offensive began November 18. They also report that large stockpiles of Khmer Rouge weapons have been destroyed.

Most of the guerrillas fleeing Kampuchea are being given sanctuary in Thailand, where they are being resupplied from relief aid supposedly destined for civilian refugees. For years Washington has funneled aid through the Thai government to the guerrillas. As guerrilla defeats mount, Washington says it is ready to provide more aid. On January 9, State Department spokesman Alan Romberg said, "We have accelerated deliveries of vital military equipment during previous Vietnamese dry season offensives along the Thai-Cambodia border, and stand ready to respond to further requests."

Peking, too, is trying to come to the aid of the battered guerrillas. In recent weeks, to take pressure off the guerrillas, the

Chinese government has increased its military pressure against Vietnam along the border between the two countries.

At a January 18 press conference in New York City, Hoang Bich Son, Vietnam's ambassador to the United Nations, charged that the Chinese began intensive shelling of his country on January 15. In the first three days, some 50,000 shells dropped on Vietnam territory, Son stated. He also reported that China has massed 28 infantry divisions and 1,000 aircraft on the Vietnam border and has carried out smaller attacks on Vietnamese territory.

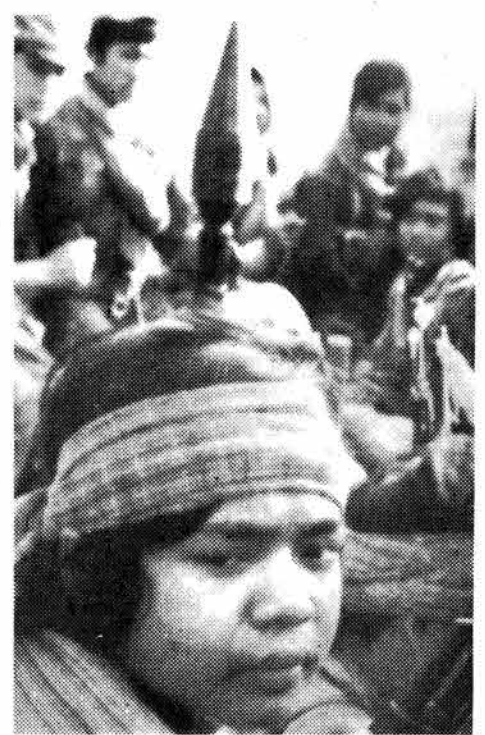
The present joint support by Washington and Peking for the guerrillas trying to overthrow the government of Kampuchea began under the Democratic administration of James Carter. This was exposed by former Kampuchean leader Prince Sihanouk in June 1980. He explained how he had been pressured to join the guerrilla coalition by Carter's ambassador to China,

Leonard Woodcock. According to Sihanouk, Woodcock had urged him to come to terms with the Pol Pot guerrillas because only they were strong enough to stand up to the Vietnamese.

In the meantime, the U.S. State Department under Ronald Reagan's administration continues to carry out Carter's policy.

Washington is presently providing arms to the rightist guerrillas through U.S. allies in Southeast Asia. The arms are paid for by "fungible funds," the State Department's term for money officially given to a government for one purpose when you know it will be used for something else.

For example, the U.S. government now gives the Association of Southeast Asian Nations millions of dollars for "humanitarian" aid with the understanding that those countries will divert the same amount from their national budgets to provide weapons for all the anti-Kampuchean government guerrillas, including Pol Pot's forces.



Kampuchean government troops en route to border area to take part in joint offensive with Vietnamese forces. As of mid-January, nine counterrevolutionary guerrilla bases had been captured or cleared out.

Socialist defends right to abortion

Continued from front page

in the Congress and the courts and is carried out by both Democrats and Republicans, and by Catholic bishops and fundamentalist preachers. They are all pushing as far as they can against abortion rights," she said.

"But women are pushing back," González continued. "Women will not easily give up this hard-won, basic right." González urged that the rallies, vigils, and teach-ins being organized by supporters of women's rights around January 22, "be just the beginning of an all-out campaign by women's rights fighters, the labor movement, Blacks and Latinos to defend abortion rights."

As a result of pressure from supporters of women's rights and outrage over the wave of bombings, five men and two women have been arrested in the Pensacola, Florida bombings and Washington, D.C.-Maryland area bombings.

Joseph Bray, Thomas Spinks, and Kenneth Shields have been charged with the bombing of seven abortion facilities and the office of the American Civil Liberties Union in the Washington, D.C.-Maryland area.

Bray is the head of the membership committee of the Bowie-Crofton, Maryland, "Right-to-Life" chapter. He is a paid pastor of a small congregation that is part of the antiabortion movement. He was arrested last November for obstructing the entrance to an abortion clinic in Wheaton, Maryland, that was blown up two days later. He works sometimes as a self-employed housepainter. Spinks, in whose home a cache of explosives was found, is a small businessman who runs a chimney sweeping and roofing business from his home.

Bray's lawyer, Gerard Mitchell, is a member of the Maryland "Right-to-Life." He represented a fetus in court in an attempt to prevent a 19-year-old, severely retarded woman from getting an abortion. The young woman became pregnant as a result of being raped while being in the "care" of two institutions for the handicapped.

In Pensacola, Florida, Matthew Goldsby and James Simmons were arrested and confessed to the bombings of an abortion clinic and two other facilities providing abortions. Goldsby proudly described the bombings as the "quickest route possible to stop abortion." Also arrested as accessories were Kaye Wiggins and Kathren Simmons.

Paul Shimek, Jr., the attorney for the four defendants, describes himself as a "born-again Christian." Ten years ago he was the attorney for pornography interests and helped get the movie *Deep Throat* shown.

The leader of Pensacola's antiabortion forces in Pensacola, John Burt, said, "When the history of this period is written, it won't be the pickets or the letter writers who will be the heroes. It's going to be the bombers."

"Maybe like Harpers' Ferry, where John Brown used violence to bring the evils of slavery into focus, these bombings may do the same thing on the abortion issue," Burt claimed.

Burt was a member of the St. Augustine Ku Klux Klan during the civil rights movement and was an active participant in violent attacks on the supporters of Martin Luther King, Jr., in the fight against segregation. He claims that his views changed, however, after serving a jail term for grand larceny.

"This gives us a good look at the right-wing scum that direct the so-called right-to-life movement," González said. "These right-wingers try to make themselves more acceptable to working people by cloaking themselves in the mantle of rights fighters like John Brown and Martin Luther King, Jr. They try to mask their reactionary politics by posing as new 'civil rights' fighters. They dare to compare themselves with anti-slavery fighters," she said, "while working with all their might to enslave women with laws preventing us from controlling our own bodies."

Bomb threat in New York

On January 19, there was a bomb threat against the Eastern Women's Center here in Manhattan. About 100 women who came to the clinic that day to obtain abor-

tions had to be evacuated.

Dozens of women — some who had received abortions only minutes before — were forced onto the street in freezing weather. Some women were still groggy from anesthesia. Women were wheeled out into the cold on stretchers, while others threw on their coats over hospital gowns and walked out to wait for a half hour in the cold.

One of the physicians at the clinic, Dr. Warren D. Walden, said, "If it wasn't for clinics like this, we'd still be doing it in back alleys. I was a resident in the '60s, and I can't tell you how many maternal deaths I saw from septic abortions."

González demanded that Mayor Koch and other city officials "do whatever it takes to protect the clinics, to ensure that women in this city are able to exercise our constitutional right to abortion, to make sure that women are not subjected again to what happened at the Eastern Women's Center."

