

Salvador elections held as social crisis deepens



March 18 protest in San Salvador against arrest of leader of National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions (FENASTRAS). Demonstrator spray paints demand to release Juan José Huezo.

Militant/Cindy Jaquith

BY SETH GALINSKY
AND CINDY JAQUITH

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Presidential elections took place here March 19, after the Salvadoran government rejected a proposal from guerrilla fighters of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) to postpone the voting, establish a cease-fire, and begin negotiations to end this country's nine-year-old civil war.

As of March 22, with 60 percent of the votes tabulated, the Salvadoran Central Election Council reported that Alfredo Cristiani, the presidential candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), was the victor, winning 54 percent of the vote. Cristiani is past president of the association of

ON-THE-SCENE REPORT

capitalist coffee growers and exporters here. His party is the most closely associated with internationally condemned human rights abuses by the Salvadoran army and right-wing paramilitary death squads.

In January, the FMLN offered to open negotiations for peace and join the electoral process if the elections were postponed until September 15, government repression ended, and Washington did not intervene in the elections as it has in the past.

Since the war began, the U.S. government has poured hundreds of millions of dollars into arming and training the Salvadoran armed forces. Hundreds of U.S. military personnel are advising the Salvadoran troops.

The FMLN peace proposal was welcomed by working people here. Seventy thousand people have been killed in the war, the majority of them by the army, and a million people are now refugees in a country of 5 million.

In the countryside, where the FMLN

Continued on Page 11

Eastern strikers win new backing

BY SUSAN LaMONT

As the strike by 8,500 Machinists against Eastern Airlines enters its fourth week, support for the walkout continues to widen and the airline remains paralyzed — despite company efforts to recruit scab pilots and lure passengers onto flights with cheap fares.

The weekend of March 18-19 brought another round of strike support rallies in many cities — from New York, where there are hundreds of strikers, to Seattle, where there are eight.

More unions are organizing members to help staff picket lines at airports around the country. Contributions to the strike fund are growing. In some cities, strikers are beginning to speak before other unions and organizations to explain the stakes in the fight against Eastern.

In New York, Detroit, and Boston, Eastern strikers got a warm response when they spoke at March 18 rallies that protested Washington's backing for the Salvadoran government's war against the workers and peasants of that country.

Also on March 18, the National Organization for Women voted at its National Board meeting to back the Eastern strike. In some cities activists building the NOW-initiated April 9 abortion rights march in Washington, D.C., are reaching out to involve Eastern strikers in the demonstration. NOW is the largest women's rights organization in the country.

The walkout at Eastern began March 4 after months of government-sponsored talks between the International Association of Machinists and management failed to reach agreement on a contract. During negotiations, Eastern refused to budge from its demands for \$150 million in wage, work rule and other concessions from the union. The IAM represents mechanics, ramp service workers, aircraft servicers, facility cleaners, and stock clerks at East-

Continued on Page 5

'Militant' on int'l campaign to sign up new subscribers

BY DOUG JENNESS

For the next eight weeks the *Militant* will be conducting an international campaign to sign up thousands of new readers. All of our current readers are urged to participate in this drive.

This effort will be a break from the normal rhythm of distributing the paper. During most months readers who sell the *Militant* organize regular sales at plant gates, shopping centers, schools, political meetings and protests, and in working-class and farm communities. During the course of these sales some subscriptions are sold to individuals who express special interest, often people who have been buying individual copies for a period of time.

But between March 25 and May 20 participants in the subscription drive will be organizing extra efforts — in addition to regular sales — to sell 12-week introductory subscriptions. Where there are organized groups of distributors, they are adopting goals. This reflects the challenge a special drive of this sort represents. (See box on page 6.)

The objective will be to talk to as many people as possible to ask them to subscribe. This will require more hours spent selling, as well as additional trips to surrounding areas, to urge working people and students to get the paper.

Most people who are asked will not have seen or heard about the *Militant* before, and those selling the subscriptions aren't likely to know whether the prospective subscribers will like the paper or not. The 12-week offer gives them an opportunity to read it over a long enough period of time to see whether they find it informative and interesting.

Those who like it will be open to resubscribing, and this is how we build up our long-term reader base. In fact, we've just completed a successful effort to ask new readers, who bought subscriptions in a drive late last year, to renew their subscriptions. This was a very different kind of

sales activity than the subscription campaign we've just launched because it involved approaching people who have been reading the paper and have formulated an opinion about it. In some instances these readers were eager to discuss the political views in the paper at greater length and were interested in learning more about socialism through reading other literature or by attending Militant Labor Forums or other related activities.

Militant readers who join in the subscription drive have a product that's very special to sell. Our firsthand reporting of struggles in North America, such as the strike at Eastern Airlines, and of important events in many other parts of the world keeps readers informed of the main developments of significance to working people internationally. The participation of readers from Sweden, Britain, Iceland, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand in recent sales efforts has increased our readership — and articles — from those countries.

One way in which the *Militant* is unique is its coverage of the revolution in Nicaragua. Since shortly after the July 1979 revolution, the *Militant* has maintained a bureau in Nicaragua that has reported regularly — virtually in every issue — on the activities of workers and peasants, speeches of government leaders, and the big challenges facing the revolution. No other publication in the United States can match what we've been doing in this regard.

We also have extensive coverage of developments in Cuba and publish many of the most important speeches by Cuban President Fidel Castro. These speeches are not readily available to most readers in any other form. It is nearly certain that in the 12-week period of an introductory subscription at least one of Castro's speeches or interviews will be run.

This week, as we launch the drive, we carry the first report by our two correspond-

Continued on Page 6

'U.S. out of El Salvador'



Tony Savino

Some 3,000 people marched in New York against U.S. intervention in El Salvador, March 18. Actions took place in scores of cities. Story, page 3.

Defending rights in N. Ireland

Delegation brings Pathfinder books to prisoners

BY ROSE KNIGHT

BELFAST, Ireland — A 12-person delegation accompanied Pathfinder London representative Peter Clifford on his March 18 return trip to this city in the British-ruled north of Ireland.

The delegation's visit is part of a campaign to defend the right of Pathfinder representatives to distribute publications here. Pathfinder, which also has distributors in the United States and Australia, is dedicated to making available the writings and speeches of revolutionary figures such as Malcolm X, Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, Thomas Sankara, Maurice Bishop, and leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Last November, Clifford was arrested and detained by security forces while on a sales trip in Northern Ireland. During that

trip, Clifford visited and delivered books to Brendan Donaghy. Donaghy, accused of membership in the outlawed Irish Republican Army and of killing a police officer, is serving a life sentence in Long Kesh prison near Belfast.

Clifford was arrested by a British army patrol under section 14 of the Emergency Provisions Act shortly after leaving the prison. Following several hours of interrogation, Clifford was turned over to the police and held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Throughout the 24-hour detention, Clifford was denied access to a lawyer, relatives, or friends. He was body-searched five times.

Police charged that the car Clifford was

riding in contained explosives. Tests done on the suspected substance proved that it was salt.

Clifford was questioned about Pathfinder and its contacts in Ireland.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act gives security forces the right to stop, search, and detain someone without charges for a period of seven days.

Unionists, others on delegation

The current delegation includes Larry Cotton, national executive committee member of the National Union of Railwaysmen; Tony Banks, Labour Party member of Parliament; Helen Arthur, member, Amalgamated Engineering Union; Brenda Proctor, Bridget Bell, and Debbie Patten from the North Staffordshire Women Against Pit Closures; Andy de la Tour, writer and chairperson of the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign; Alan Harris, director of Pathfinder London; and Sam Manuel, director of the Pathfinder Mural Project in New York.

Members of the delegation participated in a news conference held at the Felons Club. "It is not just an attack on him as an individual, but an attack on the rights of everyone," Banks said of Clifford's arrest.

The Labour MP said he had come to help insure that Clifford can "go about his democratic way unhindered and unharassed." Banks represents Newham Northwest, the constituency where Clifford lives.

Some 6,000 detained

"The attacks on civil liberties in Ireland are now being extended to Britain," said Cotton. Some 6,246 were detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in Britain from 1974 to 1986. Only 528 were charged.

"When I hear that a bookseller has been arrested, I have to ask the question, if they go after the bookseller, when will they go after the writer?" said de la Tour.

"In one year of struggle against the British government 11,000 miners were arrested, two were killed, and another 200 were fired and victimized," said Bell. "Whenever there is a fight against the British government, we will be there."

The news conference was organized with the help of the Campaign for Lifers, made up of relatives of Irish republican prisoners serving life sentences. Una Gillespie, chairperson of the Belfast chapter, and Frances Donaghy, mother of Brendan Donaghy, were presented with 300 Pathfinder titles for the prisoners' use.

The three representatives of Women Against Pit Closures presented Gillespie and Donaghy with an autographed picture of the miners' wives picketing outside a prison in opposition to the practice of strip-searching Irish women prisoners.

They also sang a song, "Belfast City," which they wrote relating their experiences



during a trip to Northern Ireland in 1986. Following the news conference, 11 members of the delegation visited five Irish republicans held at Long Kesh prison. They brought two books each for the five prisoners they visited. The prisoners are allowed to receive only two books per week. The visit took place without incident.

Banks had requested a meeting with the governor of the prison to discuss conditions there and procedures for visits. But the governor was "unavailable."

The delegation's visit to Long Kesh was reported in three Belfast newspapers: the *Andersontown News*, the *Belfast Telegraph*, and the *Irish News*.

In the few days following the delegation's visit, Pathfinder representative Harris visited two bookstores in the city. The Green Cross Bookshop, which promotes publications of the republican organization Sinn Féin, ordered 80 pamphlets. Waterstone's, a fast-growing book chain in Britain and Ireland, ordered 50 paperbacks. Just Books, a radical bookshop, ordered 24 pamphlets.

Among the titles ordered were *Women and the Cuban Revolution*, *The Last Year of Malcolm X*, *Sandinistas Speak*, and the series *The Communist International in Lenin's Time*.

In what direction is Iran headed?

The next issue of the *Militant* will carry a feature on the challenges the Iranian government faces following the end of the Iran-Iraq war last year, and the foreign policy moves it is making. The article, by

Coming in our next issue

Fred Feldman, discusses Iran's break in diplomatic relations with Britain and its efforts to normalize relations with the Soviet Union and East European governments.

The issue will also carry an interview with Alberto González, a member of the political committee of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, on the discussion around the proposal for a plebiscite on Puerto Rico's political relationship to the United States.

Cops raid Colorado towns, arrest 57 for 'poaching'

BY MAUREEN McDOUGALL

DENVER — Early on the morning of March 6, 275 cops launched a paramilitary raid against several small towns in the San Luis Valley of southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. Fifty-seven people were arrested on poaching charges.

Following a day-and-a-half briefing at Fort Carson, the heavily armed force descended on the Colorado town of San Luis, which has a population of about 850. According to the residents of this poverty-stricken, overwhelmingly Chicano town, the cops broke down doors and arrested alleged offenders, holding guns to their heads in front of their families.

The poaching was committed at the instigation of an undercover agent for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The agent, George Williams, carried out a two-and-a-half year "sting" operation by opening taxidermy stores in San Luis and two other towns and making it known he would pay top dollar for illegally killed deer, elk, and protected birds.

High unemployment

Residents explain that with a 25 percent unemployment rate in this area, occasional hunting of the plentiful big-game animals has helped feed hungry families. But the offer of comparatively high prices of up to \$200 drew many people into poaching, which resulted in an increase in the loss of wildlife, including several endangered species.

"He's the deceiver who pushed people to do it, because no one has money here," said Al Quintana, a local resident whose son was among those arrested. "The ani-

mals would not have been killed if he had not created the market."

Federal agents put bugging devices in stuffed animals and eavesdropped on private conversations in people's homes as part of the sting operation.

Two hundred people packed the main street of San Luis the day after the raid in a town meeting to protest the attack. Calling for a full investigation by Colorado Gov. Roy Romer, the town council unanimously passed a resolution stating that the raid was carried out "because this is a predominantly nonwhite community" and "would not have occurred nor be tolerated in a predominantly white community."

'Send real political message'

At a second town meeting held the following day, 100 people heard Chicano activist lawyer Francisco "Kiko" Martínez urge Costilla County residents to "send a real political message to this government" by finding the alleged poachers not guilty. He indicated that he would help defend those arrested.

Martínez, who lives in nearby Alamosa, successfully fought frame-up charges brought against him in 1973. Local District Attorney Doug Primavera has vowed to prosecute the poachers.

The League of United Latin American Citizens has also protested the raid, along with state senators Larry Trujillo and Robert Pastore. Former state Democratic Party chairperson Buie Seawell pointed out that if the money spent on the poaching investigation and arrests had been spent directly on the people of San Luis, it would have boosted all residents above the poverty line.

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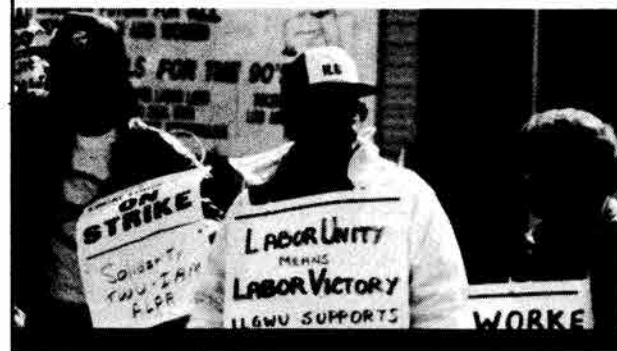
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Thousands demand, 'U.S. out of El Salvador'

BY FRED FELDMAN

Thousands of people marched and rallied in scores of U.S. cities on March 18-20 to demand that the U.S. government end military intervention in El Salvador.

The demonstrations, initiated by the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) and the Central American Refugee Committee (CRECE) showed a broad spectrum of support for an end to the U.S.-sponsored war.

The marches and rallies were part of a weekend of antiwar activity. In some areas, the activities concluded with acts of civil disobedience at military bases, federal buildings, and other government installations. Scores were arrested for participating in these actions.

"Stop the death squads, stop the war, U.S. out of El Salvador," chanted 3,000 demonstrators as they marched through midtown Manhattan in New York City to a rally in Times Square on March 18. The sponsors of the protest, organized by the New York Coalition to Stop the War in El Salvador, included 20 leading officials of local trade unions.

Among the speakers was Arnaldo Ramos, a representative of the political-diplomatic commission of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front (FMLN-FDR) of El Salvador, and David Dyson, an official of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) who is coordinator of the National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador.

The rally was led by a contingent of refugees from El Salvador.

Eastern Airlines striker Yvonne Pérez-Grajalas, a member of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 1018, delivered greetings to the rally.

"We want you on the picket lines, we want you to help us beat Frank Lorenzo," she said. "We are, like you, fighting for freedom."

Melody Bahan, a leader of the National Organization for Women in New York City, urged support to the April 9 march in Washington, D.C., for abortion rights. "Just like we fight to stop the war in El Salvador," she said, "we must combine our energy and strength in the streets" to defend women's right to choose abortion.

Representatives of the African National Congress and Palestine Liberation Organization, and Rev. Lucius Walker of the Inter-religious Foundation for Community Organization also spoke.

On March 20 many antiwar activists participated in a nonviolent attempt to block the entrance to the Federal Building in New York. A total of 122 people were arrested. Police beat and kicked several of them and then charged four with felonious assault. All were released without bail.

Some 1,000 people participated in a rally in **Boston** on March 18. Bob Turcotte, an Eastern Airlines striker who belongs to Machinists Local 1726, told the participants, "We need your support, and we are with you."

Twenty members of the right-wing Young Americans for Freedom staged a counterdemonstration in support of the U.S. military role in El Salvador.

In **San Francisco**, about 1,500 people defied a freezing rain to participate in a broadly sponsored protest. They included a contingent of about 25 people from Chico, where the student senate at Cal State University and the city council backed the event.

On March 20, a total of 52 people were arrested in protests in downtown San Francisco, as police in riot gear clashed with demonstrators.

Some 1,500 people marched through downtown **Los Angeles** to a rally on the lawn of City Hall.

About 300 people marched and rallied March 18 near McGuire Air Force Base in **Wrightstown**, New Jersey.

The gathering included a large contingent of Salvadoran and Nicaraguan immigrants. Many marchers wore badges backing the strike at Eastern Airlines. The protest included a contingent of about 60 people from **Philadelphia**, where another anti-intervention protest by 200 people took place that day.

A number of protesters entered the air force base after the Wrightstown rally, and 48 were arrested during this peaceful protest.



Militant/Jon Hillson

Participants in March 18 protest in New York City

About 500 people participated in a march and rally in **Detroit**.

Tom Barker, Eastern strike coordinator of IAM Lodge 141, led a delegation to the rally and addressed the protesters.

In **Chicago**, more than 500 people joined a march and rally. The action concluded with acts of nonviolent civil disobedience. Police arrested 37 people. A right-wing counterdemonstration drew 25 people.

In **Portland**, Oregon, more than 500 people rallied in a protest, demanding, "End the U.S. war in Central America." Alice Dale, executive director of the Oregon Public Employees Union; Cipriano

Ferrel, president of the Oregon Tree Planters and Farm Workers union; and Gene Lawhorn, a striking lumber worker from Roseburg, were among the speakers.

About 200 people gathered in **Houston** March 18 for a demonstration that drew participants from San Antonio and Austin as well.

On March 19 some 500 people rallied in **Washington, D.C.** A contingent of Salvadorans made up about one-quarter of the participants. About 2,400 people participated that day in symbolic voting at locations in the Salvadoran community, with 87 percent casting their ballots for stopping the U.S. intervention.

Forty-four people were arrested the next day for peacefully linking arms at entrances to the U.S. State Department.

Angela Sanbrano and Hugh Byrne, national leaders of CISPES, and Rev. William Sloane Coffin were barred by police from joining the demonstration and arrested. They had been part of a delegation that delivered the ballots cast in Salvadoran communities to State Department officials.