Women's rights supporters organized protests around January 22 in cities across the country. At the Women's Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and in 30 other abortion clinics throughout the country, members of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and other supporters of abortion rights held all-night vigils throughout the weekend.

Auto workers strike GM plant

Continued from back page

come part of a higher-paid labor pool out of which supervisors make daily work assignments without any recognition of seniority rights. More than 70 percent of Wentzville workers are now part of this pool. Management can basically move these workers to any job or combination of jobs in the plant any time they feel like it.

Members of the Wentzville UAW Local 2250 voted against participating in the pay-for-knowledge scam by four to one this summer. However, it is still in place in the plant. Scrapping the program and returning to job assignments according to clearly assigned job classifications based on seniority is the local's central demand in contract negotiations.

The company regularly transfers workers to another operation or department out of line of seniority and, despite the obvious safety hazards, eliminates and combines skilled-trades classifications.

Many Wentzville workers are hundreds of miles from home, having been forced to move to the St. Louis area under the GIS (Guaranteed Income Stream) plan. They have come from 22 other plants across the country. Their choice was move or lose your job.

There was discussion among the workers as to whether the walk-out was a good idea at this time. Nevertheless, there is a general feeling of determination among the

strikers. Picket lines, along with wind-blocks and portable kerosene heaters to fight the 14° weather, were set up as fast as workers could get from the plant's door to the gate on the morning the strike began. One Black worker told the *Militant*, "I was disappointed in the national contract. I know that the union could have fought for a better one. What we need to do is get together here and be strong."

The day after the Wentzville walkout, UAW Local 2124 struck the GM Corvette plant in Bowling Green, Kentucky, over job classifications. Many workers at Bowling Green also came from the GM Union Street plant in St. Louis.

Marea Himelgrin is a laid-off Chrysler worker and a member of UAW Local 136.

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This article is part of the *Militant's* ongoing coverage of the big questions facing auto workers and members of other industrial unions under the current offensive by the bosses. Don't miss our coverage of the labor movement. For \$3 you can get a 12-issue introductory subscription. Fill in and mail the coupon on page 2.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

South Africa — the Freedom Struggle Today. Speaker: Sifiso Makhathini, representative of African National Congress. Sat., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. 205 18 St. S. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Lessons of the Civil Rights Movement. Speaker: Greg Jackson, Young Socialist Alliance National Committee. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Francisco

An Evening of Irish Folk Music. A benefit for the Irish Republican Socialist Party. Featuring: Jim Page and Danny McGinley. Sun., Jan. 27, 8 p.m. Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Irish Republican Socialist Committee, North America. For more information call (415) 564-0573.

Eyewitness Report From Lebanon. Speakers: Georges Sayad and Deborah Liatos, members of Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance recently returned from Lebanon. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23 St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Socialist Educational Conference.

1. Class: "Origins of Women's Oppression: A Marxist Analysis." Speaker: Ellen Haywood, member National Committee, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Jan. 26, 2 p.m.

2. Forum: "War and Revolution in the Americas." Speaker: Maceo Dixon, member National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m., preceded by forum dinner, social to follow.

3. Class: "A Strategy for Women's Liberation." Speaker: Ellen Haywood. Sun., Jan. 27, 1 p.m.

504 Flat Shoals Ave. SE. Donation: each class, \$1; forum, \$2. Ausp: SWP, YSA, Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

How to Stop Racist Attacks. A panel discussion. Sun., Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals Ave. SE. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Strange Fruit. A film about the drive to register Blacks to vote in the South in the 1950s. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp:

Nicaragua seeks peace; U.S. wages war

Continued from front page

In sharp contrast to Washington's escalation of its war in Central America, the Nicaraguan government continues to press for a resumption of talks with the U.S. government and for Washington to sign the Contadora pact.

For more information on the April 20 antiwar march, write to April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice, Box 2598, Washington, D.C. 20013-2598.

Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans

The Struggle for Women's Liberation. A socialist educational conference. Speaker: Nan Bailey, member National Committee of Socialist Workers Party, longtime Black activist and feminist, and garment worker in New York City.

1. "Origins of Women's Oppression." Sat., Jan. 26, 2 p.m.

2. "How to Win Women's Liberation." Sun., Jan. 27, 12 noon.

Translation to Spanish. 3207 Dublin St. Donation: \$2 per class, or \$5 for conference including forum (see below). Child care available. Ausp: New Orleans Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

Women and the Nicaraguan Revolution. Panel discussion on advances of women in Nicaragua since 1979 revolution. Speakers: Nan Bailey, member National Committee Socialist Workers Party; Sister Betty Campbell, worked in Nicaragua with women in health care, factories, and Sandinista neighborhood committees; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 26, 8 p.m. 3207 Dublin St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (504) 486-8048.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

How the Nicaraguan Revolution Defends Farmers and Farm Workers. A farmer's eyewitness report by Charles Smith, member of North American Farm Alliance and Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., Feb. 3, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

South Africa: White Rule, Black Revolt. A panel discussion. Sun., Jan. 27, 7 p.m. 3109 S Grand, room 22. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 772-4410.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Celebrate Inauguration of the First Democratically Elected Nicaraguan Government. A program of activities including video films, live music, and traditional Nicaraguan food. Sat., Jan. 26, noon to 9 p.m., dance to follow. Taller Latinoamericano, 19 W 21 St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$5. Ausp: International Work Brigades, Madre, Nicaragua Support Project, Ventana NICMAC, WREE. For more information call (212) 696-4792.

Cultural Program on Nicaragua. Eyewitness report and slideshow by recently returned members of international construction brigade in Nicaragua. Music and poetry presentations. Mon., Jan. 28, 8 p.m. 151 W 19 St., 7th floor. Ausp: Nicaragua Support Project. For more information call (212) 989-9436.

Black Perspectives in 1985. Speakers: representatives from National Black United Front, N.Y. State Eight, and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Video on Colombia. Videotape on the ceasefire between M-19 and Peace Commission. Includes interviews with M-19 founder Jaime Bateman and Carlos Toledo Plata, footage of breaking of truce by army attack, and update on current situation. First time shown in U.S. Presentation in Spanish and English. Sun., Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. Casa de las Americas, 104 W 14

Shoals Ave. SE. Zip: 30316. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: SWP, YSA, 3455 S Michigan Ave. Zip: 60616. Tel: (312) 326-5853 or 326-5453.

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MINNESOTA: 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-

Defend women's right to abortion!

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Protest Terrorist Attacks on Women's Right to Abortion. Speakers: Representatives from Planned Parenthood, Women Organized for Reproductive Choice (WORC), and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat. Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: WORC and Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

In Defense of Women's Right to Abortion. Speakers: Estelle DeBates, member Young Socialist Alliance and Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 496; Donna Wells, director, EMW Abortion Clinic and Pro-choice Coalition of Louisville; Jean Varble, past president, Louisville NOW. Sun., Jan. 27, 7 p.m. 809 E Broadway. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Terror Against Women's Rights — How to End the Attacks on Legal Abortion. Speakers to be announced. Sun., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor, Kenmore T. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Defend Abortion Rights: Stop Violence Against the Clinics! Speakers: Carla Whittington, president of Twin Cities National Organization for Women; Ruth Voights, Native American activist; representative Minnesota Task Force on Clinic Violence; Susan Apstein, member International Union of Electronic Workers and Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Jan. 27, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Defend Abortion Rights! Speakers: Linda Dennis, North Jersey Women's Center; Sonja Franeta, Socialist Workers Party;

St. Donation: \$5. Ausp: Informe Colombiano; Comité Colombia. For more information call (212) 982-8255.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Report from Vietnam and Kampuchea. Speakers: Diane Wang, coauthor, *Report from Vietnam and Kampuchea*. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 301 S Elm, Suite 522. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cincinnati

Maurice Bishop Speaks. Tape recording of speech by Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop given in 1983 at Hunter College, New York. Discussion to follow. Sun., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. 4945 Paddock Rd. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 242-7161.