A police officer seized Byrne by the throat and pushed him to the ground.

Jon Hillson from New York, Chris Rayson from Newark, and Jeff Powers from Detroit contributed to this article.

British Ford admits political firings

BY BRIAN GROGAN

LONDON — The firing of Mick Gosling and Clare Smith, production line workers at Ford's Dagenham assembly plant, was part of a covert management policy of political victimization, it has now been revealed. Personnel Director for Production and Manufacturing of Ford Europe, Stuart Hamer, has reported that company policy is to terminate employment of "hard-left wreckers."

Speaking to London School of Economics students at an industrial relations seminar on February 21, Hamer cited the firing of Gosling, chair of the largest branch of the Transport and General Workers Union at Ford Dagenham's Paint, Trim, and Assembly plant. He claimed that Gosling and other activists in the union at Dagenham were "wreckers" because they were an obstacle to management plans for "Employee Involvement" (EI). This is an international Ford scheme to get workers to identify with the aims, production goals, and profitability of the company through "quality circles." There is really "nothing in it for shop floor workers," Hamer admitted.

Imposing EI in the resistant work force at Dagenham, he asserted, meant ending what he termed "political trades unionism" at the Dagenham plant.

The unions in Dagenham's assembly plant were in the forefront of the resistance to the company's offensive in last year's national strike at Ford and remain a thorn in management's side. Moreover, in 1987 the unions organized a successful fight to boycott components for car assembly kits destined for South Africa. They have also established solidarity relations with shop floor unions in other Ford plants around the world.

Hamer outlined the company's next steps. "The one residual thing that Dagenham has to cope with is a dangerous mil-

itant cell. We know who these people are, and we are going to sort them out," he stated.

On March 3 Clare Smith, a production worker in the assembly plant, was dismissed. Smith had come to the attention of Ford management when she publicly denounced the company's productivity and job destruction drive at a management-organized public relations meeting a few weeks before. Smith is one of less than 200 women out of some 3,000 workers presently employed on what had been male-only line jobs.

The firing of Gosling and Smith has shaken the Dagenham unions. Some militant stewards have left the plant demoralized; others are reluctant to take their place. In the week following Smith's victimization, management posted notices claiming the circulation of "unauthorized literature" had markedly increased in the assembly plant. This is literature not "approved by an appropriate company official," the notice said. Defiance of this rule, management declared, can lead to dismissal.

Smith has been backed by her union branch and the shop stewards committee. In a bulletin issued to the workers, the union has linked Smith's dismissal with the Gosling firing and the company's notices.

"Management is intent on creating a reign of fear on the shop floor, steamrollering through speedup and changes in working practices while everyone is looking over their shoulder for who the next victim will be," the leaflet said.

The union branch is attempting to mobilize support, including from other unions. The first moves have been made to link up with the National Union of Railwaymen.

On the same day as Smith's firing, British Rail (BR) management fired Denny Fitzpatrick, a telecommunications worker

for BR. Rail management cited Fitzpatrick's alleged failure to declare her previous employment with Ford. A leaflet issued by her union branch at Paddington in London explains that "the real reason" for her firing from BR and earlier from Ford is "political vetting." Ford obtains files on active trade unionists from the Economic League, an employer-financed blacklisting outfit.

Fitzpatrick has long been active in her union and politics wherever she's worked, the leaflet stated.

Fitzpatrick's firing is part of a recent spate of BR attacks on union rights as it seeks to cut services and enforce greater job flexibility in its drive for profits. Part of this process is a planned privatization of the government-owned rail line. Cost cutting has already resulted in a marked deterioration in safety standards, with a number of major accidents in the last few months.

Accordingly, last year BR issued a new rule stating that "an employee must not, without the Board's consent, make or issue any statement likely to be made public and which may damage the Board's business." This "gag rule," as it is commonly referred to by workers, was introduced by BR to give some semblance of legality to its victimization of trade union activists.

A long-standing trade union activist, Norman Clayton, for example, was victimized for his comments opposing privatization made at the NUR's 1987 national conference, which got reported in the press. More recently, BR has threatened the dismissal of a union branch officer for any further public opposition by himself or his branch to the proposed BR privatization.

NUR activist Geoff Revel contributed to this article.

Debate on Curtis in British rail union newspaper

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving 25 years in jail on frame-up charges of rape and burglary. The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international political campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. To contact the committee, write Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1695.

Support for the Mark Curtis defense campaign is winning broad support in the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR), the main

"The appeal, which has attracted considerable support internationally, aims to get the conviction overturned. Mr. Curtis faces 25 years in jail otherwise.

"We have now received a letter from the father of the girl." The article then quoted from a letter signed by Keith Morris that was mailed out last year to Curtis supporters around the world. Morris is the father of the woman Curtis was falsely accused of raping.

Morris promotes the prosecution's case against Curtis and demands that supporters of the defense effort rescind their backing.

country also sent letters to the Mark Curtis Defense committee supporting the appeal for support in the original *Transport Review* article.

The Streatham NUR branch wrote another article, which was printed in the February 10 issue. "Our branch wanted to find out more about the frame-up so we showed a video at our last meeting," it said.

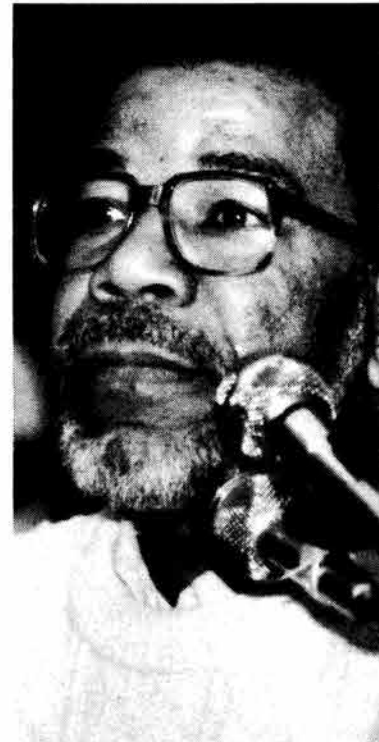
"From the excerpts of the trial it was not hard to see that there had been a travesty of justice. We saw for ourselves that Mark was convicted despite all the evidence, including forensic evidence, being in his favour," it continued.

"When Mark was arrested he was brutally beaten up, one of the policemen saying, 'You're a Mexican-lover just like you love those coloureds.'

"The rejoinder painted a favorable picture of the Des Moines police. However, a policewoman took the police department to court alleging sexual harassment and that senior officials did nothing to stop it. It also came out that white policemen dressed up in Ku-Klux-Klan outfits to terrorise new black recruits. These scandals have grown to such an extent that the U.S. Department of Justice has begun an investigation into the Des Moines police department.

"More and more it is becoming a cause for concern that around the world there are large numbers of victims of injustice locked up behind bars," the Streatham branch wrote. "The trade union movement has a long tradition of taking

a stand against these injustices, and the *Transport Review* articles in support of Mark Curtis are in



Militant/Osborne Hart
Roderick Thurton

this proud tradition. Taking the side of Mark Curtis is winning our Union respect and is something we should be proud to continue doing."

Support for Curtis is growing in the coalfields in Britain, as well. In early January, Henry Richardson, area secretary of the Nottingham National Union of Mine-

workers, heard a report on the Curtis case. During the 1984-85 miners' strike in Britain, links were made with sections of the U.S. labor movement. The Area Political Committee of the Nottingham NUM agreed to donate £50 (US\$85) to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Women Against Pit Closures and the Justice for Mineworkers Campaign, two organizations that support the miners, have also become endorsers.

Several participants at the recent international conference organized by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement in Grenada signed up as Curtis endorsers, including Derek Allard, president general of the Bank and General Workers Union, one of the largest unions on the island.

Others signers include MBPM deputy leader Einstein Louison; Roderick Thurton, coordinator, Coalition for Caribbean and Central American Unity in New York, and professor at Queens College; Lucille Marshall, Maurice Bishop Youth Organisation; Sonia Reece, Barbados Industrial and General Workers Union; Moses Nagamootoo, journalist and author from Guyana; James Millette, leader of the February 18th Movement, Trinidad and Tobago; and Rudy Grant, member of the National Black United Front, a Black rights organization in the United States.

Ray Davies, NUR member in London, and Mary Donnelly in Nottingham contributed to this column.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

railworkers' union in Britain.

Hundreds have signed petitions at rail depots and union meetings, demanding Curtis' release from jail. More than 200 workers signed up at the large north London depot of Willesden. The national union journal, *Transport Review*, has had four articles on the campaign. The first appeared on Nov. 25, 1988. It was an appeal for support for the Curtis defense effort from the Streatham NUR branch in London.

Two weeks later, *Transport Review* carried a piece headlined, "Mark Curtis — a rejoinder." It began, "In our last issue we carried an appeal from our Streatham Branch on behalf of U.S. worker Mark Curtis, who was recently tried and convicted of sexual assault upon a 15-year-old black girl.

The rejoinder, far from stemming support for the Curtis effort, stimulated new interest in it. The NUR London Midland District Council repudiated the charges against Curtis and his defense committee contained in the Morris letter. At its January 30 meeting, the council sent a letter to the defense committee expressing "full sympathy with the aims of your campaign and with the plight of our comrade."

The January 18 issue of the NUR paper carried an article supporting Curtis submitted by the council. It explained that the council decided to support the international appeal because it "shares the view" that Curtis is the victim of an antilabor frame-up. The article quoted from defense committee literature.

NUR members around the

Nat'l Organization for Women backs Eastern strike



NOW President Molly Yard

BY NANCY BROWN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The largest contingent at the March 18 rally held here to back striking Machinists at Eastern Airlines was from the National Organization for Women. The NOW members joined nearly 500 strikers and supporters from this area, Philadelphia, and Baltimore at Lafayette Park across from the White House. In addition to Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots from Eastern, contingents came from many other unions.

NOW adjourned its national board meeting and brought a group of 40 members over to the rally. They carried signs that read, "Keep abortion safe and legal" and "ERA now," and distributed leaflets for the April 9 national March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives, which will be held here. The April 9 demonstration was recently endorsed by the International Association of Machinists, which organizes the striking machinists at Eastern.

The rally greeted NOW President Molly

Yard with cheers when she read the resolution supporting the strike adopted by the NOW board meeting that morning.

The solidarity of the Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots at Eastern is "an inspiration to all working people who struggle for justice on the job," the resolution states. "NOW is coordinating a demonstration for solidarity for women on April 9, a demonstration in which the IAM has just joined us, along with many other unions, to keep abortion safe and legal ... and guarantee legal equality."

"NOW supports the strikers and their allies," the resolution continues. "We tell our members not to cross picket lines at Eastern Airlines and Continental. We will not fly until all the jobs at Eastern Airlines and Continental are union jobs."

The crowd cheered and chanted as Yard concluded by saying "We say with the strikers, 'Union, union, union!' You say with us, 'Freedom, freedom, freedom!'"

NOW will back the strikers, said Yard,

"until all of us can live the lives we choose to live with dignity and choice. We are fighting for decent pay and decent working conditions for all men and women in this country."

NOW here has shown support for the strike in other ways, too. A storefront office in downtown Washington opened to build the April 9 march prominently displays "IAM on strike" picket signs in the window and carries strike literature and stickers. NOW members have been participating in the weekday picket lines at the downtown airlines' ticket office.

Union support for the April 9 march continues to grow. The United Mine Workers of America recently became an endorser of the action, joining the United Steelworkers of America, United Electrical Workers, National Education Association, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and other unions.

Abortion rights backers defeat disruption of Bay Area clinic; plan April 2 rally

BY KRISTIN MERIAM
AND CAROLYN ALLEN

OAKLAND, Calif. — Some 300 abortion rights supporters turned out here March 11 to defend the Planned Parenthood clinic against an attack by the anti-abortion outfit Operation Rescue.

With arms linked, men and women from women's rights groups, campuses, and antiwar and other organizations were able to keep the antiabortion disrupters from accomplishing their goal of barricading the clinic door and preventing patients from entering. Only seven or eight patients had to be redirected to other clinics, according to Planned Parenthood spokesperson Amy Weitz.

The attack on the clinic was in defiance of a federal district court's injunction against the harassment of abortion clinics' patients and staff. The injunction also re-

quired Operation Rescue members to stay 15 feet away from clinic entrances.

The police — who were called by the clinic at 7:00 a.m. — did not arrive in force to clear a path to the entrance until well after 11:00 a.m. Sixty antiabortion protesters were arrested.

BY CAROLYN ALLEN

SAN FRANCISCO — National Organization for Women chapters in the Bay Area, along with the California Abortion Rights Action League and Coalition of Labor Union Women have called a march to defend abortion rights for April 2. The action will take place in San Francisco and is aimed at building the national March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives in Washington, D.C., April 9.

The California Teachers' Association,

International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union locals 6 and 10, American Association of University Women, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), and Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights are among the local sponsoring organizations.

The coalition is building the two marches by sending out informational tables to campuses, shopping malls, and busy street corners in at least three Bay Area counties. "Most people we talk to are prochoice and glad to see there's going to be a march," reports one volunteer. The coalition has also sent information on the abortion rights marches to most Bay Area union locals.

For more information, contact the April 2 Committee, c/o San Francisco NOW, 3543 18th St., Box 27, San Francisco, Calif. 94110, (415) 255-1989.

From Pathfinder ...

Sexism and Science
by Evelyn Reed. 190 pp., \$8.95.

Woman's Evolution: From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family.
by Evelyn Reed. 491 pp., \$11.95.

Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women
by Joseph Hansen and Evelyn Reed, with an introduction by Mary-Alice Waters. 138 pp., \$6.95.

Order from Pathfinder bookstore nearest you (see list on page 12) or from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$1 for postage and handling.



Militant/Bob Allen

Frank DeMaria, secretary-treasurer of Machinists Local 1445 at Newark Airport, addressed hundreds at a support rally for Eastern strikers March 18.

Support broadens for Eastern strike

Continued from front page

ern. Pilots in the Air Line Pilots Association and flight attendants in Transport Workers Union Local 553 at Eastern are backing the Machinists' strike and are also out on the picket lines in large numbers.

Rallies

In Detroit, more than 1,500 attended a strike support rally held at United Auto Workers Local 600's union hall March 18. Speakers included Local 600 President Bob King; Gene Nelson, Metro AFL-CIO executive vice-president; IAM Local 141 strike coordinator Tom Barker; and other union officials. Messages were read from UAW International President Owen Bieber and congressmen John Conyers and William Ford. A representative of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union announced that AFSCME nationally has donated \$100,000 to the Eastern strike fund.

Before the rally, Eastern strikers had spoken to 20 union meetings in the city.

A demonstration of more than 800 was held the same day at San Francisco International Airport, where 36 Eastern workers are on strike. Spirits were high despite pouring rain.

On March 16 nearly 500 unionists staged a rally at Continental's terminals at Denver's Stapleton Airport. Union members blocked entrances to most of Continental's outer terminal doors and spilled onto the upper driveway. After the rally, dozens of participants entered the terminal, stood in Continental ticket lines, and confronted Continental ticket agents and passengers alike. The United Mine Workers of America was one of the 20 unions involved in the protest.

On March 18 more than 800 workers from several dozen New York-area unions gathered for a strike support rally at Eastern's Shuttle terminal at LaGuardia Airport at which New York Gov. Mario Cuomo was the featured speaker. He told the rally that he had sent a telegram to President George Bush, urging him to intervene in the strike. On March 15 the House of Representatives had voted 252-167 to require Bush to intervene in the strike.

Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins, who is running for mayor of New York, also spoke at the New York rally.

Strikers from Local 1018 at LaGuardia have also been speaking at union meetings and at college classes. At Empire State College, a labor studies school, some 400 apprentices from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers greeted the striker who spoke with repeated ovations.

In Kansas City, Missouri, 1,500 people turned out for a strike support rally at the airport March 19. The demonstration started in a field where two Eastern planes have been parked since the strike started, then proceeded to the Continental terminal. Many of those present were IAM members from Trans World Airlines. Machinists' Local 1650 at TWA, with 3,800 members,

has been the central base of support for the Eastern strikers in Kansas City. Wives of Local 1650 members have formed an auxiliary to back the strike.

Hundreds of strikers and supporters rallied at Newark International Airport in New Jersey March 18 for the second week in a row. Teamsters, meat-packers, asbestos workers, and chemical workers were among the many unions represented.

In the past week, members of unions from northern New Jersey have been signing up in significant numbers to come to the Newark picket lines. On March 23 some 85 members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union from two plants piled into buses and came over to the airport to walk the picket lines. The next day, more than 40 members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union came. A contingent of 40 auto workers from the Ford assembly plant in Metuchen have joined the Eastern strikers on the picket line, and more unions are planning to come.

In Washington, D.C., the recent American Postal Workers Union convention heard representatives of the Machinists', Transport Workers Union, and ALPA speak. More than 200 postal workers came over to the picket line at National Airport March 14 and presented the Machinists with a check for \$25,000 for the union's strike fund. During the week, while the convention was meeting, hundreds of postal union members walked the picket lines at the airport.

In Seattle, where eight IAM members are on strike, 350 unionists attended a rally for the Eastern workers March 18. The meeting was sponsored by the Machinists and the Washington State Labor Council.

In Miami, where Eastern is headquartered, the strike outreach committee is organizing to send "trios" of strikers from the three Eastern unions to speak before union meetings and other groups. The Haitian community organization Veye-Yo is hearing regular reports on the strike at its weekly Friday night meetings.

Pilots' support

Eastern, which normally has about 1,040 flights per day, is averaging 92 to 100 flights, according to the Air Line Pilots Association. Out of 3,500 ALPA members at Eastern, only about 100 have crossed the Machinists' picket lines. In addition, 100 management pilots — people who work desk jobs, but fly enough hours each month to keep their pilot's licenses — are also flying planes.

In face of the pilots' continuing refusal to cross the Machinists' picket lines, Eastern began placing ads in newspapers around the country March 19 to try to hire scab pilots.