0404. St. Louis: SWP, YSA, 3109 S. Grand, #22. Zip: 63118. Tel: (314) 772-4410.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: SWP, YSA, 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK: Capital District (Albany): SWP, YSA, 352 Central Ave. 2nd floor. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 434-3247. **New York:** SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard St. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668.

NORTH CAROLINA: Piedmont: SWP, YSA, 301 S. Elm St., Suite 522. Greensboro. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 4945 Paddock Rd. Zip: 45237. Tel: (513) 242-7161. **Cleveland:** SWP, YSA, 15105 St. Clair Ave. Zip: 44110. Tel: (216) 451-6150. **Columbus:** YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202. **Toledo:** SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

OREGON: Portland: SWP, YSA, 2732 NE Union. Zip: 97212. Tel: (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 141 S. Highland Ave. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923.

others. Translation to Spanish. Fri. Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. (Preforum dinner 6:30, \$3) 141 Halsey (cor. Raymond, 1 block from Broad St.) Donation \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

OHIO

Cleveland

Stop Terrorist Bombings of Abortion Clinics. Defend Abortion Rights! A panel of speakers. Diane Underwood, president, Cleveland National Organization for Women; Julia Chrin, president Cleveland Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Valerie Graff, coordinator, Cleveland Abortion Rights Action League; Monica Green, former director of abortion counseling, Omni Health Center; Tina Johnson, member Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and Teamsters Local 507. Sat., Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Abortion: The Issue is Women's Rights. Speakers: Jeanne K. Clark, National Organization for Women; Ann Pride, director, Women's Health Services; Linda Slodki, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Terror Against Women's Rights; How to End Attacks on Legal Abortion. Speakers: representatives of Utah Women's Health Center and Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. 767 S State, 3rd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Stop Clinic Bombings: Defend Abortion Rights! Speakers: Jeanne Clark, executive director, Allegheny Women's Center and chair of national NOW's Advisory Committee on Reproductive and Health Rights; others. Sat. Feb. 2, 8 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Why the U.S. Wages War on Nicaragua — Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Mary Brady, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. 141 S Highland Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Liberation Theology and Marxism: a Discussion. Speakers: Father Matt Lamb, professor, Marquette University; Daisy Cubias, Salvadoran solidarity activist; Chris Rayson, Socialist Workers Party and member, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 64. Mon., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. Brooks Memorial Union, Marquette University, Rm. 101. Ausp: Progressive Student Organization and Marquette Mobilization for Survival. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Dallas: SWP, YSA, 2817 Live Oak. Zip: 75204. Tel: (214) 826-4711. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Price: SWP, YSA, 23 S. Carbon Ave., Suite 19, P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. **Salt Lake City:** SWP, YSA, 767 S. State, 3rd floor. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

VIRGINIA: Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 5412 Jefferson Ave., Zip 23605. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699. **Baltimore-Washington District:** 2913 Greenmount Ave., Baltimore, Md. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 1584 A Washington St. East. Zip: 25311. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

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

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CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 3808 E 14th St. Zip: 94601. Tel: (415) 261-3014. **San Diego:** SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (619) 234-4630. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. **San Jose:** SWP, YSA, 46½ Race St. Zip: 95126. Tel: (408) 998-4007. **Seaside:** SWP, YSA, P.O. Box 1645. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-1855.

COLORADO: Denver: SWP, YSA, 25 W 3rd Ave. Zip: 80223. Tel: (303) 698-2550.

FLORIDA: Miami: SWP, YSA, 663 Martin Luther King Blvd. (NW 62nd St.) Zip: 33150. Tel: (305) 756-1020. **Tallahassee:** YSA, P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316. Tel: (904) 222-1018.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 504 Flat

Subway crime? — The New York Transit Authority announced that more than 200 subway cars slated for delivery in January will



Harry Ring

arrive at least a year and a half late. Cracks were found in the "light weight" steel frames slated to be used in the cars. Meanwhile,

the feds urged a Colorado manufacturer to voluntarily recall more than 1,600 buses being used in two dozen major cities. The buses have cracking A-frames.

And make sure they pay every nickel? — Canada's revenue department is enlisting volunteers to help low-income elderly and handicapped fill out their income tax returns.

Purity personified — New York's Mayor Koch has already amassed a \$2.8 million reelection fund, including several hundred thou from real estate sharks. The virtuous mayor, however, did re-

turn a \$10,000 donation from one operator four days after the fellow hit the headlines. He is under investigation for illegally tearing down four Single Room Occupancy hotels in the middle of the night to beat a pending moratorium on such demolition.

"Confused"? — "From 1956 through 1970, Howard R. Hughes wrote hundreds of notes ordering his assistants to use his fortune to buy the services of Presidents and other prominent political figures, according to a new book that draws on the memorandums. The book . . . portrays Mr. Hughes as a confused, drug-addicted, bed-ridden

billionaire who believed all politicians had a price." — News item.

The march of civilization — The War Department this year will account for 66 percent of federal spending for research and development.

Only clean-cut types accepted — U.S. Customs has decreed that honeybee semen may be imported only from countries determined "to be free of undesirable honey bees."

Quality of life dep't — We thought we had lost our taste for pimento-stuffed olives and began taking our martinis unembel-

lished. But it wasn't our taste that had changed. Some 97 percent of the olives are now stuffed with "pimento paste." Why? Because workers stuff about 18 a minute and a machine developed in Spain will do 1,800. Only it can't handle pimentos, so we get the paste — a rubbery goo flecked with bits of pimento.

Thought for the week — "We can't wait until we have all the answers." — An EPA official insisting on increased use of incinerators to burn poisonous chemical waste, despite admitted "gaps" in knowledge about what happens when this is done.

Why feminists should oppose 'anti-porn' laws

There is a debate taking place among women's rights fighters about whether or not to support laws which purport to ban pornography.

Such legislation was passed by the Minneapolis city council twice and vetoed by the mayor each time. It was ruled unconstitutional in Indianapolis, and recently introduced into the Suffolk County, New York, legislature. The Minneapolis law was drafted for the city authorities by women's rights activists Andrea Dworkin and Catherine MacKinnon.

That law, on which the others were modeled, defines pornography as the "sexually explicit subordination of

restrict the democratic rights of feminists and other fighters for progressive social change. That's why the reactionary foes of women's equality are supporting these ordinances.

In fact, the Suffolk County bill was revamped to include "sodomy," and the "destruction of the family unit," as well as other conditions "inimical to the public good" as evils that are caused by pornography.

Michael D'Andre, the sponsor of the bill in Suffolk County and a rabid opponent of the Equal Rights Amendment, gay rights, and legal abortion, explained that these anti-pornography ordinances were needed because people were "sick and tired of this promiscuous society."

"For us to survive as a society," he said, "we need laws, we need morality." And as for women, D'Andre said he wanted to "restore these ladies to what they used to be."

This drives home why supporters of women's rights should oppose such legislation.

Censorship laws in capitalist society are always used against the oppressed and exploited.

Margaret Sanger, the pioneer of the fight for a woman's right to contraception in the early 1900s, was hounded by government censors who invoked a congressional statute supposedly aimed at banning pornography.

Sometimes antiracist fighters today have raised the demand that the government ban Nazi or Ku Klux Klan activities. This demand is often seized on by the authorities to try to ban the antiracist actions instead.

The National Organization for Women, at its convention last summer, passed a resolution against pornography. Despite the lack of any clear discussion, fully a third of the delegates voted for an amendment to delete the section of the resolution which designated pornography as a violation of civil rights. This section opened the door for NOW to support anti-pornography censorship laws.

Many other NOW members expressed reservations about the effect of the ordinances on democratic rights,

but supported the ordinances because they felt strongly that something had to be done to stop pornography.

They're right about the need for action.

While it is not true, as Dworkin and others argue, that pornography is the cause of violence against women, it is a mistake to say that it doesn't harm women, or to downplay the role of pornography in demeaning women. Pornography is a particularly vicious part of the reactionary, sexist ideology that permeates class society. And pornography is a big business that directly exploits, degrades, and brutalizes the women and children who are forced to make the pornographic material.

But censorship won't put an end to pornography. It will only muzzle women's rights fighters and our allies among opponents of U.S. imperialist wars abroad and racism and union-busting at home.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) also opposes these ordinances. But they do so from the point of view that pornography is "an expression of ideas deserving of First Amendment protection."

They fall into the trap of becoming defenders and champions of the "rights" of pornographers. But it's not the "rights" of scum like pornographers that are threatened.

It's the rights of women that are under intensifying attack, as part of the ruling class offensive against working people at home and throughout the world — especially in Central America and the Caribbean.

Central to this offensive is a drive to restrict democratic rights.

To respond effectively to this offensive, we need the broadest possible democratic rights. That's why women's rights fighters should oppose any form of censorship laws, no matter how progressive they might be painted up to look. Supporters of women's rights — as part of the struggle for equality — need to wage an educational campaign to explain to working people why pornography is reactionary.



WOMEN IN REVOLT
Pat Grogan

women, graphically depicted, whether in pictures or in words."

The legislation would legally define pornography as a form of sex discrimination and a violation of civil rights. This means that a woman who said her rights were violated by the sale of pornography, or that she was sexually assaulted because someone had been incited to attack her by viewing pornography, could go to court, sue for monetary damages, and get a court order prohibiting the distribution of whatever materials some judge or government censorship commission deemed "pornographic."

Far from protecting women, these laws pose a danger to the fight for women's equality. They are censorship ordinances. They can be used to outlaw literature on gay and lesbian rights, abortion, sex education, birth control, and Black rights. They can be used by the government to

'The River' probes into plight of family farmers

BY MITCHEL ROSENBERG

The River, directed by Mark Rydell. Screenplay by Robert Dillon and Julian Barry. A Universal release.

The recent release of three major Hollywood films about the problems of working farmers is a reflection of the growing struggles of these independent, exploited producers, whose livelihoods are under attack by the capitalist class and its government.

Of the three movies, one — *Places in the Heart* — does little to shed light on any current problems facing family farmers. The remaining two — *Country* and *The River* — are contemporary stories about working farm

Down at the valley's Farmer and Merchant Bank, though, the Garveys experience a climate more hostile than the river, and more common for most working farmers than a flood.

It seems the banker has noticed that the Garveys have borrowed more from his bank than their farm is worth, and with the interest rates they're paying him, the Garveys' regular payments won't cut it. No loan.

The family decides to sell off its combine and tows it off to a farm auction. There, they discover that a lot of other family farmers are also struggling to make ends meet. The farmers try to stop a farm foreclosure at the auction, but as the land's already been seized, the battle is lost.

Having sold the combine for a less than handsome price, Tom Garvey is forced to look for work while the rest of the family plants a new crop. Garvey lands a job at a steel mill in a nearby city, only to find as he's driven through a picket line at the gate that he's been hired to scab on a strike.

Along with the other desperate farmers and unemployed workers who are hired, Garvey feels like he has to stick with the job despite misgivings.

After a couple of months of being treated like a dog, the scabs are unceremoniously fired as the strike is settled. In one of the film's most powerful scenes, the scabs file out the gate past unionists whose hatred for them becomes tempered with pity. Both groups seem to recognize that the bosses have divided potential allies.

Although the rest of the family has grown a good crop in Tom's absence, the Garveys find that the big grain company in their valley won't pay a decent price for their corn. The grain merchants, as a matter of fact, are out to run the valley's farmers off the land, with the help of a local capitalist politician, in order to clear the way for a lucrative dam.

As the rains begin to fall and the second flood begins, the farmers close ranks to reinforce the riverbank and

prevent the Garveys' ruin. This scene, the movie's climax, becomes a powerful lesson in the need for a workers' and farmers' alliance against exploiters.

The River is promoted as a film "for the millions who loved *On Golden Pond*." (Mark Rydell directed both.) It's much more valuable for the millions of farmers and workers trying to figure out how to defend themselves from the capitalists' increasingly brutal assault.



Marxism and the Working Farmer

An *Education for Socialists* bulletin. Includes "American Agriculture and the Working Farmer," by Doug Jenness; documents and speeches by Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin, and Fidel Castro. 62 pp., \$3.50. Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$.75 for postage and handling.

FILM REVIEW

families. *The River*, currently playing around the country, probes deeper into the plight of family farmers and indicates more clearly the class forces that can put an end to it.

It is the story of a farm family, the Garveys, who are struggling against great odds to maintain their farm.

Like almost all working farmers, the Garveys work the land that has been in their family for generations. Capitalists may speculate in land and farm commodities, but people like the Garveys are stuck with what they've got.

One thing the Garveys have got is land on a river, which occasionally floods. The film covers a period in which this happens — once right after planting and again just before harvesting the replanted crop.

But this is not a "disaster" movie.

After the Garveys' land is flooded the first time, they assess the damage and conclude that they need to borrow just under \$10,000 to repair their machinery and buy seed to replant.

Koch's latest anti-Black slur

New York City Mayor Edward Koch is waging a racist slander campaign, painting Blacks as anti-Semites. At his year-end interview with the news media, Koch claimed there is "a large amount of anti-Semitism" among Black officials he knows. In the past, Koch has named Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, Democratic State Rep. Albert Vann of Brooklyn and Democratic Party presidential contender Jesse Jackson as Blacks he considers anti-Semitic.

Albert Vorspan, a leader of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, called the mayor's statement a "gratuitous generalization." He went on, "Talking about Jackson and Farrakhan would be like identifying a couple of flakes in the Jewish community and saying that's what the Jewish leadership thinks."

Flakes. In "criticizing" Koch, Vorspan adds his voice to the racist chorus raising a hue and cry about alleged Black anti-Semitism.

Nathan Perlmutter, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League, defended Koch openly. Perlmutter said he believed that Koch might sometimes be "impolitic," but, he said, "I have seen no evidence to suggest that he is anti-Black."

Perlmutter, like Koch and Vorspan, has often falsely charged Jackson and other Black officials with being anti-Semitic.

But the issue of "Black anti-Semitism" is a fake one. Just like they did in last year's presidential race, the ruling class and its supporters are once again using this racist charge to attempt to discredit all fighters for Black equality.

Such campaigns have a long history.