"But there aren't many pilots out there to hire," said Hank Hierro from the ALPA communications center in Danbury, Connecticut, referring to the national shortage of trained pilots. Most pilots also realize

that crossing a picket line honored by ALPA could jeopardize the rest of their career.

The pilots' support for the strike, which shows no sign of wavering, caught Eastern management by surprise. In the past, pilots have not always backed strikes by other airline unions.

Pilots are the highest-paid workers in the airline industry, although those at Eastern are close to the bottom of the pay scale. An entry-level flight officer at Eastern makes about \$1,450 a month. A 12-year captain will make about \$7,600 a month, depending on hours and aircraft flown.

Eastern pilots — many of whom are now on the picket lines for the first time in their lives — agreed to give the company major wage concessions in 1986, when Texas Air acquired Eastern. Opposition to management among pilots has grown, and many now feel that if Eastern breaks the Machinists' union, they will be next in line. Like the Machinists and flight attendants, many Eastern pilots explain they are fed up with Eastern's abusive regime and with management decisions they feel have contributed to the airline's decline.

The pilots "have considered themselves at risk for some time now as a result of the company's actions," explains ALPA President Henry Duffy. "Now they at least have put Lorenzo at risk along with themselves, so they are not alone out on the limb."

The pilots' union had a \$37 million strike fund prior to March 4 and have since voted to increase member assessments to aid the Eastern pilots.

Some of the strike fund established by the AFL-CIO for Eastern workers is going to aid the flight attendants, who, unlike the Machinists and pilots, are receiving no strike benefits from their union.

Continental strike

On March 20 flight attendants at Continental Airlines began a strike that has won support from many Eastern strikers and drawn attention to the harsh conditions Continental employees work under. Continental is also owned by Eastern's parent company, Texas Air Corp.

Eastern strikers have been staffing informational picket lines at Continental facilities since the strike began, and efforts to reach out to Continental workers have been made.

Of the 6,800 flight attendants at Continental, about 70 percent are union members, the Union of Flight Attendants reports. The company claims less than 5 percent are in the union.

Texas Air Chairman Frank Lorenzo led a successful union-busting drive at Continental in 1983-84, using bankruptcy proceedings to abrogate union contracts for the Machinists, pilots, and flight attendants. The UFA was the only union at the carrier to survive.

After years of unsuccessful talks with Continental management, UFA members voted by a wide margin last November to authorize a strike. After the company uni-

laterally imposed new work rules in January, the flight attendants' union decided on the work stoppage.

"Continental employees are understaffed, underpaid, and endure onerous working conditions," explains a leaflet distributed by Continental strikers at Newark International Airport. "Continental flight attendants have been working for five years under the severely substandard wages and working conditions that were unilaterally imposed when Continental filed Chapter 11 [bankruptcy] in September 1983. We have not had a pay raise in over five years, despite the fact we work twice as many hours for 60 percent less in compensation than flight attendant groups at other carriers."

Union spokesperson Charles Sampson reported from UFA headquarters in Houston that pickets had gone up at airports in Newark, Cleveland, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Honolulu, and other Continental hubs. Although the company claims the strike is having no effect, the union says flights in a number of cities have been delayed and some canceled because of union members walking off the job. More than 1,000 flight attendants did not report to work March 21, Sampson said. The company, however, is attributing delayed or canceled flights to weather or mechanical problems.

Selling the fleet

Eastern Airlines announced March 17 that it was putting up most of its 230-plane fleet for sale, in an effort to raise cash to withstand the strike. Such sales are subject to approval by the Federal Bankruptcy Court in New York, where Eastern filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy March 9. Eastern also cut back work schedules for 500 of its remaining 1,500 employees. Some 9,500 noncontract workers at Eastern were laid off shortly after the strike began.

A few days later, New York real estate and gambling casino multimillionaire Donald Trump, who had agreed to buy Eastern's profitable New York-Boston-Washington, D.C., shuttle for \$365 million last fall, asked Lorenzo to cut the price of the sale by \$165 million. The shuttle's value, Trump said, had been "devastated" by the loss of market share due to the strike. Eastern responded by saying it would look for other buyers.

The strike is also undercutting business for several commuter airlines that depend on Eastern traffic. Precision Air of Keene, New Hampshire, has closed. Southern Jersey Airlines, which carried an Eastern Express logo and flew as a feeder to Eastern, has switched its name to Continental Express. Metro Airlines of Dallas, which did short flights for Eastern out of Atlanta and St. Croix, in the Virgin Islands, has significantly cut its service.

The strike is also having an impact on the Florida tourist trade, despite added flights to Florida by other airlines. Last March, Eastern alone flew almost 500,000 passengers to the state.

Hearings reveal Hormel spied on Nebraska union activist

BY DIANE SHUR

OMAHA, Nebraska — Current National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) hearings have revealed that Geo. A. Hormel & Co. has spent the last four years spying on and harassing union activist Bob Langemeier.

Langemeier used to work at Hormel's meat-packing plant in Fremont, Nebraska. He was fired in 1985 for wearing a sticker on his hat indicating support for workers then on strike at Hormel's Austin, Minnesota, plant. The strikers were members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9.

When Langemeier was reinstated at his job, strikers from Local P-9 were picketing the Fremont plant. Langemeier, and others, refused to cross the picket line, and he

was fired again.

Langemeier fought to regain his job, and the company finally agreed to put his name at the top of a preferential hiring list. But he was not rehired.

In February 1988 Hormel began sending Langemeier letters in which the company made clear its intention to remove him from the hiring list because of his support for a boycott of Hormel products. The boycott was begun by Local P-9 to aid the strike in Austin. One letter demanded that he take out full-page newspaper ads to renounce the Hormel boycott.

Last June — when he had still not met the company's demands — Langemeier was removed from the hiring list. He ap-

pealed the company's action through the NLRB.

In preparation for the hearings on his case, which began at the end of January, the NLRB told Langemeier about some of the evidence the company was introducing against him. Included was testimony by an employee of Baker & Associates, which had been engaged by Hormel to spy on him. Baker is a notorious union-busting outfit based here in Omaha. Langemeier was also informed that Hormel had numerous videotapes of his activities.

In January Langemeier and his wife Lois were served subpoenas by Hormel attorneys requiring them to supply massive amounts of documents to the company for the next round of hearings. The subpoenas show that Hormel is on a fishing expedition to try to find "damaging" evidence in the Langemeiers' union solidarity activities. They are demanding access to bank records, passports, drafts of speeches, and leaflets put out by various strike support committees.

The subpoenas mention specific activities Langemeier participated in, including strike support rallies in Austin; a Militant Labor Forum in Des Moines, Iowa; and the grand opening of the Pathfinder Bookstore in Omaha. Hormel seems especially interested in a trip Langemeier made



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Bob Langemeier

to Britain in 1986 to meet with members of the coal miners' union and British Labour Party.

"My right to privacy, my right to free speech, and my right to travel and associate with whomever I want are being violated," said Langemeier recently. "The bosses travel and meet and spend money to break strikes all the time. Wealthy people have their associations and contacts to help them advance their careers and business interests. But when working-class people get together in solidarity it is presented as criminal activity."

Houston packinghouse workers strike against concessions

BY JAMES KHYNE

HOUSTON — Packinghouse workers at Freedman Packing went on strike here March 1. The 30 strikers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers union Local 408, are fighting the company's demands for concessions.

In 1983 workers at Freedman, who are mainly Black and Latino, took wage cuts of up to \$2 an hour. A two-tier wage setup was imposed, along with an absentee policy that led to some older workers being fired.

The latest contract expired February 2. In negotiations, the company demanded more concessions, including a wage freeze, reduction of guaranteed work hours, and an increase in the amount workers had to pay for medical insurance. The company also wants to install a drug-testing program.

The union demanded a 75-cent-an-hour wage increase; two additional holidays, including Martin Luther King's birthday; elimination of the current absentee policy; guaranteed 40-hours' pay; and fully paid medical insurance.

Since the strike began, the company has hired scabs from a labor pool agency and off the street.

On the picket line, the strikers get support from passersby in cars and trucks, who show solidarity by honking their horns and flashing a "thumbs up" sign. Other unionists, including steelworkers, teamsters, and meat-packers from other plants, have stopped by the picket line to express their support for the strike.

James Khyne is an offal handler at Freedman Packing and is in UFCW Local 408.

'Militant' on subscription drive

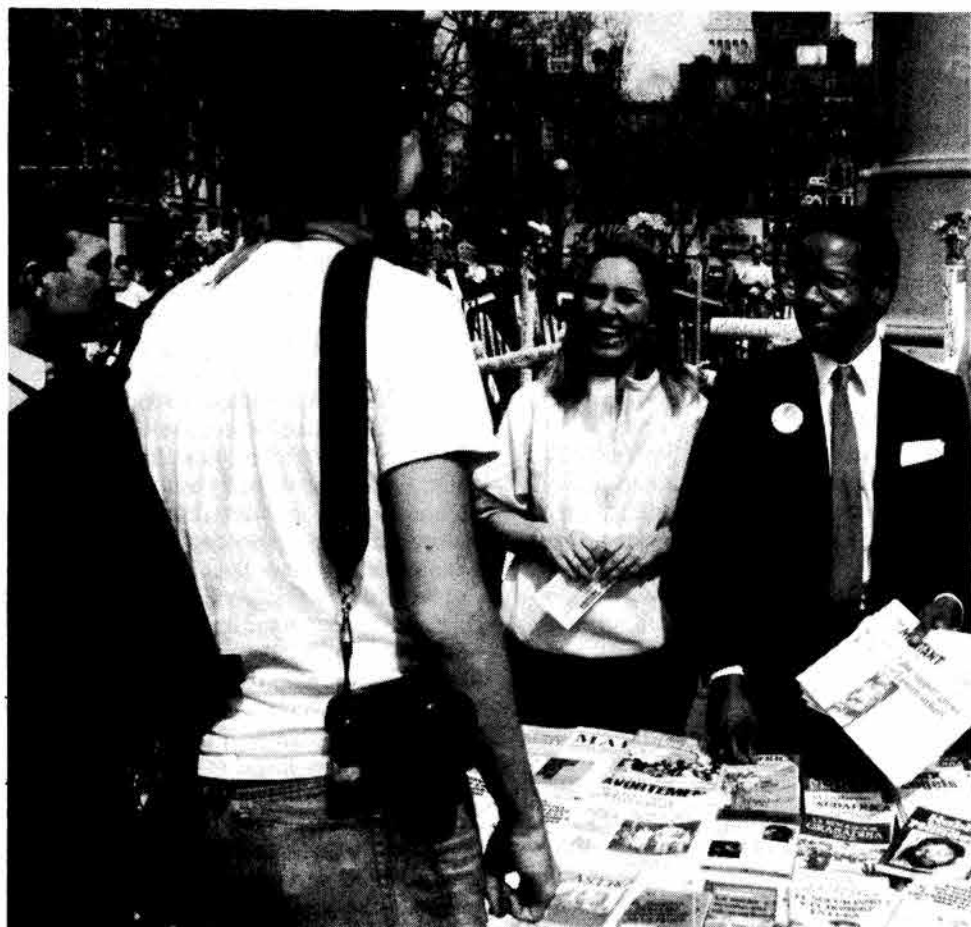
Continued from front page

dents in San Salvador who are covering the elections. Readers who begin their subscription with this issue will be able to follow the articles from El Salvador that Cindy Jaquith and Seth Galinsky will be submitting over the next few weeks.

In addition to selling more than 4,000 *Militant* subscriptions, distributors will be selling introductory subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, a Spanish-language monthly published in New York, and *Lutte ouvrière*, a French-language monthly published in Montréal. Sales of individual

copies of *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*, magazines of Marxist politics and theory, will also be part of the drive. The total goal will be to win some 8,000 new readers to the five publications.

During this circulation campaign, *Militant* readers will also be promoting The Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis, first presented last year by the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States. The Pathfinder publishing house, which printed it as a pamphlet sold widely in many countries, is reissuing it in April with an updated introduction.



Tony Savino

James Harris (right), Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York mayor, sells 'Militant' at March 18 antiwar protest.

SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE GOALS

AREAS	GOALS	MILITANT	NI	PM	LO
UNITED STATES					
Atlanta	205	150	30	20	5
Austin, MN	87	60	15	10	2
Baltimore	155	115	25	10	5
Birmingham	170	130	25	10	5
Boston	265	160	40	45	20
Brooklyn	345	190	60	65	30
Charleston, WV	92	70	15	5	2
Chicago	320	200	50	60	10
Cleveland	100	70	18	10	2
Des Moines	200	140	35	20	5
Detroit	175	125	30	15	5
Greensboro	100	75	15	8	2
Houston	180	100	30	45	5
Kansas City, MO	105	65	20	15	5
Los Angeles	470	240	90	130	10
Miami	250	145	35	45	25
Milwaukee	130	80	20	27	3
Morgantown, WV	115	75	25	10	5
New York	635	300	150	150	35
Newark	500	250	100	100	50
Oakland	175	100	30	40	5
Omaha	120	80	20	15	5
Philadelphia	190	125	25	30	10
Phoenix	132	70	20	40	2
Pittsburgh	165	120	30	10	5
Portland	145	110	20	10	5
Price, UT	62	40	10	10	2
Salt Lake City	120	80	20	15	5
San Francisco	215	135	35	35	10
Seattle	180	120	25	30	5
St. Louis	175	130	30	10	5
Twin Cities, MN	275	200	35	30	10
Washington, DC	170	100	25	35	10
U.S. totals	6723	4150	1153	1110	310
AUSTRALIA					
	30	17	4	8	1
BRITAIN					
London	150	95	30	20	5
Manchester	61	40	15	5	1
South Wales	59	40	10	7	2
South Yorks	60	30	20	10	
Other Britain	70	25	25	8	12
Britain totals	400	230	100	50	20
CANADA					
Montréal	250	80	40	30	100
Toronto	280	150	50	50	30
Vancouver	30	20	2	6	2
Canada totals	560	250	92	86	132
ICELAND					
	20	20			
NEW ZEALAND					
	230	180	30	12	8
SWEDEN					
	56	30	5	20	1
Totals	8019	4877	1384	1286	472

(NI = New International and Nouvelle Internationale, single copies; PM = Perspectiva Mundial; LO = Lutte ouvrière)

March for abortion rights April 9, socialists urge

"We join with the National Organization for Women, Minnesota AFL-CIO, and Coalition of Labor Union Women in urging people to march on Washington, D.C., April 9, for abortion rights," said Wendy Lyons, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of St. Paul, and Denise McNerney, SWP mayoral candidate in Minneapolis,

"A woman's right to control her own body is fundamental to the struggle for full equality and participation in the work force, politics, and every aspect of society," the socialists emphasize.

"Women must have complete control over their reproductive lives, including full access to birth control devices and an end to

Tom Leonard, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of St. Louis, joined more than 100 others at a police board meeting March 10 to protest police brutality and the cops' whitewash of the fatal shooting of Keith Turner.

Turner, a 24-year-old Black man, was killed by a shotgun blast fired February 15 by police officer Roy White. White said he had fired out of fear for his own safety when a passenger in Turner's car ducked down, then popped up. White said he had aimed at the passenger, but hit Turner — who was driving — by mistake. Turner was unarmed.

"Let me be the first to demand," Leonard said, "that White be suspended from the police force, and let me join with others in this room to demand that Officer White be charged with the murder of Keith Turner."

In early March, Circuit Attorney George Peach decided not to seek any criminal charges against White, saying that Turner was a victim in the war against crime. "According to Peach's logic, police have the right to assume the guilt of innocent workers, and, as in the case of Keith Turner, act as executioners," responded Leonard in a press statement released March 10. "In the name of the so-called war against crime, the police can violate our civil rights, abuse us, and even kill us with impunity. Working people must reject this idea of a war on crime, because in reality it is a war against us."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Organization for Black Struggle;

Joe Swanson, SWP candidate for mayor of Omaha, Nebraska, spoke at a recent candidates' debate sponsored by the Omaha Education Association. The OEA debate received wide media coverage, despite an attempt by one candidate — a well-known city council member — to enlist other candidates in a boycott over Swanson's participation. Swanson is a member of the United Steelworkers of America.

Chris Hoepfner, the SWP's candidate for city council in Omaha's District 3, has announced that he will be on the ballot for the April 4 primary election. In January and February, socialist campaigners spent six weeks gathering more than 500 signatures to place Hoepfner's name on the ballot.

Going door-to-door in District 3's working-class neighborhoods, campaign supporters were often invited in out of the cold. Working people, including many who are retired or unemployed, wanted to discuss ways to overcome the divisions that weaken the working class. Many were interested in the SWP's Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis and the *Militant*. A number had worked in Omaha's meat-packing houses, or had family members who worked there, and were glad to hear that a packinghouse worker — Hoepfner — was running for city council.

Pat Barker from St. Louis and Diane Shur from Omaha contributed to this column.



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky
Wendy Lyons

Pearlie Turner, the victim's mother, and others are also demanding legal action against White. White has since been suspended from the police force, but no charges have been filed.

CAMPAIGNING FOR SOCIALISM

in a campaign statement released March 15.

"Enemies of women's rights seek to finally overturn the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion," the candidates say. "This right was not just granted by a court that can now take it away. Abortion rights were wrested from the Supreme Court."

"Inspired by the movements for Black civil rights and against the war in Vietnam, women were beginning to organize a movement to fight for full equality. 'This fight won more and more ground among working people of both sexes as a majority of women entered the work force and many performed formerly 'male only' jobs."

"The right to choose abortion was won in struggle and must now be defended in struggle. This includes visible protests and speak-outs and winning the labor movement to broadly take on the fight for women's rights as part of defending all workers."

forced sterilization. No woman should be the object of population control schemes designed to lower the birth rate among the working class, especially among women of the oppressed nationalities."

The statement also explains that fighting for federally funded child-care and affirmative action programs for women, including quotas for jobs traditionally closed to women, are demands in the interests of all working people.