The big-business media and capitalist politicians

falsely accused Malcolm X of hating Jews. When Black officials, such as Albert Vann, opposed a racist strike led in 1968 by United Federation of Teachers Pres. Albert Shanker against the Black community's right to control its own education, they were smeared as anti-Semitic. Jesse Jackson and leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference were called anti-Semitic for meeting with Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat in 1979. Louis Farrakhan was labelled an anti-Semite for opposing the colonial-settler state of Israel.

The aim of all this racist slander is to undermine support for the fight for Black civil rights. The Black community isn't the source of anti-Semitism. In fact, Blacks have been among the most outspoken opponents of such ultrarightist, racist, and anti-Semitic outfits as the Ku Klux Klan. Blacks have denounced anti-Jewish violence such as the attacks on synagogues and students at Jewish educational institutions in New York City.

But when it comes to fighting racial discrimination against Blacks, groups such as the Anti-Defamation League have often been on the *wrong* side. Perlmutter's organization has consistently opposed affirmative action programs with quotas. The league sided with Shanker in trying to block Black control of the schools in the Black community. It opposed the movement that fought for open admissions and free tuition in the City University of New York.

And Perlmutter vigorously defends Mayor Koch — a mayor who has made anti-Black policies a hallmark of his administration.

It's not "Black anti-Semitism" that concerns Koch and Perlmutter, but militant Blacks fighting for their rights. It's the struggle for Black freedom that worries them.

Behind Sharon, Westmoreland suits

As this was written, the jury was still out in the \$50-million libel suit against *Time* magazine brought by Israeli cabinet minister Ariel Sharon. Israel's war minister during the invasion of Lebanon in 1982, Sharon complains *Time* libeled him in recounting his role in the refugee camp massacres by Lebanese Phalangists.

Time is only the immediate target of this suit, however, just as CBS is only the immediate target of Gen. William Westmoreland's \$120-million libel suit against it.

Both suits are intended to intimidate the media generally by establishing the precedent that even minimal reporting of the crimes of capitalist politicians and generals can be a costly proposition.

At first glance, the Sharon and Westmoreland suits may seem like odd contests. Both CBS and *Time* are able defenders of the capitalist status quo. Neither need yield to any other in the capitalist media in their capacity for trampling on truth. It's their daily occupation.

Yet, in this case they are both victims of a bum rap — one that will hurt others a lot more than them.

Did CBS really libel Westmoreland in repeating the already widely reported fact that during the Vietnam War he insisted that the numbers be minimized in reports on the strength of Vietnamese liberation forces?

True, it could well be argued that he wasn't lying to Lyndon Johnson. Both were lying to the people of the United States. The government wanted people to believe the war was being won, that there was indeed "light at the end of the tunnel."

And Sharon's cry of libel against *Time* certainly takes the kind of gall that only such capitalist politicians are capable of.

In February 1983, to placate a sickened and enraged Israeli people, a government commission in that country confirmed Israel's — and Sharon's — responsibility at the Lebanese refugee camps. True, because it was a government commission, it tried to mute the verdict. In contradiction to its own fact-finding, the commission asserted Israel was "indirectly responsible" for the massacre, and Sharon guilty of "blunders" tantamount to "nonfulfillment of duty."

The report admitted that in the very first hours of the massacre, radio conversations among the Phalangist units were monitored by the Israelis. As the massacre progressed into the night, Israeli troops fired flares over the camps to facilitate the butchery.

Earlier, an Israeli TV correspondent reported that on the second night of the slaughter — the eve of the Jewish new year — he phoned Sharon to tell him what was happening. Sharon responded, "Happy New Year."

Fifty million dollars damage demanded by Sharon, \$120 by Westmoreland. Even by CBS and *Time* financial standards, that's not chicken feed. And it's a lot more than chicken feed for less well-heeled members of the media. Such court moves have an intended chilling effect on reporters, editors, and publishers.

For union, Black, women's rights, and socialist publications, the threat is plain enough. Papers like the *Militant*, for example, traditionally operate on financial shoestrings. The enormous financial drain of libel litigation can put a heavy strain on such shoestrings.

Consider the numerous Black weeklies in the country, few of which have significant financial resources. Every racist killer cop they condemn becomes a potential libel suit plaintiff.

While the Sharon and Westmoreland suits have been heavily reported, they are but part of a growing pattern that is less well known.

The *Nation* magazine, a liberal publication with minimal financial resources, still has a libel case in the courts that was filed against it in 1982 by the mayor of McAllen, Texas. That was in response to an article on farm workers in the Rio Grande Valley, which took note of police abuse and voter intimidation in McAllen.

Moreover, libel suits designed to shut people up have not been restricted to the media.

In the mid-70s, a group of women in upstate New York decided to visit courts and observe the performance of judges. They filed a complaint against one judge, charging intemperate and abusive behavior. He responded with a libel suit. The women, without the money to defend themselves, dissolved the court-watching project.

Last July in Milwaukee, city cops filed a \$3.5 million defamation suit against a Black alderman who spoke out against the hanging of a Black youth in the city jail.

Nor is the growing use of the courts as a punitive weapon being limited to demanding financial awards.

For example, there is the outrageous case in Dallas which we report on page 16. There a Black youth has been convicted of perjury for testifying to the fact that he saw a cop kill another youth in his neighborhood.

Considered in the context of the growing assault on democratic rights, it becomes more apparent that the Sharon and Westmoreland cases are in fact intended to further curb freedom of the press.

There is good reason for this. As Washington pursues its aggression in Central America, it has an ever greater need to hide the truth about what it's really doing from the people of this country and the world. The same holds true for its imperialist junior partner, Israel, as it presses its war against the Arab peoples.

The fear of even a part of the truth leaking out was graphically demonstrated during the U.S. invasion of Grenada, when the press was simply barred from covering the first phase of the operation.

This unprecedented action was then used to establish a new limit on reporting. As a "concession" the Pentagon agreed that in future invasions, the press generally would not be barred. However, from now on there will be a media pool accompanying the invaders — with the members of the pool, naturally, selected by the Pentagon.

Increasingly, for the ruling rich, any degree of press freedom becomes counterproductive. That's the real meaning of the Sharon and Westmoreland suits.

Birmingham battle: key fight in Jim Crow's defeat

After the decisive defeat of radical reconstruction in the 1890s, Blacks in the United States faced a legally codified system of segregation and second-class citizenship in the South. This system was known as Jim Crow.

From the 1950s through the early 1970s, the civil rights movement, through mass marches, mighty battles, and urban rebellions, combined with the deepening proletarianization of the Black nationality, won advances which led to the historic defeat of legal segregation.

These gains strengthened the entire working class, and remain a powerful obstacle to the employers' current efforts to drive down the standard of living of working people.

Printed below is an excerpt from the pamphlet *Workers in the Changing South: The Impact of the Civil Rights Movement* by Nelson Blackstock. It describes the watershed battle in that fight — the battle of Birmingham.

This pamphlet is available from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014, for \$.95 plus \$.75 handling and postage.

Birmingham is by far the most industrialized city in the South. It has a higher percentage of union membership than some big northern cities. Its economy rests on huge coal, iron, and limestone deposits.

During the labor upsurge of the thirties, the UMWA [United Mine Workers of America] swept the coalfields, and behind the miners came the steel union, organizing the great bulk of that industry.

Not only does Birmingham have a large unionized working class; that working population is largely Black. Unlike other areas, many coal miners live right inside the city.

As far back as the mid-fifties Birmingham had a movement against segregation. Its main leader was Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, a courageous man who personally led the

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

fight to integrate schools and public accommodations. But progress had been slow or nonexistent.

But by early 1963 a very broad movement was shaping up. Its goals included an end to segregation downtown; jobs for Blacks in stores there; fair hiring in city departments; the dropping of charges stemming from sit-ins; and the reopening of city parks and playgrounds, which had been closed to avoid desegregation.

The struggle . . . went beyond the control of its leaders. Demonstrations in the South had almost always been marked by their semireligious, nonviolent character. But now an enraged Black proletariat, seasoned by a tradition of class-struggle militancy, entered the fray. They began to fight back in self-defense — particularly when cops invaded the Black community.

Millions watched on television, and Birmingham sent shock waves through the ruling class. The *Militant* defended the rights of Blacks to defend themselves — calling on the federal government to deputize Blacks for purposes of self-defense.

Throughout the country demonstrators took to the streets by the tens of thousands in solidarity with the Birmingham fighters. (In fact, from May to August 15, there were 978 demonstrations in 209 cities or towns in 36 states. Two hundred thousand marched in Detroit alone.)

This series of actions, the largest wave of civil rights protests in the country's history, turned the tide. In early 1963, President Kennedy had said there had been enough civil rights legislation. He was now forced to change his tune, and the new antidiscrimination bill began to be pushed through Congress.

In 1964 the civil rights bill barring discrimination in public accommodations was adopted. And Black people didn't let it stay on paper.

These struggles, the laws that were enacted because of them, and the actions Black people took to make these laws a reality, broke the back of Jim Crow.

It was a landmark victory of Blacks and all working people.

Looking back on the 1960s now, we can see that 1963 through 1965 was the climactic point that marked the death of Jim Crow. It didn't disappear all at once in every place. Nor were de facto segregation and other racist practices ended.

The South underwent a social transformation, one that changed thinking all up and down the line. It changed the way whites looked at Blacks, the way Blacks looked at whites, and the way they looked at themselves. It changed the way they looked at their employers and the way they looked at the government.

Pope: friend or foe of anti-apartheid fight?

Pope John Paul II gave the Rev. Jesse Jackson half an hour on January 3 to say his piece. Jackson visited the Vatican to urge the pope to speak out against the apartheid regime in South Africa. Jackson said it would be inappropriate to report what the pope said to him, but added that he was "very gratified" by the pontiff's response.

Pointing to the pope's actions regarding Poland, Jackson said, "We appealed to him to consider taking the same type of action and, when it is feasible for him to do

envy the French, the Germans, or the Americans . . . because they are much more easily free."

The United States is free?! Blacks, more than other working people, know what a lie this is. We're not free from constant racial discrimination on the job, in housing, and in education. We face racist cop terror and vigilantism on the streets of every city in this "free" country. Like many other workers we don't know from one day to the next whether we will have a job. Most of what we produce when we do work goes into the bank accounts of the employers — because we live under the "free" enterprise system.

And Blacks and other working people are being made to pay for the U.S. government's deepening war in Central America and the Caribbean — a war in which the imperialists intend to sacrifice our lives as well as our livelihoods in defense of the "free world."

Jackson also claimed that "There are tremendous parallels between Poland and South Africa." But that's false. South Africa is an imperialist country. South Africa's ruling class exploits and oppresses African people throughout southern Africa. These imperialists are waging war against the Angolan and Mozambican governments, and stand ready to strike against any other nation that bucks imperialist domination.

Within South Africa itself, this capitalist class brutally exploits working people, especially Blacks. Apartheid rule allows the South African employers to extract billions of dollars of extra profit from Black labor. Apartheid is an inextricable part of South African imperialism. Black equality in South Africa can't be won except through a combined revolution that both overthrows capitalist rule and wins Black self-determination.

Poland's social system is the *opposite* of South Africa's. An anticapitalist revolution has already taken place in Poland. There, no super-wealthy class of bank-

ers, businessmen, and factory owners lives off the unpaid labor of Polish workers and farmers or oppresses and exploits other countries. Polish toilers overthrew these capitalists in a socialist revolution that followed World War II. Polish workers and farmers made big social and economic gains as a result of this revolution.

On a political plane, it's true, they have much further to go. Political power in Poland is wielded by a bureaucratic caste that uses its position to ensure its privileges. This caste is a brake on Poland's continued social and economic development. And, saddled with this leadership, the Polish workers state can't realize its full potential as a tool for advancing the worldwide revolution against imperialism.

Polish workers and farmers will make another great advance when they sweep aside this bureaucratic caste and take political power into their own hands.

The Catholic Church hierarchy, including the pope, is an opponent, however, of the socialist revolution in Poland. Rather, it favors the restoration of capitalism there.

Jackson said the pope could "have a profound impact in mobilizing the moral forces of the world." The truth is that the pope and the rest of the church hierarchy mobilize forces *against* workers and farmers fighting in their interests. That's what the pope actually did in Poland.

And that's what the pope did in an earlier trip to Central America and the Caribbean. The pope used his March 1983 visit to Nicaragua and other Central American and Caribbean countries to attack the Nicaraguan revolution while remaining silent about the CIA-organized war against Nicaragua.

By trying to link the progressive struggle against apartheid to the imperialists' anticommunist campaign against the Polish workers state, Jackson weakens the fight against apartheid.



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Mohammed Oliver

so, to visit South Africa because his presence there would serve to inspire people and to bring about a more just society."

But just what did the pope really do in Poland?

In June 1983 the pope traveled throughout the Polish workers state giving reactionary, anticommunist sermons. The pope's anticommunist propaganda was used to help justify the arms buildup of U.S. and European imperialism, including the placing of NATO Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe. The pope refused to condemn the U.S.-imposed economic and other sanctions against Poland, which were a harsh blow to Polish workers and farmers.

The pontiff went to Poland to preach a proimperialist gospel. In his June 18, 1983, speech to Polish youth, for example, Pope John Paul II said, "Perhaps at times we

LETTERS

Police procedures

New York City cops have demonstrated recently that their procedures are flexible enough to deal with the different situations they face.

When Eleanor Bumpurs — an ailing grandmother who was Black — fell behind in her rent, the cops dispatched a small army to storm her apartment. They tore the old woman apart with shotgun blasts.

But when Bernhard Goetz — a rich businessman who is white — emptied a pistol into the backs of Black teenagers on a subway train, different procedures went into force.

The New York weekly *Village Voice* reports that when police suspected Goetz of the multiple shooting, they visited his luxury apartment and left a polite note asking the racist vigilante — no doubt a busy man — to contact them at his earliest convenience.

Steve Marshall
Jersey City, New Jersey

South Africa

I am a prisoner in Virginia's maximum security prison. I am writing to request receiving your newspaper.

I would like to express my interest concerning the "Anti-apartheid pressure kept up at South African embassy" article. This particular article captured my attention. In this article our younger brothers and sisters proved their dedication to the struggle and its cause.

Their actions spoke as well as the words that were spoken and the signs that were carried by them.

History is repeating itself. The younger of our nation are the future for our existence as a stronger, more united and organized people.

A prisoner
Boydton, Virginia

Catholics and abortion

Militant readers may be interested in this update on the case of the 24 nuns who were threatened by the Vatican with expulsion from their religious orders because they signed a Catholics for Choice ad challenging the official "abortion is murder" campaign of the Catholic church hierarchy.

An article in the Newark, New

Jersey, *Star-Ledger* reports that a "conservative Catholic group" — the Interstate Committee of Clergy and Laity — is demanding that a professor at Seton Hall University be fired because he too was among the ad signers.