The candidates describe the deep crisis developing for world capitalism. The capitalists' "aim is to make us pay for the crisis of their system. They seek to deepen divisions among working people. This anti-working class offensive is behind the attacks on women's rights. Such attacks on the working class will deepen as the economy worsens," Lyons and McNerney say. "Working people — the great majority — must unite to fight for our needs in the face of this offensive. The fight for women's rights is central to this."

'I see a Des Moines governed by workers, farmers'

BY TED LEONARD

DES MOINES, Iowa — "Bailey, a meat-packer who ran as a Socialist Workers Party candidate, charged the city with lining the pockets of big business at the expense of workers," the *Des Moines Register* reported in a wrap-up article on the city council race.

On March 7, 13 percent of the registered voters in the 1st Ward turned out to select two out of a field of seven candidates for a run-off election April 4. The total votes for each candidate in the election was 1,660 for Thomas Vlassis, a member of the Plan and Zoning Commission; 1,229 for Willie Glanton, an interim council member in 1981; 271 for Alfredo Alvarez, chairperson of the Des Moines Human Rights Commission; 251 for Jack Nicodemus, a perennial city council candidate; 66 for Loren Esse, who operates Esse Research Organization; 44 for David Neff, a past central committee member of the Democratic Party in Iowa; and 28 for Bailey.

During the short campaign Bailey received extensive media coverage. In re-

sponses to an eight-part candidate question-and-answer series in the *Register*, Bailey explained her campaign ideas: "I propose unifying working people around an action program on three key demands: jobs for all, defend and extend affirmative action, and cancel the Third World debt."

Replying to the question, "What is your vision of Des Moines?" Bailey said, "I see Des Moines governed by workers and farmers. They will replace bosses, bankers, and real estate interests who currently run this city. Leadership by workers will make human needs the city's priorities, not greed and private profit. As a council member I would help organize and mobi-

lize working people to fight for this perspective."

In response to a question about what city leaders should do with regard to the decline in housing, Bailey answered, "A ceiling should be imposed on rent — no more than 10 percent of a person's income. Landlords who violate health and building codes or neglect upkeep should have their units confiscated, and rented and maintained by the city."

"City Council should demand that the federal government launch a program to provide livable and affordable housing, with funds taken from the billions in Washington's military budget."

The paper also reported that Bailey de-

mands that the cops who beat union and political activist Mark Curtis be prosecuted. Curtis is currently serving a 25-year jail term on frame-up charges.

At an election-night reception celebrating the campaign, Bailey talked with two dozen supporters, including six workers who were introduced to socialist politics for the first time during the campaign. In remarks at the gathering Bailey asked supporters to get active in the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and to help circulate the pamphlet *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, which, she said, was the basis of the ideas she raised in her campaign.

Strike defeat weighs on W. Virginia miners

BY JIM ALTENBERG

WILLIAMSON, W. Va. — Although more coal is being mined in West Virginia today than at any time since the early 1970s, fewer than 25,000 miners, less than half the number employed a decade ago, are working. Thousands of miners remain on layoff.

This area was the scene of the defeated United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) strike against A.T. Massey Coal in 1984-85. Massey has, at least in name, sold off many of its properties here. But the role of the company and of its former managers who now run mines once owned by Massey, as well as the impact of the union's defeat, loom large in Mingo County, and nearby Kentucky counties.

In February, officials and others tied to Marrowbone Coal, a huge operation formerly owned by Massey, were convicted of funneling thousands of dollars to state and county politicians. They also used false billing schemes and massive customer overcharges to raise funds for the bosses' homes, and for a so-called "safe house" in Louisa, Kentucky. The "safe house" served as headquarters for Massey's officials and gun thugs during the 1984 strike. Company officials claimed this was needed for protection from alleged union violence.

Johnie Owens, former Mingo County sheriff and Democratic Party boss, is now

serving 14 years in prison for selling his sheriff's position for \$100,000, and then joining Massey's "security" cops.

Other county politicians have been convicted on charges that included taking bribes, drug dealing, and using the county school board and the federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in the county to openly distribute political favors and jobs. The OEO controls welfare payments and a large number of jobs in the county. Further indictments are pending.

One miner said that he was recently recalled to his job at a former Massey mine. As part of a court settlement of strike issues, some workers were called back. Those not chosen by the company were given \$5,000 and fired. One of the miner's coworkers not called back was David Thornsberry. He was one of four strikers framed up in Kentucky in 1987 on charges stemming from the death of a scab coal hauler during the strike. He is currently serving time in federal prison.

Union power hardly exists in the mine today, miners here say. Seniority and job classifications are simply ignored. Workers are forced to work mandatory 10-hour days with no regular lunch breaks.

Similar conditions are found at area mines that were not involved in the A.T. Massey strike. A mine electrician on layoff from a mine now owned by Pittston Coal said Pittston has refused to negotiate a new contract with the UMWA for more than a

year. Miners have continued to work without a contract, while those on pensions and disability have lost all benefits.

Pittston has also pushed back miners' hard-won gains in safety and working conditions. "The company has tried to get two jobs for the price of one," the miner said, by using layoffs, job combinations, and refusal to honor seniority rights. Pittston even requires applicants for emergency medical technicians to also have experience in operating mine machinery.

Electricians were being forced to do any type of work demanded by the bosses regardless of training or experience, in between electrical jobs. Use of remote-controlled continuous mining machinery allows workers to make very deep cuts into the coal while remaining away from the coal face. This means increased production, but it also exposes larger areas at any one time to potential roof falls before roof bolts can be installed.

Black workers are hit hardest by the coal operators' attacks, the Pittston miner explained. Blacks have faced stepped-up racist harassment and arbitrary firings. He and other Blacks were laid off with no regard for their rights, he said. Although he had worked at the same mine for nearly a decade in the 1970s, he was only rehired after taking the company to court. "There are hardly any Blacks left in the mines," he said.



Militant/Ted Leonard
Nan Bailey

Vote in UN human rights body sets back anti-Cuba campaign

BY DON ROJAS

When the final vote was announced after days of heated debate, members of the Cuban delegation jumped to their feet, cheering and embracing each other. Some walked over to other Third World delegates and warmly shook hands.

There was good reason to celebrate since Cuba had scored an important political victory against Washington in a major international forum.

The scene was Geneva, Switzerland earlier this month at the annual meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Thirty-two of the commission's members had voted for a resolution that did not require another review of Cuba's human rights record next year as the U.S. government had been pressing for.

The commission agreed that UN Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar should establish direct contact with Cuba about accusations of human rights violations in a report by the six members of the commission who visited the island late last year.

The Reagan administration had succeeded last year, after a tough diplomatic battle, in pressuring the commission to conduct its first investigation of Cuban "human rights abuses."

The Cubans responded by inviting the commission to send a delegation to freely visit prisons; talk with a wide variety of persons, including "dissidents"; and discuss the matter with President Fidel Castro and other top government and Communist Party officials.

The investigating team's 400-page report did not produce any concrete proof of human rights violations in Cuba. It did, however, contain a 350-page addendum with testimony from right-wing Cuban groups and individuals outside Cuba.

Stung by this diplomatic defeat, U.S. delegates to the Geneva meeting claimed that the commission's credibility had been undermined. They promised not to abandon

their anti-Cuba campaign and expressed optimism that Washington will be able to get Cuba put on the commission's agenda for next year.

The British representatives, who campaigned strongly for the U.S. government's position in Geneva, also suffered a setback.

Armando Valladares, formerly in Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista's police force, headed the U.S. delegation. This man, who was imprisoned after a trial in 1961 for his involvement in terrorist activity against the revolution, is described by the U.S. government and the leading capitalist newspapers as a "Cuban-American writer and poet."

Andrés Gómez, director of the Cuban-American magazine *Areíto*, was in Geneva to observe the conclave and reported back to a New York public meeting on March 13. He said that U.S. officials exerted considerable pressure on representative countries to condemn Cuba for "violations of human rights."

Gómez recalled that for the past four years "a parade of so-called Cuban political prisoners" testified before the human rights commission claiming that their physical defects were the result of torture in Cuban prisons. In the past, these testimonies were accepted for the most part without proof, he said.

Gómez said that although Valladares was the announced leader of the U.S. delegation in this year's meeting he was, in

fact, "pushed aside" by top U.S. officials when the debates began, and he was not allowed to participate in any of the serious negotiations.

Gómez felt that the failure of the U.S. government and its British allies to browbeat the commission this year pointed to Cuba's growing political prestige. The final vote revealed a Latin American and Third World consensus to reject the U.S.-British campaign.

Raúl Roa, Cuba's representative to the commission, pointed out in Geneva that no member country of the UN had undergone such a long and thorough scrutiny of its penal system.

He described the presentation of unsubstantiated charges as a political vendetta by the U.S. government against his country, adding that Cuba did not feel inferior to any country where human rights are concerned.

"This was a victory not only for Cuba but for all Latin American and Third World peoples," said Esmeralda Brown, who testified in Geneva in the name of Service for Peace and Justice in Latin America, an organization dealing with human rights issues on the continent.

"We were there to speak about human rights violations in the entire region and to expose the double standard applied in denouncing Cuba while remaining silent about gross human rights violations in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, Chile, and Paraguay," she explained.



Militant/Harry Ring
Raúl Roa, Cuban representative to UN Human Rights Commission.

In Geneva Brown "congratulated" Cuba for inviting the commission to send an investigative team since no other country in Latin America "would dare issue such an invitation." She added that as a Latin American woman and as a Black person "who knows what human rights violations are all about," she was morally bound to speak on Cuba's behalf.

"Contrary to what it was accused of, Cuba stands for justice, for development, and for the human and democratic rights of its people," she said.

The Panamanian-born Brown, who lives in New York, said she spoke to the commission also about human rights violations in the United States itself, "about racism, the homeless problem, the drug scourge, etc. as examples of human rights abuses."

Afro-Cuban speaks in Harlem on revolution

BY DON ROJAS

NEW YORK — "It's been a long time, maybe more than a decade, since a Cuban loyal to the revolution has spoken to the Harlem community," commented a veteran New York political activist. "Look at how warmly he was received and how attentive the audience was. Something significant is beginning to happen here."

He was referring to Rafael López Valdez, internationally renowned Afro-Cuban historian, who spoke on March 17 at an event celebrating the 30th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution and the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Grenada revolution.

More than 150 people attended the celebration at the Harriet Tubman School, where López spoke about the Cuban revolution and Black liberation. His talk was preceded by the showing of a film on the Grenada revolution.

Solidarity messages from several community organizations were read. Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, a New York-based activist grouping, chaired the event.

In his wide-ranging presentation, López, a senior researcher in the Department of Ethnology at the Cuban Academy of Sciences, touched on the history of African peoples in Cuba, the rectification process now under way there, Cuba's struggle against racism, and the military-political situation in southern Africa.

López is currently on a speaking tour of the United States. He was originally scheduled to begin his tour in February but was forced to postpone it after the U.S. State Department delayed the granting of his entry visa. As a result, a number of his engagements had to be canceled.

One of the event's organizers said the program was designed as an "appreciation" of the progressive Black community in New York "for all that Cuba has done to facilitate the liberation of the broad masses of people in Africa and the Caribbean, as well as what has been done to eradicate racism in post-revolutionary Cuba."

Until 1959 when the revolution came to power, Cuban Blacks had lived in a racially segregated society and were the victims of the most virulent forms of racism.

"The revolution abolished racial discrimination and institutionalized racism and liberated darker Cubans from the legacy of slavery," López said. "Laws were passed banning all forms of racial bias but racial prejudice and individual acts of rac-



Militant/Mark Friedman
Cuban schoolchildren. Through revolution, Cuba eradicated discriminatory laws and practices. The effort to eliminate remnants of racism continues.

ism still exist among 'lighter' Cubans, especially from the older generations."

He explained how a conscious and vigorous struggle is now being waged within the context of the rectification process to eliminate the remnants of racism in Cuba.

"Many people, including revolutionaries and communists, thought that by simply getting rid of institutional racism and by opening up an array of educational and employment opportunities for Cubans of all races that the problem of racial prejudice would be solved. But this was false," asserted López.

In the past few years many "darker" Cubans were being "marginalized," he said, and the leadership of the Communist Party recognized that if this problem was not confronted openly and honestly the vestiges of racism could pose a danger to the revolution.

At the third congress of the Communist Party of Cuba in February 1986 the racial question was debated as part of a discussion on renewing the party's leadership.

"Revolutionary values stand in support of darker people, in support of those who have been historically the most oppressed and exploited," López stated.

Asked in the discussion period to explain why the rectification process was launched

in 1986, López answered that in recent years many mistakes of a "subjective character" were made that created difficulties over and above the objective problems of the U.S.-imposed economic blockade and the general economic crisis affecting all Third World countries.

"Wrong tendencies of a bureaucratic and technocratic nature arose in the economic and social direction of the revolution," he said. "These tendencies can only be rectified by a renewed emphasis on fundamental moral and revolutionary principles. Only by overcoming these weaknesses can we move toward the construction of socialism."

On Angola, López declared that Cuban volunteers went there in 1975 "because the government requested our help in stopping a dangerous South African invasion and occupation."

Over the past 14 years some 300,000 Cuban internationalists have served the Angolan revolution by militarily defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country and by assisting in its economic development. Now, the phased withdrawal of Cuban military personnel is in process and will continue until 1991.

"Today, we are leaving Angola proud and victorious. Together with the Angolan military and with SWAPO (South West African People's Organisation) forces we defeated the racists on the battlefields of Cuito Cuanavale. We forced them to retreat to the Namibian borders and to negotiate the future independence of Namibia. We leave Angola with nothing but our dignity and our corpses," said López.

He warned, however, that in spite of the military defeats, the South African government is today employing a range of "dirty tricks" to sabotage and manipulate the Namibian independence process, which is to begin on April 1.

Toward the end of the program, a young man in the audience rose to his feet and told López that the Harlem community had welcomed Cuban President Fidel Castro in 1961 when he had come to the United States to address the UN General Assembly.

"He stayed in our midst at the Hotel Theresa because he felt more comfortable and secure here. We opened our arms to him and gave him protection. Tell Fidel we are awaiting his return. Tell him also we need help here in Harlem to solve our many problems," he said to enthusiastic applause.

CANADA

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Landless peasants and workers push for their right to work a Nicaraguan farm

BY SETH GALINSKY

SAN JUAN DEL SUR, Nicaragua — "Land takeovers? There are no land takeovers in this region," Carlos Lorente said in a recent interview. Lorente is director of land tenancy for the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Reform (MIDINRA) for southwest Nicaragua.

"The case you are referring to has been resolved," he added. "The peasants have been given land a little farther away and have already moved."

The people who have moved onto the "Yankee's Farm" laughed when they heard about the MIDINRA official's comment. "As you can see, we are still here," said Antonio Flores, 34, a leader of the group.

Members of 16 families began moving onto the 130-acre farm in mid-January. They are asking that the government confiscate the farm and give them title. This is one of a very few recent cases of direct action by peasants seeking the right to work land they claim has been abandoned.

"We came here before President Ortega made the announcement," Flores said, referring to Daniel Ortega's January 30 speech announcing the government decision to end land confiscations, "so it doesn't apply to us." Flores added that he thought "the land should not be closed off to peasants."

A convenient location

Yankee's Farm is just a few miles outside of San Juan del Sur, a port town nestled in a narrow valley three hours south of Managua. Area residents survive on income from the fishing industry, agriculture, and visitors who crowd the town's beaches during holiday weekends.

The farm is off the main road into town, a convenient location for transporting the harvest and for road-side sales. The group hopes to plant watermelon, bananas, and rice.

The owner of Yankee's Farm died, and his wife and daughter moved to the United States in 1982. They left Manuel Centeno, a local cattle rancher, in charge. He, in turn, has hired José Mendoza to keep an eye on the property. Mendoza keeps 30 head of cattle at the farm.

Raymundo Sánchez, a member of the group that has moved onto the farm, said, "Centeno owns five or six ranches. He has several cars. And Mendoza owns 250 acres, oxen, and a house with electricity. They don't need this land, but we do."

Flores, Sánchez, and the rest of the group hope to win the right to set up a collective farm on the property. They would then be eligible for loans for seed and fertilizers. They have already elected an executive board and given themselves a name, "The Raúl Rivera Cooperative." They have also repaired fences and cleared several acres in preparation for the planting season, which starts in May.

Sleeping on porch

Two houses and several large tool sheds are on the property, but the peasants have been sleeping outside on a porch. "We haven't taken anything or broken into the houses," Flores said. "We don't want anybody to say we are thieves."

Sánchez added, "All we want is to work the land."

The Raúl Rivera Cooperative is made up of a diverse group of people. Some are peasants who have worked on cooperative farms or as tenant farmers most of their lives. Others have worked for the state-run fishing industry or as small merchants in town.

Justo Romero Aguilar, 55, has worked as a longshoreman on and off for 35 years, alternating with working as a farm laborer. He joined the group, he said, because "there's no work in the port. I thought, why not go to the countryside to increase production?"

Graciela Espinoza used to make and sell tortillas. "I'd rather work the land," she said.

According to MIDINRA representative Lorente, 7,000 peasant families in this region have requested land. If the land of the 45 largest landowners in the area were confiscated and distributed, this land hunger

could be satisfied almost overnight, he said.

Land reform law 'frozen'

But this will not be done, Lorente stated. The current agrarian reform law has been frozen. Under that law, idle and abandoned land can be expropriated by the government. Land can also be confiscated for reasons of "public necessity." But, Lorente said, "a new agrarian law will soon take the place of the existing one."

The members of the group have sent letters to President Ortega and Jaime Wheelock, minister of agrarian development and reform, explaining why they believe the farm should be given to them.

They have also appealed to MIDINRA and the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) for backing. But both MIDINRA and UNAG have opposed the group's decision to move onto the farm.

"We are totally against this land takeover," said Justo Pastor, UNAG president in San Juan del Sur. "We told them it

was illegal and that there are other alternatives."