In a letter to Newark's archbishop, the committee demanded the ouster of Gerald Pire, an associate professor of religious studies, saying that it was intolerable to allow someone to continue teaching religion at a Catholic University who "rejects Roman Catholic teaching that deliberately chosen abortion is objectively immoral."

The outcome of this skirmish will be interesting. The article also notes that none of the 24 nuns who signed the ad have retracted their statement, as demanded by the Vatican.

Frank Forrestal
Jersey City, New Jersey

Working class party

Politics is very important to me. I take it very seriously and I wish that more workers gave more time to it.

I work collecting garbage in Indianapolis and while doing my job last week I found three copies of the *Militant* in a trash can. I kept them and read them several times.

I was a Democrat, but now there is getting to be a strong anti-working class sentiment in the party. The leaders want to cater to the middle class and just forget us workers.

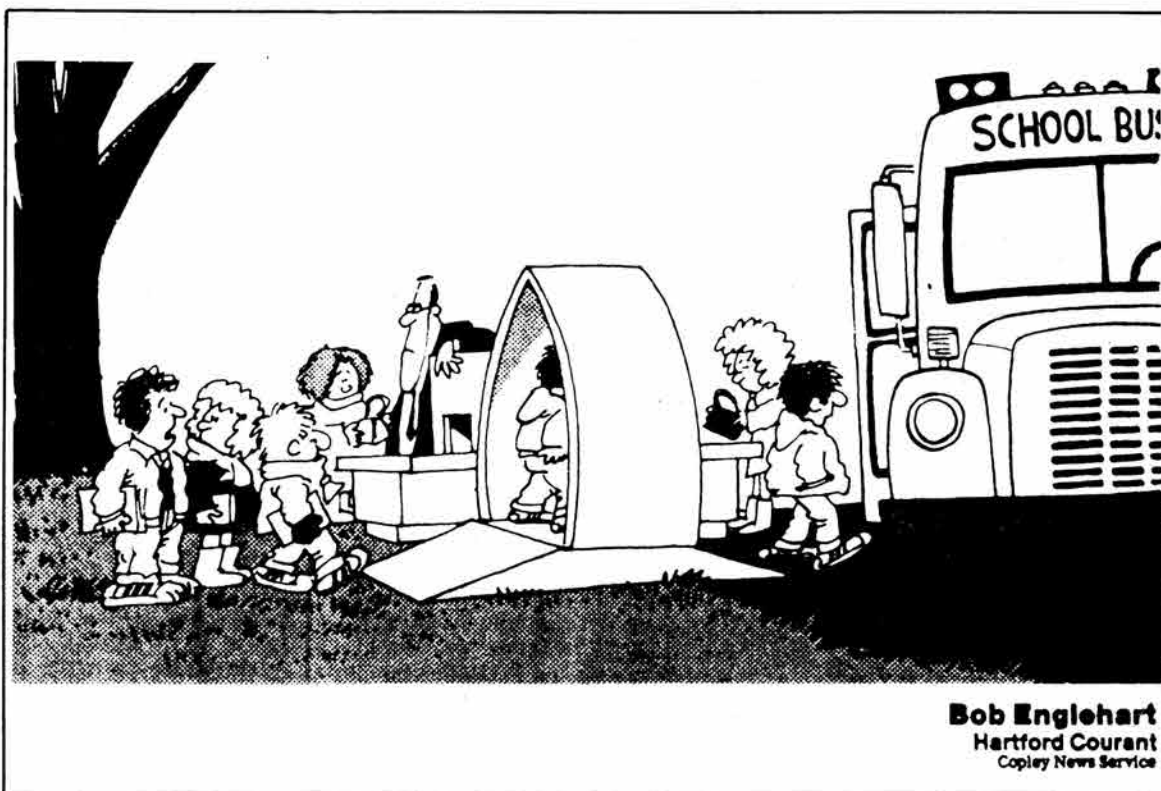
I have never believed that the Republicans had anything to offer my class. The Democrats are dumping us. So, I'm looking for a real working-class party.

Perhaps the Socialist Workers Party is it. To subscribe and study the *Militant* seems to be the best way to find out.

Henri Lloyd Smith
Greenfield, Indiana

Starvation

Enclosed is a contribution to the *Militant*. I was motivated to send it because I am totally convinced that in order to eliminate the waste of human lives and suffering that is happening in Ethiopia, we need to promote a worldwide socialist revolution, and the *Militant* is doing that. I think it is money bet-



Bob Englehart
Hartford Courant
Copy News Service

"This is just to get on the bus. At school, we'll be strip-searched, fingerprinted, and given denim work clothes with a number on it."

ter spent than these band-aid contributions to charity organizations.

Steve Halpern's letter appearing in the December 28 *Militant* on how the Soviet Union and China eliminated "starvation in two of the largest countries in the world" proves my point unequivocally. The United States government, on the other hand, pays farmers not to grow food and forecloses on thousands of farmers every year!

Sam Chetta
Catskill, New York

Pennsylvania ballot

Enclosed find a check for \$55. I think it is important to start the new year right by renewing my subscription to the *Militant*. The remaining amount is a donation to the continued work of the paper.

I was hoping with this 1985 New Year's renewal to be able to offer some comment on the vote totals here for the Socialist Workers Party candidates in the November 1984 elections. Erie County, Pennsylvania, where I live, is an interesting place to watch voter trends.

But I have no election results to add. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania forced the SWP off

the ballot with unfair demands. The irony is that, if Erie is typical of the nation, the SWP has demonstrated that it is the alternative party voters chose. Past elections have shown that. So I think it is important that Pennsylvania election officials are confronted with the demand that SWP campaigns not be unfairly denied a ballot spot in the future.

James G. Smith
Erie, Pennsylvania.

Art destroyed

Narrow-minded religious bigotry and Texas oil-millions combined to destroy one of the finest Asian art collections in the U.S.

Once worth more than \$1 million and owned by Ft. Worth millionaire Cullen Davis, the collection recently fetched \$561.50 in an auction. That's all it was worth when Davis was through.

Davis, a "born again" Christian, had given his art to his favorite evangelist, James Robison.

But as Robison was on his way to sell it, the preacher decided the statues were idols and "an abomination to the Lord."

So he returned to Davis' mansion, where both of them took

hammers and destroyed the entire collection.

Robison remarked that to see Davis "destroy what he had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on was great!"

That's capitalism for you. It turns the cultural legacy of humanity into a commodity to be disposed of in any way a bigot like Davis sees fit.

M.K. Downs
Secaucus, New Jersey

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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.

'No U.S. support to S. Africa'

D.C. mass picket marks M.L. King day, unions step up protests

BY IKE NAHEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The 10th week of protests here against apartheid saw two large and special actions at South Africa's embassy.

The anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth was marked on January 15 by more than 1,000 people who picketed the embassy of the racist regime. The crowd included large numbers brought by area Black churches as well as contingents from local chapters of the NAACP and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the organization King founded.

Also present was a group from the United Auto Workers (UAW). UAW President Owen Bieber was among the 17 arrested that day at the embassy door.

Many students were also present on January 15. Schools in D.C. were closed for King's birthday, which becomes a national holiday next year.

Three days later, on "Washington Metropolitan Labor Day," hundreds of local trade unionists swelled the lines. The largest union contingents were from the Service Employees International Union; the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; and the American Postal Workers Union. Officials from

the national AFL-CIO, headquartered in Washington, also participated.

In all, 87 trade unionists were arrested Jan. 18, the largest number of individuals taken into custody thus far in a single day. Nationally, more than 800 people have been arrested since the current protests began.

Free South Africa Movement leaders have publicly stated their intent to utilize the courts and any trials to press their demands for an end to U.S. economic, political, and military support to the apartheid state. Local and federal authorities here continue to drop charges against those who cross the police tape and walk one block to the entrance of the four-story embassy complex.

Joselyn Williams, president of the AFL-CIO Metropolitan Washington Council, told the *Militant* that local and national labor organizations will target each Friday for participation on the picket line. The national AFL-CIO is also planning an anti-apartheid action at the U.S. Capitol in the coming weeks.

On January 10-12, the AFL-CIO and the affiliated African-American Labor Center held a "U.S.-South Africa Trade Union

Continued on Page 10



Militant/Steven Fuchs

Participation of labor unions in protests against apartheid is growing. Above, "AFL-CIO Day" at South African embassy in Washington, D.C., on December 4.

Auto workers strike GM in Wentzville, Mo.

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

WENTZVILLE, Mo. — On January 15 — an icy cold day — more than 3,100 workers walked off their jobs at the General Motors plant here and struck the company for a local contract. GM started production at the Wentzville assembly plant in December 1983 and has been running the plant for more than two years without negotiating an agreement with United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2250, which represents workers at the plant.

Last September, during the national UAW contract negotiations with GM, Wentzville was one of 17 plants shut down by the UAW in a six-day selective strike against the auto giant. Wentzville was chosen as a strike target because of manage-

ment's refusal to sign a local contract.

When a tentative national UAW agreement was reached after the September selective strike, the UAW international officials ordered the striking locals back to work. Wentzville workers went back without a local contract and said they would strike again, if forced to by the company, in order to get a local agreement signed. The national UAW contract sets uniform wages and benefits, but each local negotiates individual work-rule agreements for their plants.

Set in the wheat fields outside a small Missouri town 40 miles west of St. Louis, the Wentzville factory is one of the most modern auto plants in the United States. It combines "state of the art" technology with

"joint management" programs aimed at making the union weak and productivity high.

In contrast to this modern plant, many workers at Wentzville come from the 69-year-old GM Union Street plant in St. Louis. According to these workers, management "hit the ceiling" at the Union Street plant when auto workers there refused to submit themselves to the company's "Quality of Work Life" program — a management scheme for speeding up production and taking away jobs by forcing workers into production "teams." Union Street auto workers voted the program down two years ago.

The auto workers from Union Street who are now at Wentzville were forced to trans-

fer to the new plant or face the likelihood of never being called back to their Union Street jobs. The Union Street plant is scheduled to close.

Wentzville opened with an elaborate "Quality of Work Life" program in place. The hiring process at Wentzville is similar to that used at the GM-NUMMI plant in Fremont, California. GM-NUMMI (New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. — the Toyota-GM joint venture) reopened the old Fremont GM plant as a "new" company, tore up the old contract, and imposed new working conditions that greatly weakened the union.

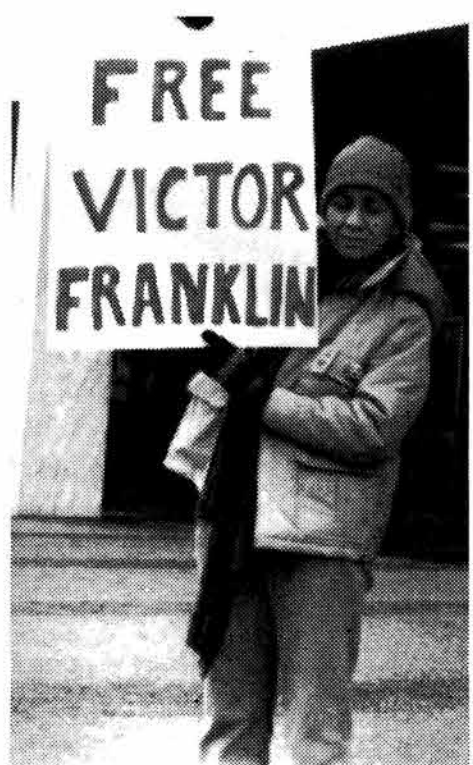
The company conducts three-week training "classes" at Wentzville that are mandatory for all new hires. These classes consist of intensive personality and psychological testing. The message is antiunion, something that is obvious to most auto workers. Management wants it to look like the company "cares" about workers' problems and that any problem can be solved through "teamwork" with the company rather than by using union power. In the plant, workers are grouped into teams with a "team-coordinator" — a union member who takes the place of a foreman. The team-coordinators are elected by their co-workers. Area foremen are called "advisors" and instead of wearing white shirts, wander around the plant in color-coordinated polo shirts bearing the Wentzville insignia — a spray of wheat.

The speed-up and job overloading inside the plant are brutal. One Wentzville worker reported that a coworker of hers after his first day on the line said, "Whatever they say about a team spirit in those classes, I can tell you that this is the same old GM." The line runs at 77 cars an hour and is built to be able to run at 100 cars an hour. That is very fast for building four-door, front-wheel drive, fuel-injected luxury cars.

At the heart of the company's plans for getting more work out of fewer workers — and at the heart of the current strike — is a scam called the "pay-for-knowledge" incentive program. It is an out-and-out attempt to scuttle work rules and seniority rights. Under this "pay-for-knowledge" program, production workers who can perform 16 or more assembly-line jobs per-

Continued on Page 11

Black convicted in Dallas perjury frame-up



Militant/Lee Oleson

Protester at Dallas County Courthouse, where Victor Franklin was framed up and convicted of perjury for testifying against cop who killed a Black teenager.

BY LEE OLESON

DALLAS — Victor Franklin has been found guilty.

Franklin is a Black teenager who was charged with perjury for his testimony about the killing of a Black man by a Dallas cop.

Judge Larry Baraka, Dallas County's first Black district criminal court judge, ruled Franklin guilty January 17. At the same time, he rebuked "the so-called political leaders in this town" for making Franklin's trial a forum on racist police shootings.

Franklin's attorney had agreed to waive a jury trial and allow Baraka to try the case himself.

Baraka's ruling brought immediate criticism from the Black community.

City council member Diane Ragsdale said, "I'm amazed that he would render that verdict." Dallas Jackson, chairman of the Citizens Police/Paramedic Complaint Committee, which has been fighting police brutality for over a year, told the news media, "I don't believe Franklin is lying, and the people in the Black community don't believe he's lying."

In a poll of a 150 people on a popular Black community radio talk show, 75 percent of the callers criticized Baraka's ruling.

On the first day of the trial, a dozen people picketed in front of the courthouse with signs reading "Free Victor Franklin," "Free the Frost witnesses," and "The Frost case = racism." The picket line received wide newspaper and television coverage.

The trial of Franklin stems from the killing of Michael Frost by Dallas cop Melvin Cozby in November 1983. Eighteen eyewitnesses testified before the Dallas County grand jury in the case. Some eyewitnesses said Cozby struck Frost with a billy club, pushed him to the ground, and shot him in the back.

But the grand jury cleared Cozby of all wrongdoing and instead indicted witnesses Victor Franklin, Lonnie Leyuas, and Brenda Frost, the victim's sister, for perjury.

The trials of Leyuas and Brenda Frost are coming up. Their attorney, Roger Joyner, said he will not advise his clients to plead guilty.

The maximum penalty for the "aggravated perjury" charge is 10 years. The sentencing date for Franklin has been set for February 7.

Four days before the trial opened more than 150 people attended a spirited rally at Dallas' Martin Luther King Center in support of the three Black teenagers.