Pastor said UNAG opposes the group's actions because "the latest decision of the government is to respect private property in order to win the confidence of producers so that they will develop their farms."

Many workers here want land on which to grow food for their own consumption, Pastor said. "And the small peasants need land. But this is not the way."

A legal matter

UNAG wants nothing to do with the situation, he added. "It's in MIDINRA's hands now, a legal matter," he said. "Maybe they will have to throw them out and put them in jail. I don't know what would be best."

The San Juan del Sur office of MIDINRA has sent the group several letters ordering them to leave the farm. The latest letter gave 72 hours' notice, warning that the Sandinista Police will be called in if the notice is not heeded.

"It's been a week since we received the

latest notice," Flores said. "We talked to the police, and they said they really don't want to get involved. I don't think the government will arrest us." He added, "Why should we be sent to jail for wanting to work the land?"

They are willing to accept other lands that the government would make available, Flores explained. "But why should we go somewhere else and leave this farm abandoned?" he asked.

According to Flores, MIDINRA has suggested three alternative locations where they could be given land, but formal requests must be made. The Raúl Rivera Cooperative members wrote up those requests and turned them into the local MIDINRA office on March 3. They intend to stay at Yankee's Farm until they have a definite reply.

"If they do grant us land at any of the places they suggested, we won't have a house or any roof over our heads," Flores said. Pointing to the deteriorating buildings behind him, he added, "Maybe they'll at least let us take one of these sheds with us."

Peasant women discuss obstacles to their participation in production



Militant/Judy White

National gathering of Women's Section of National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG). Marta Valle, leader of UNAG from north-central Nicaragua, demands government action on granting land titles to women, at Face the People session with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

BY JUDY WHITE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — One hundred peasant women leaders met here at the end of February to discuss the fight for equal treatment of women on collective farms and cooperatives.

The gathering, organized by the Women's Section of the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG), was the first national meeting held since the Women's Section was established by UNAG in 1987. Of the 125,000 members of UNAG, 18,000 are women. A balance sheet presented to the conference stated that 900 of these women are on local leadership bodies and two are members of UNAG's national executive committee.

The struggle for equal treatment begins with systematically involving women in agricultural production, according to leaders of UNAG's Women's Section.

"The fundamental point," said Marta Valle in an interview during the conference, "is to find an opening for women to participate in the cooperative movement." The economic crisis the country faces, she said, provides the opening to break through resistance to incorporating women on an equal footing with men as members of cooperative and collective farms.

These production units are made up

overwhelmingly of poor peasants. Most women at the conference view the cooperative and collective farms as "our project, the main alternative we as peasant women have for advancement."

Combating 'machismo'

"The women in my area participate in other activities — in campaigns around health, education," observed Ercilia del Carmen Suárez, "but not in production. We must combat *machismo*, which is the reason that the majority of women haven't been integrated into production."

Dolores Tablada agreed. "The main obstacle we have had historically is *machismo*," she said. "I'm talking about the man who wants the woman only to bear his children. The man who thinks that because the woman is pregnant, she can't go to the fields. The man who thinks that her job is as housewife who stays home to cook."

"The men say we don't accomplish as much as they do," reported one delegate under the discussion on arguments used against accepting women as members of the collective farms.

"It is not true that women do less," responded Blanca Rosa Molina. She is a founding member of her collective farm,

which grows coffee, corn, and beans.

When the men at Molina's farm raised that argument, the women conducted a study over the course of a year. "It turned out the women did 75 percent of the work," she said, although they are only 40 percent of the membership. "The *compañeras* are more disciplined," she explained, referring to the problem of drunkenness, which is widespread.

Another obstacle to women's integration into collective farms is discrimination in granting women land titles.

One delegate reported the case of a "work collective" of 14 women in Río San Juan. They have a sewing collective and have also been growing vegetables on borrowed land. They have asked for their own land from the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Reform (MIDINRA), she said, "but they haven't gotten any response."

When MIDINRA grants titles to a collective farm, "they are only in the names of the men," said a delegate from a farm near León. "The plot of land should be in the name of the family," she continued, "because men almost always leave women, not the reverse." When the man abandons the woman, the delegate explained, the woman and children are "thrown out in the street" with no way to survive.

"What about the rights of widows?" added another delegate. According to current law, she said, the widow of a member of a collective farm has no right to inherit her husband's share in the farm.

Other delegates demanded that women companions of collective farm members be made partners in the farms before others are taken in as new members.

A 'productive' investment

Guilamina Morales insisted that building a child-care center shouldn't be counterposed to "productive" investments on farms. "A child-care center means women can be more involved in production," she pointed out. Conference participants resolved to push for allocating a percentage of the investment funds of cooperative and collective farms to such projects.

"There is the problem of time off with pay before and after childbirth," reported a member of a cooperative. "I was involved in one case where the farm only gave a woman 10 days' pay before and 13 after. That is not right."

Participants also raised the need for sex education and family planning on the farms as a way to facilitate women's participation in production.

One woman member of a collective farm told of the sale of 22 head of cattle. "Since we have 22 members, we each expected

Continued on Page 13



South Island working farmers say government's "relief" package offers them little.

Hit by worst drought of century, farmers in New Zealand ask help from gov't

BY JOAN PHILLIPS

CANTERBURY, New Zealand — The east coast of New Zealand's South Island is suffering from the worst drought in 102 years. Conditions are particularly severe in the provinces of Canterbury and Otago.

For working farmers in these areas, the effects have been devastating. Estimates released last November put the cost to farmers at NZ\$190 million over the following 18 months (NZ\$1 = US\$.62).

Moreover, as a result of the drought, thousands of urban workers employed in industries linked to farming may lose their jobs. Seasonal layoffs in Canterbury meat-packing plants have already begun, several weeks ahead of the usual period. The 1989-90 lamb-killing season is likely to be even worse, if estimates that stock numbers in the region will be down by more than 2 million prove to be correct.

In an interview in January, mid-Canterbury dairy farmer Denis Hiestand described the drought's effects on farmers on the east coast. Hiestand and his wife, Denise, farm in one of the most seriously affected areas. The land is parched and cracked. On their neighbor's sheep farm, skinny animals try to graze in fields that have no grass, only dirt and stones.

Most serious drought

The drought "is the most serious in this part of the country since modern large-scale farming began in New Zealand,"

Hiestand explained. It began in January 1988 in the middle of the New Zealand summer. "By March," he said, "we'd reached a situation where there wasn't enough food to feed the animals on an entire county basis. On this farm we used up all our summer and winter feed, and we purchased another \$60,000 worth of feed."

"Once I'd run out of money I just stopped buying grain," Hiestand explained. He said they sold 70 cows to reduce the herd.

At the beginning of this year, the Hiestands dropped to one milking a day to protect their herd's condition. "At the moment, we're getting about 2,000 liters of milk a day less than at this time last year." Over the course of this milking season, this would represent a \$50,000 drop in income.

Late last year, the Hiestands discovered water on their property and went another \$37,000 into debt to dig wells and install a new irrigation system. They have planted 80 acres of maize and oats, and hope this will produce enough stock feed to enable them to survive next winter. Other farmers in the area are not so lucky, however.

"In my immediate area here, one farmer has been sold up and walked off the land in the last month," Hiestand explained. "According to the Rural Bank, within a five-mile radius of this community there are another four farmers who will be sold up between now and June." The Rural Bank is

government-owned and is one of the main sources of mortgage finance for farmers.

Government's 'drought relief'

Last November, New Zealand's Labour Party government announced a "drought relief" package for the South Island. To qualify, a farmer's gross income has to have been reduced by more than 35 percent, pasture production be down by more than 50 percent, and stock numbers be reduced by more than 30 percent.

Eligible farmers can claim a special weekly social welfare benefit to cover their families' living expenses. Free slaughter of unsaleable or emaciated stock is also available. The most widely publicized part of the package is a so-called "new start" grant of up to \$45,000 for farmers who decide to walk off the land.

This "drought package" is "the biggest con this rural community has probably had to stomach," Hiestand commented. It is not a plan to help farmers keep farming. It does nothing to help save livestock, for example. "All it has done," he said, "is to put the farmers on social welfare."

Hiestand pointed out that the "new start" grants were largely a propaganda exercise; very few farmers were eligible to receive them. "The \$45,000 cash handout is only given to the farmer if all his creditors agree in writing not to sue him for payment of their bills. Small businesses in the rural communities have been hurting too; they can't afford to write off the debts."

"And what does the farmer do after spending 20 years on a farm that's probably earned \$10 million in overseas exchange?" he asked. "What sort of compensation is \$45,000? You can't even buy a house with that. There are no jobs to get because there are 200,000 unemployed now. He might as well stay on his farm; at least he can feed himself." Why should farmers — through drought and other factors beyond their control — be forced to go broke and walk away with nothing, Hiestand asked.

What's needed for relief

A genuine drought relief package, he emphasized, would give farmers two things.

"Firstly, protection from our creditors," he said. "That means all our creditors, including the banks. Then the farmer can use what revenue he gets from the farm to keep it running." Hiestand said the second measure is to transport the stock where the feed is. There is plenty of feed throughout New Zealand to feed all the livestock that is suffering from the drought, he said. But "farmers don't have the money to transport them. We must have government assistance to do this."

The drought has come on top of a deep economic crisis for New Zealand's family farmers. For some, it has been the final blow forcing them off the land. The situation in which Denis and Denise Hiestand find themselves is typical.

"We purchased the farm — which at that time was a sheep farm — eight years ago," Denis Hiestand explained.

"We paid \$386,000 when we bought the farm," he said. "Half of that was borrowed money. At that stage, the interest rate was

9 percent. We then borrowed another \$250,000 at 9 percent to develop the farm into a dairy farm. Within two years of being here, interest on the base mortgage and the development loan went to 15 percent. Today it's 17.5 percent. At one time we fell so far behind that we were being charged a penalty interest of more than 30 percent. Now it's 21.5 percent."

Since they've been on the farm the Hiestands have paid the Rural Bank in interest alone one and a half times the original loan they borrowed. And the bank still claims the debt is there, Hiestand said.

Land values plummeted

Over this same eight-year period, land values plummeted. "We probably bought the farm about nine months before land values peaked," Hiestand said. "So, after paying \$386,000 and then spending another \$250,000 in development, this farm here, as a dairy farm, would probably be worth about \$250,000. So you see, technically we are insolvent; we are bankrupt."

The New Zealand Dairy Board announced January 18 that it expects a big rise in export earnings by dairy products this year. According to the board's chief executive, Murray Gough, the dairy industry expected to earn almost \$3 billion in 1989, compared with \$1.9 billion last year.

Hiestand noted that currently New Zealand dairy products are selling overseas at the highest prices in the country's history.

This increase has not been reflected in prices paid to dairy farmers, however. "When I started I was getting \$4.12 a kilogram for milkfat. It dropped right down to \$2.35. Last year it got back to \$3.85, and they called that an increase."

"To be on a par with 1972 — taking inflation into account — we would need to be getting \$8 a kilogram for milkfat. To be on a par with 1984, we would need \$6.50," he said.

Further tightening the financial squeeze on working farmers has been a steady rise in the cost of farm inputs. Hiestand gave some examples. "The first year I was here we paid \$53 a ton for fertilizer; we now pay \$160 a ton. Fuel is one of our big costs. When I first came here, we paid 49 cents a gallon of diesel. We now pay 98 cents a gallon."

"Being a dairy farm, we're pretty big electricity users. Eight years ago we paid for electricity at 3 cents a unit. We now average 9 cents a unit. A tractor I bought back then cost \$24,000. The same tractor today would be \$70,000. And on and on it goes," Hiestand said.

"It's just unbelievable the transfer of wealth from the workers — and I mean all workers, across the board — to the guys controlling the financial system. Rural New Zealand has just been totally bled of its resources."

Hiestand thinks that the situation for working farmers is going to get even worse. "The whole structure of the family farm is breaking down," he said.

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The March issue of PM features an interview with Andrés Gómez, editor of *Areíto*, a magazine oriented to the Cuban-American community. In it, Gómez takes up the political evolution of that community.

The issue also includes articles that deal with the current stage of the struggle for peace and justice by the people of El Salvador. This includes the peace proposal presented by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front to the Salvadoran government.



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Salvador elections held as crisis deepens

Continued from front page

guerrillas are based, army roundups and killings of peasants suspected of pro-FMLN sympathies have been taking place for years. An army major and second lieutenant have just been indicted in the town of San Sebastián for the murder of 10 peasants, three of them women, last September. The peasants were slain with explosives and gunfire.

In the capital city of San Salvador, many of the trade unions, human rights groups, and neighborhood associations opposed to the army terror have public offices and occasionally hold street protests or meetings. But some of their headquarters continue to be targets of bombings and menacing visits by the army or police. Unionists continue to be selectively arrested by the authorities.

The climate is one that discourages many working people from becoming active in politics, visiting a union hall, or speaking out freely, for fear of being labeled a "terrorist" or "subversive," the two words used most frequently by the army to describe the FMLN.

The rebels' peace proposal divided the capitalist parties and the military here. After nine years, the army has been unable — even with massive U.S. aid — to defeat the FMLN guerrillas based in the northern and eastern parts of the country. Sentiment for a negotiated settlement to the war has grown in the population.

Salvadoran President José Napoleón Duarte countered the FMLN's January peace plan with a proposal to postpone the elections for six weeks. The FMLN said six weeks was insufficient time.

The debate over how to achieve peace continues here. Many workers express hope that government negotiations with the FMLN will resume. Debate also continues over how to stem the devastating economic crisis the country is suffering.

Unemployment, inflation

Unemployment and inflation have sharply increased under the Christian Democratic government of Duarte. Thousands of workers in the capital live in tiny shacks made of zinc sheets or whatever materials are available. The crisis has also hit sections of the middle class.

ARENA candidate Cristiani focused his election campaign on the economic catastrophe of the Duarte regime and its failure to win the war and stabilize Salvadoran society. Cristiani argued that returning some

state-run enterprises to private ownership is the way to reactivate the economy.

He promised that if elected, he would not give a post in his administration to ARENA founder Roberto D'Aubuisson. The most prominent ultrarightist in the country, D'Aubuisson is implicated in many death-squad slayings. He actively campaigned for Cristiani.

The Christian Democrats ran lawyer Fidel Chávez Mena for president. His campaign charged that Cristiani is "run by D'Aubuisson" and that an ARENA victory would "isolate El Salvador from friendly governments," including Washington.

The National Revolutionary Movement, Social Democratic Party, and People's Social Christian Movement joined together in a Democratic Convergence ticket with Guillermo Ungo as its presidential candidate. Ungo is a vice-president of the Socialist International, the world social-democratic organization. He is also president of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), a political coalition that has joined with the FMLN in the struggle for an end to military rule.

Ungo campaigned for a negotiated settlement to the war, democratic rights, and economic and social reforms. He called for "real subordination of the armed forces to civilian rule." Only with these changes, he argued, would investors regain confidence in the Salvadoran economy and businessmen "assume their responsibility" to develop agriculture and industry.

Five small capitalist political formations also ran presidential candidates. These were the National Conciliation Party, Authentic Christian Movement, Popular Union, Renewal Action Party, and Democratic Action.

FMLN calls election boycott

The FMLN called for a boycott of the elections in early March.

The clandestine FMLN station Radio Venceremos argued that to hold elections while the army continued to repress peasants and arrest urban workers and other political activists was "a mockery of our people." Radio Venceremos said the elections would be used "as a way to strengthen the repressive military apparatus" and prolong the war.

The FMLN also called for a national transportation stoppage beginning March 16. The station urged all travelers, Salvadorans or foreign, to stop using vehicles, making an exception for the Red Cross and

journalists. Several vehicles not observing the stoppage were machine-gunned or blown up in different parts of the country. Two gasoline stations were bombed in San Salvador. No one was killed.

By March 17, there were virtually no buses or trucks on the roads in San Salvador. Private car traffic was light. Most gas stations had closed. In the countryside, the government reported the transport stoppage was 90 to 98 percent effective.

FMLN guerrillas hit more than a dozen power lines during the same time period, blacking out much of the capital. While the government restored power to wealthier areas in about 24 hours, many working-class areas were without lights or water for three days.

The government, army, and major media launched a campaign charging the FMLN with "terrorism" aimed at denying Salvadorans their democratic right to travel, go to work, and vote. The campaign urged all Salvadorans to go to the polls March 19 to repudiate "violence" and reaffirm "democracy."

In the midst of this campaign, on March 17, armed individuals machine-gunned a Red Cross ambulance bearing a patient in San Salvador. One of the Red Cross workers was wounded. The army blamed the FMLN.

Also on March 17, a local radio station read what it said was a communiqué from the "Anastasio Aquino Tactical Insurrectional Units" of the FMLN. The communiqué stated that on election day, voting booths would be considered "military targets," election officials would be "brought to justice," and civilians voting would do so "at their own risk."

The FMLN General Command issued a statement over its clandestine station Radio

Farabundo Martí the next day, affirming that the only official FMLN statements were those "signed by the General Command and transmitted by our own radio stations." It accused the government of "disinformation" to "confuse the population."

"A series of apocryphal communications, written with a clear terrorist tone praising violence have appeared," the statement said. "Their language is alien to the documents that define our official position. We emphatically deny that the FMLN has made threats over any media at any time against citizens."

The statement strongly denied that the FMLN General Command had ordered the attack on the Red Cross ambulance, pointing out that the army has carried out such actions in the past.

Election day

On voting day in San Salvador, the population awoke to machine-gun fire as FMLN guerrillas attacked an army outpost in San Ramón on the outskirts of the city. "The people are at war against the elections," declared a simultaneous broadcast on Radio Farabundo Martí. The fighting lasted about two hours.

Army troops with machine guns were stationed at all the voting locations.

At the Escuela de Japón polling place in the working-class neighborhood of Mejicanos, one Christian Democrat poll-watcher said he thought the voter turnout was lower than in past years. "People are afraid to vote," he said. "They are afraid the guerrillas are going to hurt them." Then he looked around at the soldiers roaming through the voting area, lowered his voice, and said, "There's a problem with the mil-

Continued on Page 13

Protests hit military's murder of 3 journalists in Salvador

BY CINDY JAQUITH

SAN SALVADOR — Journalists from around the world, gathered here to cover the Salvadoran elections, have condemned the killings of three newsmen by the Salvadoran army. Dutch television journalist Cornel Lagrouw was shot March 19, election day, by government troops in the town of San Francisco Javier in southeast El Salvador. Mauricio Pineda de León, a soundman for Channel 12 TV here, was killed March 18 by soldiers at an army checkpoint outside the town of San Miguel in the eastern part of the country. Reuters photographer Roberto Navas was slain March 19 by the air force right here in the capital, San Salvador. Pineda de León and Navas are Salvadoran. Reuters employee Luis Galdámez, who was traveling with Navas, is in critical condition from gunshot wounds.

The armed forces have admitted shooting Pineda de León, Navas, and Galdámez. In an unusual move, Salvadoran Defense Minister Eugenio Vides de Casanova went on television to "lament" the killings and ask for the population's "understanding." He said the journalists were shot when they ignored soldiers' orders to stop their vehicles for inspection. Many reporters here, however, say the newsmen did not refuse to cooperate; they were simply gunned down.

As of March 20, the Salvadoran government still refused to take responsibility for the death of Dutch journalist Lagrouw. Authorities say he was simply a victim of cross-fire between Salvadoran troops and guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Three newsmen who were with Lagrouw when he was shot, however, held a packed news conference here the night of March 19 to give a different version of what happened.

The journalists said they were in San Francisco Javier the morning of March 19. FMLN guerrillas had taken over the town earlier that morning, driving out government troops. The journalists took pictures and talked to some of the FMLN fighters.

Dutch newsman Kees Elenbaas told the media that the army had stopped some of the journalists outside the town earlier that morning. "The soldiers told us, 'If you

guys want some good pictures, you should go to San Francisco Javier. Something happened there.'" The news team entered the town.

At mid-morning, the Salvadoran army units began moving toward the town with air support.

Newsweek photographer Bill Gentile told the news conference that a firefight broke out between army and FMLN forces on the edge of town. The journalists were near the FMLN troops. At 10:30 a.m., journalist Lagrouw was shot in the right lung by government soldiers.

Gentile and Elenbaas placed Lagrouw in one car, the other journalists got into another car, and both started driving toward the highway.

"We were pursued by an army push-pull plane and a helicopter, which shot at us," Gentile said. He stressed that "the cars bore white flags and were very well marked with signs saying 'TV' and 'International Press.'"

While the other journalists managed to get away more quickly, Gentile said his car, bearing Lagrouw, encountered such heavy gunfire "that we had to stop the car twice, once briefly and once for 40 minutes when we took refuge in a peasant's house."

"When we finally got Cornel to a hospital, he was pronounced dead."

U.S. journalist Scott Wallace told the news conference what happened when the first car of newsmen got to the town of Usulután, called for an ambulance, and went to army headquarters.

"No one at military headquarters would take a report," he explained. "Instead, the head officer offered us drinks. Later he said the helicopter crew would come to explain to us what happened, but we waited two hours and they never showed up."

The three journalists said neither the Salvadoran army nor the U.S. embassy had contacted them as of the evening of March 19 to discuss the incident.

Meanwhile, a coalition of trade unions, peasant groups, and neighborhood and student groups — the National Unity of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) — has called on the United Nations, diplomatic corps, and human rights groups to protest the killings and demand punishment of the military personnel responsible.



Militant/Cindy Jaquith

Voting at Escuela de Japón in a working-class community in San Salvador.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Revolutionary Cuba Today: Advancing a Socialist Society and the International Struggle of Working People. Speaker: Rena Cacoullos, Socialist Workers Party, visited Cuba in 1987. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 1, 7 p.m. 1809 W. Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA

Berkeley

Breaking the Information Blockade Against Nicaragua. Panel discussion on Nicaragua's economy. Sun., April 2, 7 p.m. La Peña, Shattuck and Woolsey. Sponsor: Barricada International Support Committee. For more information call (415) 654-0104.

Oakland

The Philippines Today. Speakers: Carla Lopez, international representative, League of Filipino Students; Peter Thierjung, Socialist Workers Party, visited Philippines in February and March for Manila bookfair. Sat., April 1, 7:30 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

San Francisco

Celebrate Palestinian National Independence. Honor the heroes of the Intifada. Program includes dinner, folk dancing, Dabke, national songs. Sun., April 2, 7 p.m. Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, 3301 Lyon St. Donation: \$10. Sponsor: Palestinian Democratic Youth Organization.

Concert: Cutumay Camones from El Salvador. Sat., April 15, 8 p.m. York Theatre, 2789 24th St. Tickets \$8 in advance, \$10 at door. For more information call (415) 648-5510.

IOWA

Des Moines

Prospects for Peace in El Salvador. Speakers: Mike Henry, director of Latin American Human Rights Advocacy Center, visited El Salvador in January; Héctor Marroquín, Socialist Workers Party. Slide show and discussion. Sat., March 25, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Evening in Solidarity with Cuba. Dinner, dance, and informal conversation on the accomplishments of the Cuban revolution with two recent visitors. Sat., March 25, 7 p.m. 90 Pleasant St., Cambridge (off Putnam). Donation: \$6 for buffet and party, \$2 party only. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (617) 247-6772, 492-1458.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Putting the Pieces Together: The 2nd Annual Central America Educational Conference. Speakers: Dave Dyson, union label director, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, national director National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador; Rafael Varela, producer of Latin America Weekly Review, KFAL; Polly Mann, co-founder and former director of Women Against Military Madness. Sat., April 1, noon to 5:30 p.m. Newman Center, 1701 University Avenue S.E. Sponsor: Central America Week Coalition. For more information call (612) 644-8030.

St. Paul

Statewide Rally to Protest Police Brutality. Sat., March 25, 2 p.m. State Capitol in St. Paul. Sponsor: Ad Hoc Committee Against Police Brutality. For more information call (612) 625-0045.

Stop U.S. Intervention in Central America. Rally and march. Speakers: Dave Dyson, union label director, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and national director, National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador; Phyllis Kahn, Minnesota state representative; representative of Cutumay Camones, musical group of the FDR/FMLN of El Salvador. Sun., April 2, assemble 5:30 p.m., State Capitol steps in St. Paul, rally 6 p.m., march 6:45 p.m., inter-faith service at St. Paul Cathedral at 7:30 p.m. Sponsor: Central America Week Coalition. For more information call (612) 644-8050.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Cancel the Third World Debt. Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., April 1, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Behind Controversy Around Salman Rushdie: Should Working People Oppose Censorship? Speaker: Margaret Jayko, editor of *Militant*. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 1, 7:00 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

Haiti Progrès is Having a Birthday. Come celebrate 6th anniversary. Special guest: Jean-Claude Martineau, poet and raconteur. Sat., April 22, 7 p.m. The Haitian Family Center, 1078 Utica Ave. (corner of Beverly Rd.) Donation: \$10. For more information call (718) 434-8100.

Manhattan

Protest Israeli Occupation. Weekly vigil to support Palestinian uprising. Every Wed. 5-6 p.m. through March 29 at the Israeli UN mission, 42nd St. and 2nd Ave. Sponsor: Palestine Solidarity Committee. For more information call (212) 964-7299.

The Struggle for Democracy in Grenada Today. Speakers: Don Rojas, former press secretary to late prime minister Maurice Bishop; Prof. Roderick Thurton, coordinator of the Coalition for Caribbean and Central American Unity; Steve Clark, director, Pathfinder Press; others. Video presentation of events surrounding recently held international conference in Grenada to celebrate 10th anniversary of Grenada revolution. Fri., March 31, 7 p.m. Hunter College West Room 714 (entrance at E. 68th St. and Lexington Ave.). Donation requested. Sponsor: Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (New York Support Group).

Bailemos/Let's Dance: Celebrate 20th/30th Anniversary of the Venceremos Brigade and the Cuban Revolution. Sat., April 1, social hour, 8 to 10 p.m.; dance, 10 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. Phelps House, 593 Columbus Ave. (corner of 88th St.). Donation: \$10. Sponsor: N.Y. Venceremos Brigade.

Fundraising Concert and Party for 'Tet Kole' (Heads Together), national peasant movement in Haiti. Featuring: leading Haitian bands Kajou and Sakad; art exhibition of Haitian paintings and crafts for sale; food. Sat., April 1, 7 p.m. Taller Latinoamericano, 63 E 2nd St. Donation: \$8. Sponsor: Haiti Support

Committee. For more information call (212) 781-5157.

OREGON

Portland

Defend Santiago Ventura. Speakers: John Haviland, anthropology professor and linguist, Reed College, and member Santiago Freedom Committee; Lourdes Deleon, Spanish professor, Reed College, and Santiago Freedom Committee; Sherien Jaeger, juror in trial of Santiago Ventura. Sat., April 1, 7:30 p.m. 2730 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Why Workers Must Defend Abortion Rights. Speaker: Sarah Button, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 15018. Sat., April 1, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

For Massive U.S. Aid to Nicaragua. Speaker: Heather Hanson, former intern for Nicaragua Network in Washington, D.C., and Managua; Al Budka, Socialist Workers Party. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Battle at Eastern: What Way Forward for Airline Workers? Speaker: Bill Arth, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 2-591. Sat., March 25, 7:30 p.m. 147 E. 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

The Cuban Revolution Today: What Has It Accomplished, Where Is It Going? Speaker: Roni McCann, chairperson Los Angeles Socialist Workers Party, recently visited Cuba. Sat., April 1, 7:30 p.m. 147 E. 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

The Americas in Transition: Focus on El Salvador. Lectures, films, cultural events. Speakers: Robert White, U.S. ambassador to El Salvador from 1978-81. Wed., April 5, noon; Luis Flores, representative of El Salvador Information Office in Los Angeles. Thurs., April 6, noon. Salvadoran dinner, dancing. Fri., April 7, dinner, 7 p.m.; dancing, 8:30 p.m. Indian Walk-In Center, 100 W 1300 South. Donation: \$7 for dinner and dance; \$4 for dance only. All other events at University of Utah, Student Union theater. Sponsor: Central America Solidarity Coalition, others. For more information call (801) 355-7925.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Abortion is a Woman's Right: Build the April 9 March for Women's Equality and Women's Lives! Speakers: Margaret Conway, Catholics for Free Choice; Claudia Roberson, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., April 1, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Solidarity with the Eastern Strikers. Speakers: Charlie Edwards, shop steward Interna-

NEWARK

In Defense of Communism:

- Perestroika and capitalism
- The growing imperialist crisis
- The Cuban revolution and Marxist leadership today

Speaker: **Doug Jenness**, editor of the *Militant*

Sat. March 25, 7:30 p.m.

Party to follow, sponsored by Young Socialist Alliance

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tional Association of Machinists Lodge 1351 and secretary-treasurer of Washington State Machinists Council. Sat., March 25, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

Jobs or the Spotted Owl — Is That Really the Choice? Speakers: Gene Lawhorn, on strike against Roseburg Forest Products, member of Public Relations Committee Western Council of Industrial Workers, Lumber and Sawmills Workers Local 2949; Robbie Scherr, Socialist Workers Party, member United Transportation Union Local 845. Sat., April 1, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Defend Abortion Rights! A panel discussion. Sun., April 2, 4 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

The Eastern Airlines Strike: What It Means for Working People. Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 25, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

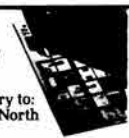
CANADA

Toronto

Imperialism Uses Campaign Against Salman Rushdie to Attack Democratic Rights. Speaker: Joan Campana, member United Steelworkers of America Local 2900; Revolutionary Workers League. Fri., March 31, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

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SWEDEN

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How elegant — Asked if sport coats might become accepted on Wall Street, one exec said, "No. This is an investment-banking house, and sportswear is to be



Harry Ring

worn to the country club. . . . If you sell fax machines or something like that, you can wear a sport jacket."

Telling it like it is — "TOPEKA (AP) — Land grant schools such as Kansas State University are not emphasizing research that will help small farmers, agricultural activists said. The school's priorities are on costly, chemical-intensive agriculture that helps wealthy corporate farmers, Fred Bently, director of the Kansas Rural Center, said."

Can't fool them — The Pentagon awarded six successive contracts, worth \$12.1 million, to Sooner Defense of Florida. On four of these contracts, totaling \$11 million, Sooner delivered nothing. The company is now bankrupt and liquidating its assets. The Penta-

gon is probing for possible fraud.

Really? — "Medical schools are failing to produce socially responsible physicians who see medicine as a social good rather than a commercial commodity, says a report of a national panel convened by the New York Academy of Medicine." — News item.

No more Mr. Nice Guy — The magazine *Medical Economics* is cheered by the report that growing numbers of doctors are turning away "troublesome" patients. One gynecologist is "particularly resentful" of Medicaid patients. They are "a high risk," he advises,

and "socially unpleasant."

Capitalism, the creative system — To meet the needs of people who take their walks in shopping malls, Reebok has a shoe that offers "extra traction for smoother, slicker mall floors." Slide over to the mall and you can probably get a pair at the shoe store.

Our vanishing privacy — A talking scale announces your weight in a digitally synthesized voice. It notes what you gained since last time or, if you did, what you lost. It closes with, "Have a nice day." If you can't deal with that, you can program it to say "goodbye" instead.

Ride 'em cowboy — Texas officials vow that when, and if, Robert Walker returns from abroad, they'll sue him. He allegedly looted his auto insurance firm, now defunct, of \$25 million. Officials are looking for any assets he left behind. So far, they've tracked down two silver saddles worth \$100,000 apiece.

Future shock — A media outfit is giving schools free TV equipment. In return, students are required to watch a daily 12-minute program of news, features, and commercials for jeans, burgers, etc. One delighted school official calls it "the wave of the future."

El Salvador elections held as social crisis deepens

Continued from Page 11

itary too. You can't ever be too sure."

The atmosphere at the nearby Zacamil polling place, also in Mejicanos, was more relaxed. Manuel Romero, 33, a Democratic Convergence poll-watcher, said, "Voter turnout was very low first thing in the morning. People had heard the fighting in San Ramón and didn't want to leave their homes." Participation picked up later, he said. Thousands of people were walking to the polling place by 11:00 a.m.

Romero said he used to work in a coffee-processing plant and belonged to the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Union (FENASTRAS). He was laid off and now earns his living selling honey and other items from his home.

Romero said he supported the Democratic Convergence because "it's the most interested in stopping the war. There must be a negotiated solution to the conflict."

Jorge Alberto, a 21-year-old university student, said, "Everyone wants an end to the war. Nine years is a long time." Alberto added that "the guerrillas sabotage the electric lines and stop transportation. They think the people will take to the streets to protest if the economy goes down, but it's the people who suffer when there's no jobs."

Alberto was one of many voters who wanted to see the Christian Democrats voted out of office. He accused them of stealing foreign aid sent after the 1986 earthquake here.

Alfonso Carlos Hernández said he worked as a bus driver, "but not this week. I don't want to risk my life." Noting the probability of an ARENA victory, he said, "Maybe with a new government, the economy will improve. We're all looking for a way out of the crisis."

Positions on electoral boycott

All eight presidential candidates, including Ungo, opposed the electoral boycott, as did the Catholic Church hierarchy. The National Worker-Peasant Union, (UNOC) whose leadership looks to the Christian Democrats, and the General Confederation of Labor also spoke out against the boycott and transport stoppage.

FENASTRAS and the National Unity of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) urged work-

ers to boycott the polls and support a negotiated solution to the war.

The FENASTRAS office was open on election day and had a sign outside saying, "Don't vote." Juan Antonio Moreno, publicity secretary, said the union was urging all its members to stay away from the polls. He said the elections could not be free while the government is arresting union leaders and attacking union halls. In three separate incidents in the last three months, he reported, the FENASTRAS office had been bombed, shot at, and had a grenade thrown at it.

The UNTS, a coalition of unions, peasant groups, and neighborhood and student organizations, said in an official statement that these elections would lead to "unemployment, a bigger foreign debt, more

dependence on the United States, more forced recruitment [into the army], more dead, wounded, arrested, and disappeared."

UNTS executive committee member Francisco Martínez said he saw no contradiction between those workers who boycotted the elections and those who voted for the Democratic Convergence. A vote for the Convergence, he said, "means a vote for the FMLN peace proposal, for a negotiated political solution to the war."

The Central Election Council, as of March 22, estimated that less than 1 million of the 1.8 million registered voters went to the polls. According to the army, voting did not take place in 27 rural towns, either because they were under the control

of the FMLN, their election boards had resigned under FMLN pressure, or because of battles between the army and the guerrillas.

The Central Election Council is thus far crediting the Christian Democrats with 38 percent of the vote; the National Conciliation Party with 4 percent, and the Democratic Convergence with 3.2 percent. The other parties got fewer votes.

FMLN leader Ana Guadalupe Martínez, in a March 18 interview in Mexico City that was widely publicized here, said if any candidate won a clear majority in the March 19 elections, "we are prepared to negotiate peace." The FMLN has since reiterated its willingness to enter a dialogue and has called off the transport stoppage.

Nicaraguan peasant women discuss work, rights

Continued from Page 9

our earnings to be about equivalent to the surplus from the sale of one animal. But when the assembly was held, the majority voted not to give us five women any of the surplus."

"On my farm, women don't even earn the same as men for a day's work," chimed in another delegate. In addition to earnings from the sales of their products, when possible, collective farms pay a minimal daily wage to all members to provide some steady cash income.

"Even if we women arrive first," said Eva López, "they take care of us last — at the bank when we ask for loans, and at MIDINRA. The state institutions, and even UNAG itself, continue discriminating against women."

The delegates also discussed the need to prioritize women's participation in technical training programs organized by government agencies for peasants; upgrading women's role in the rural stores run by UNAG to ensure that they carry supplies for women; continuing the María Castil Blanco brigade, an all women's group UNAG organizes to participate in the coffee harvest; and fighting for stiffer laws against sexual harassment and rape.

At the close of the women's discussion, the conference was addressed by UNAG

President Daniel Núñez, Sandinista National Liberation Front leader Víctor Tirado, and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

'Discrimination not permissible'

"It is not permissible in a revolutionary process," Ortega said, "for there to be discrimination against women with regard to salaries and the right to work in the countryside." Blaming this situation on the heritage of backwardness men are saddled with, Ortega stated, "We must reject such discrimination. We must combat it. Using pregnancy as a pretext to discriminate

against women must be denounced."

In response to the delegates' demand that land titles be granted in the name of the couple instead of in the name of the man, the president promised the question would be studied from a legal standpoint. "Women of the countryside are justifiably preoccupied" about their uncertain status with regard to land ownership, he said.

"This gathering," Ortega concluded, "reflects the high level of consciousness Nicaraguan women have. The Nicaraguan revolution will advance more insofar as women aggressively defend their positions, their demands."

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWS WEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

March 30, 1979

TEHRAN, Iran — Workers and their friends were invited to meet with Darioush Farouhar, minister of labor, on February 23 to discuss their demands: 1. rehire the workers fired under the old regime; 2. stop the layoffs caused by factory closings; 3. give the workers their back pay.

At 9:00 a.m., as workers began to gather across from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, two representatives of Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic Revolutionary Committee asked them to disperse.

Several workers responded that the government was demanding they pay their water and electricity bills, but they'd been fired and couldn't pay. "We've assembled here and we're staying until Mr. Farouhar talks with us," they insisted.

Eventually the crowd grew to 1,500 workers. They gathered in the ministry chamber. Farouhar attended the session.

Spokespeople for the workers made speeches in which they articulated three main slogans:

- "We want control over production and distribution."
- "We workers want the right to strike, and freedom of speech and press."
- "We want new labor laws drawn up with input from real workers' representatives."

They demanded a workers' newspaper

and representation of workers in a constituent assembly.



A victory for civil liberties and academic freedom was won March 20 in Bloomington, Indiana, when Monroe Circuit Court Judge Nat Hill quashed the indictments in the Indiana "subversion" case. The judge was persuaded to this action by attorney Leonard Boudin, general counsel for the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee.

Boudin argued that the indictments against Ralph Levitt, James Bingham, and Tom Morgan — officers of the Young Socialist Alliance chapter at Indiana University — should be thrown out on the grounds that the 1951 Indiana Communism Act, under which they were charged, is unconstitutional. The judge agreed.

Judge Hill's ruling not only invalidated Indiana's thought-control statute, it had a broader legal significance. Unless overturned, it affects all state sedition laws because it sets the precedent that the federal government has jurisdiction in such matters even if the law deals only with sedition against a state government. This is a blow to the witch-hunt, for such state laws are still used — especially in the South against civil rights advocates.

Grenada meet discusses crisis

Continued from back page

peoples of Namibia and South Africa "in their struggle against the racist South African regime, against apartheid, exploitation and oppression."

The final declaration called on all Caribbean states to be vigilant against "the clandestine penetration of apartheid companies" in the region.

Severs reported that countervailing views were expressed about *glasnost* and *perestroika* in the Soviet Union and about the rectification process in Cuba. There were also different perspectives on the role of the masses and of the revolutionary vanguard in the liberation process.

"But on the foreign debt there was unanimity in supporting Cuban President Fidel Castro's demand that the debt be canceled and his view that it is both unpayable and uncollectible," he said.

Margaret Manwaring, a Canadian participant in the 10th anniversary events, was particularly impressed with the enthusiasm of the Grenadian youth who attended the mass rally in the market square of St. George's. They had a "thirst for progressive politics and for revolutionary literature," she observed.

In speaking with youth, Severs did not find any trace of the demoralization that had paralyzed many Grenadian patriots in the wake of the October 1983 murders of Bishop and other revolutionaries and the ensuing U.S. invasion.

"I found that Grenadian youth still identify very much with Bishop and with the concrete gains of the revolution," Severs noted. "They were saying to us: we fought once before and we won. We can fight again and win again."

Union power and abortion rights

The Machinists' strike against Eastern Airlines is having an impact on working people throughout the country. They are inspired by the strikers' decision to fight for their rights and dignity, and by the unflinching support of the Eastern pilots and flight attendants for the Machinists' action.

This is giving added momentum to the national march for abortion rights, which will take place in Washington, D.C., April 9.

Workers from Seattle to Miami are discussing the Eastern strike on the job and at union meetings. They are following it carefully in the news, and — in growing numbers — finding ways to actively back the Eastern workers. Strike support rallies are drawing hundreds, sometimes thousands.

Why is this strike winning so much support? The solidarity workers have for other working people in struggle is one important reason. Many workers see themselves in the Eastern strikers.

Moreover, the unity of the Eastern workers has done something no other recent U.S. strike has accomplished: union power has effectively shut the company down. Eastern's 200 scab pilots are able to move only a tiny fraction of the 1 million passengers the company used to fly every 10 days.

This has not happened in most recent strikes, including in the hard-fought battles by meat-packers, paperworkers, and others — battles that helped pave the way for the strike at Eastern by breaking the pattern of giving concessions without a fight.

The Eastern strike is also tapping the anger working people feel after more than a decade of attacks by the employers and government on wages, working conditions, medical care, the environment, housing, public services, education, and more.

Part and parcel of the rulers' offensive has been an attack on democratic rights — from expanding use of the death penalty and mandatory drug testing on the job, to wholesale violations of immigrant workers' rights and the campaign to overturn women's right to abortion.

In the past year, antiabortion protesters organized by Operation Rescue have staged vigilante attacks on abortion clinics around the country. By physically blocking entrances, these rightist forces have sought to prevent women from exercising their constitutional right to choose abortion.

Supporters of women's right to choose abortion have been taking these vigilantes on, organizing demonstrations to keep clinics open and pressuring police to enforce the law.

The illegal actions of the antiabortionists have alarmed many workers. Gangs of rightists trying to physically keep women from exercising their constitutional rights have the same odor as gangs of antiunion thugs trying to bust up workers' meetings or break strikes, or racist gangs out to beat up Blacks, Latinos, and Asians.

In addition, millions of working people are concerned that the Supreme Court's decision to review an abortion case from Missouri means the court could reverse its 1973 decision legalizing abortion in the United States. Growing numbers of workers see defense of legal abortion as an important issue for all working people, men and women.

The fightback mood of the Eastern strikers and their supporters is being felt on this front as well. The April 9 national March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives is winning unprecedented labor participation, along with support from hundreds of women's rights and other organizations. The demonstration has been called by the National Organization for Women (NOW) to mobilize a strong show of force in defense of legal abortion.

The International Association of Machinists, which represents the striking mechanics and ramp service workers at Eastern, is one of the national unions backing the abortion rights march, along with the United Steelworkers of America, United Mine Workers, United Electrical Workers, National Education Association, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and others.

Activists building the April 9 march are inspired by the Eastern strikers, who have given them a warm response in many cities. When NOW national President Molly Yard spoke at a Washington, D.C., Eastern strike rally to report NOW's backing for the strike, she was greeted with cheers and chants.

A big turnout for the April 9 march will not only strengthen the struggle to keep abortion legal — it will also aid the Eastern strikers in their fight. And a victory for the Eastern workers will be a gain, not only for the entire labor movement, but for women and the battle to defend legal abortion.

Why workers should support affirmative action

BY DOUG JENNESS

Utilizing oppressive social relations from previous historic periods, as well as divisions created by the expansion of capitalism itself, the capitalist exploiters try to pit working people against each other.

Sex, skin color, age, religion, caste, country of origin, language, geography, state of health, physical disabilities, and other social or physical characteristics are

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

used to stigmatize specific groups of people as inferior or pariahs. Barriers are set up to deny some workers jobs, promotions, and the same wages and working conditions other workers have.

One effect of this discrimination is to lower the price workers can sell their labor power for. This includes the wages directly paid to workers by their employers and the government-financed benefits workers have wrested from the capitalist class as a whole — sometimes referred to as the "social wage."

The more the bosses can get away with keeping down what they pay those who are worst-off, the lower will be the income for the rest of the class. In capitalist society wages are set from the bottom up, not the top down.

Another result of discrimination is that it is utilized by the employers to create and deepen antagonisms between different sectors of the working class, making it more difficult for us to join together in a fight against our exploiters and oppressors.

Whenever workers have begun to recognize that the difficulties we face are not primarily individual problems, or even problems for workers in just our workplace or industry, but common to all workers, we have started looking for social solutions. And this inevitably has led to championing measures that can break down the barriers between the various sectors of the class. This has meant demanding steps that aim to overcome the inequalities that exist.

Government benefits that aid working people most in need fall into this category. In the United States today, this includes food stamps, Medicaid, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, and other programs that transfer funds to reinforce the meager incomes of the most impoverished workers.

A sign of the deepening problems for working people is that just as real wages have declined in the past decade for millions of workers, government attacks on the "social wage" have disproportionately hit aid programs where need is the basis of payment. Programs such as Social Security, on the other hand, where payments are made regardless of need, have been cut much less. For example, government benefits for those with incomes below \$10,000 declined by 7.5 percent between 1980 and 1987 compared to a .2 percent drop for those with incomes from \$40,000 to \$80,000.

The struggle against regressive taxes—taxes on liquor, cigarettes, gasoline, and all other forms of sales taxes that hit low-income workers the hardest — is also part of the battle to break down inequalities. These are the taxes the Democrats and Republicans most talk about increasing.

The bipartisan policy of freezing the minimum wage at \$3.35 an hour since 1981 has also served to widen income disparities within the working class. A disproportionate number of those working at this wage level are young, Black, Latino, or female.

Raising the minimum wage would help raise the wage level for all working people, particularly benefiting those who are the lowest paid. This would be a form of affirmative action to begin overcoming wage inequality and help unite the working class. President George Bush's proposal to modestly raise the minimum wage but allow employers to pay the current minimum for the first six months a worker is on the job will have the opposite effect and be divisive.

The way capitalism operates day in and day out constantly reproduces and thus reinforces the inequalities within the working class, to the benefit of the employers. Because of the profitability of such inequalities, the bosses, on their own, will never enforce measures to insure equality on the job market and the workplace.

That's why working people must demand that the government take affirmative action by establishing mandatory quotas in hiring and upgrading of workers who are Black, Latino, or women.

If Blacks and other victims of national and racial discrimination are to have equal opportunities to education and housing, special measures and quotas are needed for college admissions, school and home loans, and access to housing.

Affirmative action then is the measures working people must fight for to raise the income — both wages and government-financed benefits — of the workers who are most oppressed by capitalism and to enforce steps for equal opportunities. Gains in this fight will raise the living standards of all workers, deal a blow to the prejudices inculcated in us by the rulers, and strengthen our unity in the fight against the employers.

Solidarity with Palestinian cause

The Palestinian uprising, the *intifada*, is now in its 16th month, with no letup in the Israeli repression — or in the determined resistance of the Palestinian people.

The unavailing Israeli efforts to stamp out the revolt continue to be bloody. In a single weekend in March, Israeli soldiers shot and killed seven Palestinians and wounded at least 18 more.

This is part of a continuing pattern. The Israeli military estimates that in 1988 it had some 10,000 occupation troops on duty in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They have killed more than 400 Palestinians and wounded and beaten thousands more.

Well over 5,000 Palestinians have been jailed, 1,500 of them without charges or trial.

That ugly record has shocked and angered people in the United States and worldwide. And the fightback of the Palestinian people has evoked growing sympathy for their cause.

It is of great importance that this sympathy be crystallized into active solidarity.

There are good and sufficient reasons for working people internationally to extend such solidarity. The struggle of the Palestinian people is in the interests of all of us.

They want an end to the bloody military rule. They demand a halt to the beatings and killings. They want the jail doors opened. They are pressing for democratic

rights and an end to racist victimization.

They want land to till and decent jobs at decent wages. For their children, they want schools and the prospect of a better future.

Above all, they want self-determination, the right to determine their own destiny.

Here in the United States, today, working people may not be the victims of the same degree of exploitation and oppression as the Palestinians. But we share many of the same problems.

Our democratic rights are the target of attack. Hard-won wages and working conditions are under steady assault. Working farmers continue to be forced from their land. Racism is used to divide us.

And we share with the Palestinians a common enemy — the capitalist rulers who are responsible for their situation, and ours.

Israeli financiers and employers see the *intifada* as a threat to their profits and, ultimately, their rule. That's why they respond so fiercely.

And that's why they have solid backing from Wall Street and Washington.

The Palestinian people are striking blows for their freedom. Every blow they strike is on our behalf as well. What they are doing advances the fight for justice and freedom everywhere.

Stop U.S. war games in Korea

At least 23 GIs have died so far in U.S. military maneuvers in South Korea. The Marine Corps said 19 marines were killed when a helicopter crashed in a mountainous area March 20.

Three days earlier four other marines were killed when their helicopter dropped into a rice paddy.

These deaths are part of the price for the warlike "Team Spirit" exercises conducted annually by U.S. and South Korean forces.

The massive maneuvers, involving some 200,000 U.S. and South Korean troops, are understandably seen by the North Korean government as a threat to its security.

On March 18 the North Korean government repeated its demand for a halt to the "Team Spirit" exercises, protesting that they are being used to practice nuclear at-

tacks. About 150 U.S. nuclear warheads are deployed in South Korea.

Also on March 18, students in South Korea's capital, Seoul, and in Kwangju, held demonstrations demanding an end to the exercises and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea.

Reporting on the March 20 helicopter crash, a *New York Times* correspondent observed, "The Korean war games are among the most realistic conducted by American military forces, and accidents are not uncommon."

They are also unnecessary. GIs should not have to sacrifice their lives for a reactionary and dangerous U.S. military threat against the people of Korea and the entire region. "Team Spirit" should be halted. All U.S. forces and nuclear weapons should be withdrawn from Korea.

Afro-American History Month marked at Iowa prison

Reprinted below are excerpts from a March 5 letter sent by Mark Curtis to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines, Iowa. Curtis is serving a 25-year sentence in the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa on trumped-up rape and burglary charges.

BEHIND PRISON WALLS

charges. Curtis says that he is being framed up because of his political and union activities.

Hollywood director Nick Castle, Jr., who is producing a video on Curtis' case, had recently visited Curtis in prison at the time the letter was written. Castle interviewed Curtis for the film.

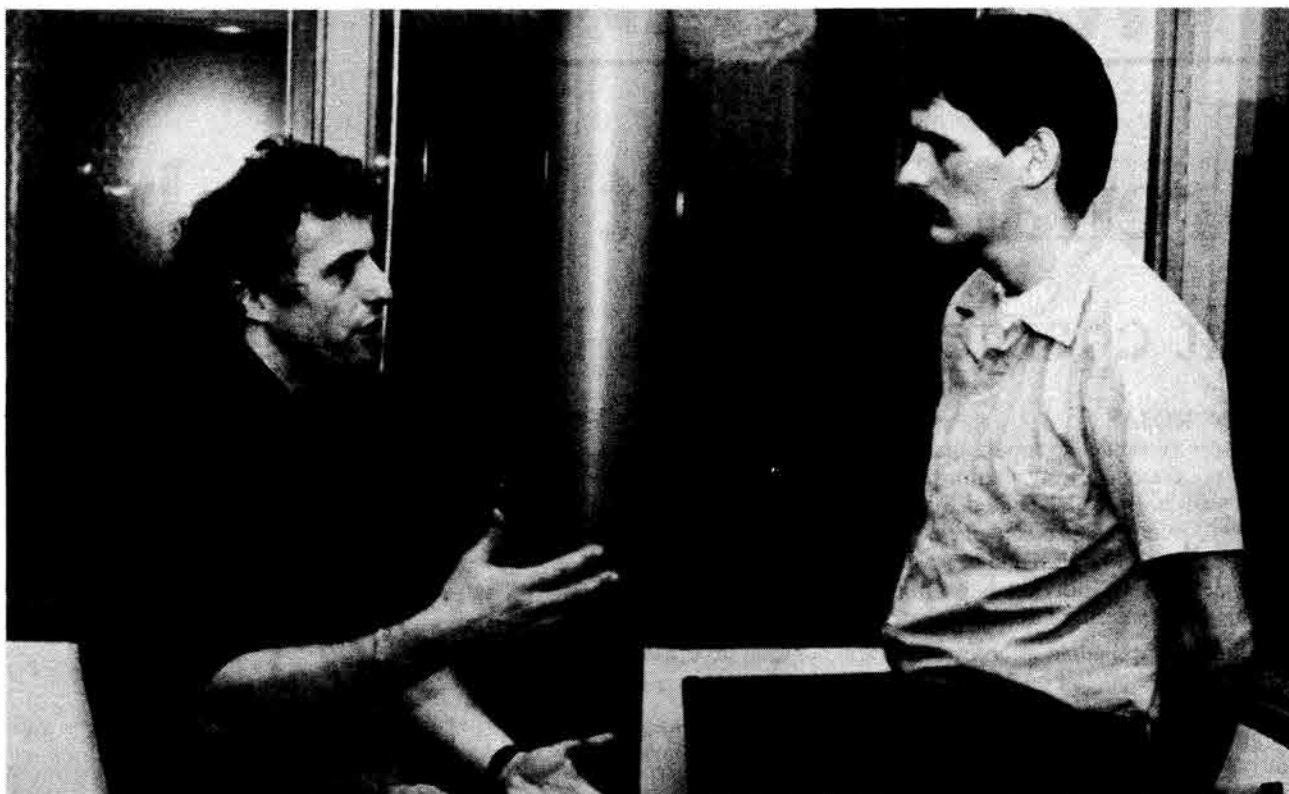
Curtis is secretary of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Organization at Anamosa.

This past week was a very exciting one for me. I really enjoyed meeting Nick Castle, and the two or three hours spent doing the interview went very fast.

A lot of folks saw me being interviewed as they filed past the room we were in, from my cellhouse, on their way to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Organization meeting, weight room, and music room. So I've been having a lot more discussions about the case over the last few days.

Today we had the culmination of African-American History Month, a big meeting in the auditorium. At least 90 men signed in, and there were probably others there who didn't, so it was well attended. The highlights were the speech by Ako, a Black activist in Des Moines who is a Muslim minister, and the Dream Band. Ako spoke on Black pride and the need for self-confidence, unity, and self-sufficiency. The band was really good and had done a lot of rehearsing. They played a variety of music: R&B, jazz, and rock.

The meeting was very well organized and the administration favorably impressed enough to say they appreciated the guest speakers and want to have more. (As



Militant/Stu Singer

Hollywood director Nick Castle, Jr., interviewing Mark Curtis at Iowa State prison in Anamosa. Castle is producing a video on the Curtis case.

we all do.)

Have found some useful material in the library to study Spanish. I've read the issue of *New Internationalist* on South Africa and am half-way through *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. The speeches by Fidel Castro in the *Militant* have been the best.

The count here now is over 1,000 inmates. It was about 950 when I came here in December, and we had 24 people in orientation. They have now put bunk beds in

orientation and currently have 50 men there. You can really notice the difference: more crowded in chow hall, gym, etc. A lot of guys getting out, too, on work release, parole, etc.

We ran out of license plate orders and instead of getting down time (layoff with 28 cents per hour) we got stuck making bed springs for the furniture shop, which has pleased nobody in our shop.

Stay strong. ¡Estamos venciendo! (We are winning!)

LETTERS

John Knox

On June 11, 1987, I was arrested and charged with murder and sexual abuse in the first degree, charges the county of Marshall and state of Iowa had no evidence to support. When the reports came back from the Division of Criminal Investigation, they pointed to someone else, not me.

The charges were dismissed, only to have the state go illegally to Marshall County where a judge had already ruled that I couldn't receive a fair trial. There, they got an indictment.

Let me tell you about some of the illegal things I had already been confronted with.

First, the state had a witness who illegally seized psychological records without a court order.

Second, a bloody print was found sometime in June, and I was not informed about it until September.

Third, the state did not take me to trial within 90 days, which I'm guaranteed under the Iowa and federal constitution of the United States.

Charges were dismissed after the bloody print was found. But on February 4, I was again charged with murder and sexual abuse in the first degree by a grand jury in Marshalltown.

I realized that the only way to prove my innocence was by requesting a DNA test, which I did, only to find out that the sample had been destroyed.

After all that, I was faced with a racist for a jury foreman. This person is a member of the racist group Posse Comitatus. The state of Iowa knows this, and they'll do

nothing about it.

This is the nightmare of injustice I'm confronted with and this is why I write for help. I can't fight this alone.

John Albert Knox, Jr.
Anamosa, Iowa
(John Knox, Jr., was sentenced February 17 to two life prison terms and his request for a new trial was denied. He has since been moved from the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa, Iowa, to the state penitentiary in Fort Madison.)

Disabled demonstrate

I recently participated in a spirited demonstration at the Greyhound bus terminal in Atlanta, Georgia, where six people in wheelchairs were arrested. This action, part of a national campaign against Greyhound, was called by Americans Disabled for Accessible Transportation (ADAPT), which has been trying to work out accessibility for persons with disabilities on cross-country buses for more than two years.

A wheelchair parade circled through the terminal handing out information to passengers and workers and then proceeded to block the buses.

The two major demands of the demonstration were that all new buses that Greyhound purchases be lift-equipped and that all types of wheelchairs be transported. Currently, Greyhound will not transport battery-powered wheelchairs.

Lea Bockman
Atlanta, Georgia

Cuba

I am writing in response to a letter entitled "Cuban revolution" printed in the March 10 *Militant*. I think it would serve the author, D.F., to expand his education about Cuba.

The author seems to feel that the "only way Castro is able to keep his misguided nation afloat" is with \$5 billion in Soviet aid per year. He also cites a decrease in per capita earnings in Cuba of 1 percent each year since 1985.

What the author fails to mention is that unlike all other Third World countries and the United States, there is no unemployment in Cuba.

Also, unlike most other countries, the wage earnings of a Cuban worker never go to pay for medical care and no one has to pay for education up through the university level. Under Cuban law no more than 10 percent of one's wages is spent on rent. This is in a country where quality housing, health care, and child care are priorities.

This so-called "misguided" country, on top of having one of the highest standards of living in the Third World, has been able to finance the 300,000 Cuban volunteer soldiers in Angola who defeated South Africa at Cuito Cuanavale.

Just compare these gains to the deteriorating way of life for U.S. workers and farmers. The infant mortality rate in Cuba is quickly dropping to that of the United States and is already lower than that of Harlem.

I do think that without the aid of the Soviet Union, Cuba would be in a much worse position. It is not money, though, that makes Cuba the beacon it is today. It is their commitment to the idea of workers and farmers truly running this world. What Cuba receives at least gives them a fighting chance in an imperialist-dominated market that is stacked against all Third World countries.

Wayne Schiller
San Francisco, California

Contracting out

I want to thank Russell Davis for clarifying the contracting out issue (February 17 *Militant*). I guess I thought that I had been the only one devastated by the system.

I lost my last union job due to the plant closing and moving to Mexico for cheaper labor. I miss working in a union shop and feel hopeless at times. However, the *Militant* keeps the dream alive.

The Socialist Workers Party's Action Program to Confront the

Coming Economic Crisis seems to me to be the only viable program. Any kinds of promises of capitalist politicians seem empty to me, and the *People's Daily World* seems to only wish to gather people to vote for the liberal wing of the Democratic Party.

Kim O'Brien
Willimantic, Connecticut

Thomas Sankara

I just recently finished reading *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87*. I was happy that a brother and comrade could and did dedicate his life to the people. It saddened me that this brother and comrade was murdered along with the others.

This book as well as the others concerning the struggles of oppressed people all over the world has made my problems seem small. I'm now awake to the grave injustices that have been perpetrated against the masses over an indeterminate number of years.

A prisoner
Rosharon, Texas

Donald Johnson

Donald Johnson took a Greyhound Bus Line bus. The company estimated the worth of the vehicle at \$200,000. More than three dozen protectors of private property chased him down and under a hail of bullets served "justice." Johnson died of multiple gun shot wounds at Boston City Hospital.

Police contend they were in danger of being run down by the bus. Johnson's family wants to know why the cops didn't attempt to shoot out the tires.

In February 1985 Johnson helped lead a family to safety from a burning home. He received a commendation from the mayor of Boston for his bravery.

In February 1989 he received the death sentence for taking a bus.

Warren Simons
Boston, Massachusetts

Global insight

For years now your publication

has provided me with the kind of global insight that I feel our class should have. I am an avid reader.

I would like to know whether you have *Guerrilla Warfare*, by Che Guevara, and *Cointelpro*, by Nelson Blackstock.

A prisoner
Tennessee Colony, Texas

Outstanding

Thanks for sending me your rich, informative, and outstanding paper.

E.S.
Athens, Ohio

Radioactive waste dump

Chanting "No nukes, no dump!" 200 people rallied in freezing weather at the state capitol in Lansing, Michigan, recently to protest a proposed radioactive waste dump in Hillsdale, Michigan. Many of the demonstrators were high school and college youth.

Don't Waste Michigan and the Hillsdale Organization for Preservation of the Environment sponsored the action.

Also participating were activists from the Detroit Evergreen Alliance, a group organizing against the pollution-producing garbage incinerator recently put into operation by the city of Detroit. The incinerator is also polluting parts of Ontario Province in Canada, particularly the city of Windsor.

Mark Friedman
Detroit, Michigan

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: *Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

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.

Correction

The article "Labor support grows for Eastern strikers" in the March 24 *Militant* gave an incorrect figure for the number of Eastern Shuttle passengers who flew March 11-12. The correct figure was 28,000, not 8,000.

Grenada gov't ban on books challenged

Suit charges officials had no legal basis for censorship

BY DON ROJAS

Pressure continues to mount on the Grenadian government from within the country as well as from the United States and Canada to release five boxes of Pathfinder books seized on March 8 and to reverse its policy of banning individuals on political grounds from entering Grenada.

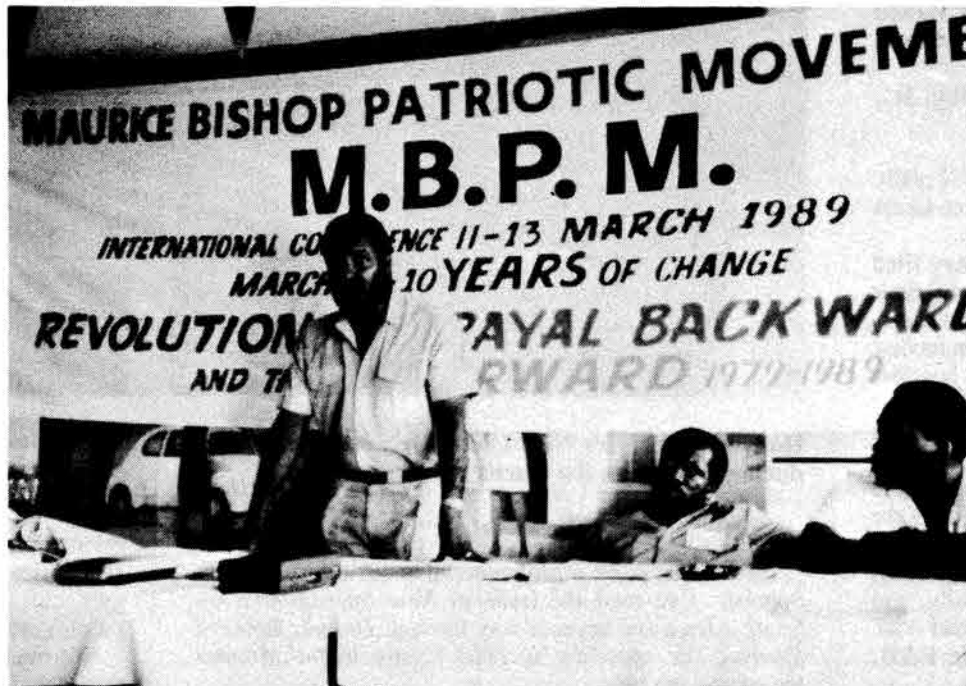
Prominent Grenadian attorney Kendrick Radix filed a legal suit on March 20 in the Grenada Supreme Court demanding that the government release the books to Terry Marryshow, leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement and the "rightful owner of the literature."

The suit, drafted in the form of a constitutional motion and served on Prime Minister Herbert Blaize and the attorney general of Grenada, argues that the confiscation of the Pathfinder books is illegal and unconstitutional.

President of Lawyers for the Arts in Utah, Sue Vogel Flores-Sahagún, wrote to Blaize on March 16 urging his government to release the books and to "refrain from further censorship." A similar letter was sent by Harry Kopyto, a civil liberties attorney in Toronto, Canada.

In a letter to Blaize, the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists, whose honorary chairman is former CBS-TV anchorman Walter Cronkite, condemned the exclusion of Pathfinder Director Steve Clark from Grenada because the "authorities acted on ideological grounds."

Clark had made a second attempt to enter and stay in Grenada from March 16-29 on vacation. But he and Pathfinder staffperson Meryl Farber were again only granted three-day visas and their requests



At international conference in Grenada, Terry Marryshow (standing), leader of Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, protested book ban and travel restrictions. From left, deputy leader Einstein Louison and executive committee member Joseph Charter.

for time extensions were denied by immigration officials.

Clark, meanwhile, has written to Blaize demanding an explanation of why — despite his public assurances that the journalist could visit anytime "except March 13" — he and Farber were once again prevented from staying in the country for a two-week vacation.

"As a nonpartisan organization of jour-

nalists working to uphold our colleagues' rights worldwide, we protest the confiscation of the materials sent into Grenada," wrote Caroline Drake, associate director of the Committee to Protect Journalists. "We believe that officials handled the confiscation without due respect for freedom of expression. We call on authorities to release the materials to the addressee and allow them to circulate freely within Grenada."

In drawing up the suit, Radix discovered that the government's legal justification for seizing the books was based on a 1951 "McCarthy-type law" introduced by the then British colonial administration to prevent "communist literature" from entering Grenada from several countries around the world.

The law, however, exempts the United States and therefore all publishers based in this country. Furthermore, there is no provision in the current Grenadian constitution, adopted in 1974 when the country received independence from Britain, that addresses the question of "restricted" literature.

In a telephone interview, Marryshow said that Radix's constitutional motion also argues that as a leader of "a legal political party that engages in the study of social and political history" Marryshow and the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement have a legitimate right to bring books into Grenada to serve this purpose.

In a related development, Marryshow has written to Roderick Rainford, secretary general of Caricom (the Caribbean Community of 13 regional countries) protesting the book seizures and the banning of prominent Caribbean political figures from entering Grenada. Copies were sent to all Caricom heads of government.

"The suit and the letter are getting publicity in the regional mass media," said Marryshow. "Moreover, Blaize's government has been widely condemned by all layers of Grenadian society, and our party's credibility after the successful conference and rally on March 13 has been boosted. We are confident we will win this legal battle."

Conference discusses deepening crisis in Caribbean

BY DON ROJAS

Three days before the international conference recently held in Grenada was due to convene, the Ministry of External Affairs informed Terry Marryshow, leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, that the government "will not permit the entry of foreigners at this time for the purpose of the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Grenada revolution."

A day later, the ministry sent a list of "prohibited" individuals and organizations to the immigration officers at Point Salines Airport with instructions to immediately deport the banned persons should they arrive in the country.

Yet, in spite of these measures, several invited guests from the United States, Canada, Britain, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, and Barbados were able to participate in the wide-ranging discussions at the conference, which opened as planned on March 11.

Most of the foreign participants also stayed on to attend the public rally celebrating the popular victory on March 13, 1979, of the New Jewel Movement, led by Maurice Bishop.

The conference took place against the backdrop of the seizure of a quantity of Pathfinder books on March 8 by Grenadian customs officials and the prevention of Pathfinder Director Steve Clark and three other persons from the United States from attending the meeting.

The theme of the conference was: "Ten years of change: revolution, betrayal, backwardness and the way forward, 1979-89."

In his assessment, Marryshow, who had delivered the keynote address, said it was a "historic gathering" and represented the first occasion on which the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement had organized an international conference on Grenadian soil since the tragic events of October 1983. He

declared that the conference recognized the MBPM as the "legitimate inheritor of the legacy of the Grenada revolution."

Many participants, including Roderick Thurton, a professor at the City University of New York, and Mark Severs of the Socialist Workers Party of the United States described the discussions and debates as "rich," "informative," and "stimulating."

A final declaration adopted jointly by the Grenadian delegates and the invited foreigners spoke of the conference being dominated by "a mood of optimism" and by the

conviction that the Grenada revolutionary process remains alive and relevant to the needs of the Grenadian people and the people of the region.

"Much discussion was devoted to the deepening economic crisis in Grenada and in the Caribbean, and to the problem of the foreign debt and the dangerous implications of the International Monetary Fund's policies for the countries of the Third World," said Severs.

The conference heard from both Davidson Budhoo, a former employee of the

IMF, and James Millette, leader of the February 18th Movement of Trinidad and Tobago, on how the fund has violated the sovereignty of the people of that country. Solidarity was expressed with the workers and farmers of Venezuela, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago in their fight for economic justice.

The conference hailed the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions and the freedom fighters of El Salvador and Guatemala and expressed solidarity with the

Continued on Page 13

Toronto forum celebrates Grenada revolution

BY JOAN CAMPANA

TORONTO — The 10th anniversary of the Grenada revolution was commemorated at a meeting here March 18. Nadia Bishop, daughter of Maurice Bishop, who was prime minister of the revolutionary government on that Caribbean island from 1979 to 1983, welcomed the participants. The evening began with a film documenting the important gains working people made during the revolutionary years.

Caldwell Taylor, Grenada's ambassador to the United Nations under the Bishop government, was the keynote speaker. The Grenada revolution was significant, Taylor said, because "a people had taken their own history into their hands... For the first time we were asserting a Grenadian sovereignty," attempting to move toward real independence. This was important not only for Grenada, but "in the Caribbean, for struggles in the region, and in the world."

One of the factors Taylor attributed to the overturn of the revolutionary government by a reactionary coup in 1983 was that "some people conspired for one year to

remove Maurice Bishop" as head of the government.

Other factors leading to the defeat, Taylor said, included the inexperience of the Grenadian revolutionaries and the fact that "members of the New Jewel Movement were pulling in different directions... Some members made the mistake of believing that theory is truth, that when there were problems all you need to do is to fetch some book, shout the appropriate mantra, and the problem would disappear." Some began to try to resolve disputed questions with the threat of force.

Taylor stressed the importance of involving the masses in the revolutionary process, of not trying to make a revolution "for them." The people must be the "final arbiters," and the party must not be "conspiratorial, secretive, arrogant, or elitist."

"The most important thing the Grenada revolution did," he said, "was to make us feel we were real people. And no amount of repression will take us back to the dehumanized mass we were prior to March 13, 1979. Only struggle and resistance will do justice to the memory of Maurice Bishop."

Margaret Manwaring of the Revolutionary Workers League in Canada brought a report from the international conference she had attended the previous week in Grenada. Hosted by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, it was held to mark the revolution's 10th anniversary. In face of government repression, Manwaring reported, the conference and a rally marked a victory "for the democratic rights of the Grenadian people."

Alim Jeeva, who brought greetings from the African National Congress of South Africa, related the inspiration Grenada's revolution had been for him and others in South Africa in 1979. "Suddenly we were talking about a country called Grenada and a man called Maurice Bishop... of a small nation that was able to show a mighty power the will of the people."

Sherona Hall, an antiracist activist, also addressed the event, which was sponsored by the Toronto Support Group of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. The 65 participants approved sending a telegram to the current Grenadian government protesting its ban on books and visitors to Canada.