

China officials begin to arrest protesters

BY FRED FELDMAN

As the massive sit-in led by students in Beijing's Tiananmen Square thinned out to about 10,000, the Chinese government moved to arrest some of those involved. The protesters demand freedom of the press and other democratic rights, an end to corruption, and other political changes.

Several student leaders announced May 27 that they would propose ending the sit-in, which began in China's capital city on May 13. They cited insufficient food supplies and deteriorating hygiene conditions in the square.

On May 28, some 100,000 people participated in a march called by student leaders to support the demands for democratic rights. But the numbers participating in recent actions blocking enforcement of martial law had gone as high as 1 million. In particular, the number of workers involved has declined.

On May 30, the sit-in demonstrators rejected the proposal to end the protest.

The downturn in the protests was also signaled by the end of a bus drivers' strike in Beijing. The size of demonstrations in other cities, such as Shanghai, has also dropped.

About 1,000 students and workers gathered outside police headquarters May 30 to denounce the arrest of several individuals who had proclaimed the Workers Autonomous Association. The group was described as independent of the officially sponsored All China Federation of Trade Unions, the only legal union body.

On May 30 the New China News Agency announced the arrest of 11 members of a

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Trump pushes to weaken Eastern strikers' unions

Negotiations with Machinists continue

BY SUSAN LaMONT

NEW YORK — Striking Eastern Airlines Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots preparing to go to work for the new Trump Shuttle are being pressed to go along with wage and benefit cuts, work rule changes, job combinations, and other givebacks as final preparations are made to begin flying under the new ownership. The company is also threatening to force Machinists to start working without a contract. Trump personnel have spelled out some of what they are demanding at a series of "orientation" sessions for Eastern strikers who will be working for the Trump Shuttle.

On May 24 the federal bankruptcy court gave final approval to the sale of Eastern Airlines' New York-Boston-Washington shuttle — Eastern's most profitable component — to New York real estate and gambling casino speculator Donald Trump for \$365 million.

The deal to sell the shuttle to Trump was first made last October, before the strike by nearly 18,000 Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots at Eastern began.

At that time, Eastern workers were sent letters asking them to apply to work for Trump. Those whose applications were accepted have been invited to the current orientation sessions. Hiring was done according to seniority at Eastern.

Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 553, which represents the flight attendants, and the Air Line Pilots Association have already reached agreements with Trump. The terms are similar to their previous contracts under Eastern. However, members of both unions are being asked to go along with a "relaxation" of work rules for the first 90 days after the airline starts up.

Pilots, whose work rules are more strictly governed by federal regulations, won't be as deeply affected by such "relaxation" as flight attendants, who could be forced to work extra



Miami International Airport. Eastern's operations have been paralyzed since strike began March 4.

flights, clean planes, load baggage, or perform other work not normally part of their jobs, and for longer hours.

In addition, flight attendants at the orientation sessions were asked to volunteer for one or two days without pay to help get the shuttle terminals refurbished, planes readied, and so on.

Although TWU members were told by Trump personnel at one of their orientation meetings to "put the past behind them," they were also informed that Eastern workers' personnel records would be transferred over to the new shuttle.

The Machinists' union is still negotiating with Trump management. Talks will continue until a new agreement is reached.

Trump personnel, however, have said that

they expect the Machinists to begin working when the shuttle is ready to fly — and under conditions laid down by Trump — whether final agreement on a new contract has been reached yet or not.

'State of shock'

One orientation session for about 80 Eastern Machinists took place May 23 at the Bulova Corporate Center near La Guardia Airport. Most of those who attended were from International Association of Machinists Local 1018 at La Guardia. A few were from locals at Kennedy Airport and Miami International Airport.

At Local 1018's strike headquarters near the airport, Yvonne Perez-Grajales, an air-
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Striking Eastern Machinists, coal miners kick off 12-day tour



Militant/Mary Imo

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — A 12-day tour by striking Eastern Airlines workers and United Mine Workers members on strike at Pittston and New Beckley coal companies was opened at a news conference here May 30. (See pages 9 and 11 for articles on coal strikes.) Strikers will visit West Virginia and parts of Virginia and eastern Kentucky. "The theme of the tour is labor solidarity," said West Virginia Labor Solidarity Committee spokesman Norman Ferguson (above). Mine Workers District 17 President Bob Phalen and striking Eastern Machinist Paul Bascich from Washington, D.C.'s National Airport also spoke at conference.

Philippines union leader urges int'l solidarity on U.S. tour

BY DEB SHNOOKAL

NEW YORK — "Many U.S. workers believe that workers of Third World and developing countries have been stealing jobs away from them. This is not true. As a class, their interests are the same. The real enemy is corporate America." This was the main message Roberto Ortaliz, secretary general of the May 1 Movement (KMU) of the Philippines brought to the United States during a tour in May. Ortaliz was invited to the country to speak at the Detroit Labor Notes Conference.

"One of the purposes of my coming is to develop bilateral links with trade unions in this country," he explained in an interview here on May 26. "Some unions in the United States are already supporting KMU organizers in the Philippines. And some are supporting the families of detained or murdered union leaders or educational programs of the KMU," Ortaliz said. "But," he emphasized, "the KMU believes that solidarity is bilateral, or could even be multi-lateral. We see that international solidarity has no borders. And we believe that 'An injury to one is an injury to all.'"

In this spirit of international solidarity, Ortaliz joined the picket lines at Eastern Airlines in Boston and New York. "It's fine to see and hear the strikers talk about what's happening," he commented. He noted that some of the strikers have been relatively well paid and would find it easy to find another job. "But being exposed to this kind of strike and picketing, many of them have done some rethinking," Ortaliz remarked. "For me this is encouraging and inspiring," he continued, "because some of those I spoke with referred to themselves as 'born-again trade unionists' committed to really fighting for their unions."

Ortaliz also visited the picket line of restaurant workers at the Tavern on the Green in New York.

More confident of links

The trade union leader explained that he was more confident than ever before that links can be built between U.S. and Filipino workers, "based on the objective conditions in the Philippines and the growing sentiments in the U.S. labor movement." It
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Detroit Machinists host striking coal miners

The International Association of Machinists struck Eastern Airlines March 4 in an effort to block the company's drive to break the unions and impose massive concessions on workers.

Backed by the 5,900 flight attendants and 3,400 pilots at East-

SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS

ern, the strike by 8,500 Machinists has crippled the airline's operations since then. It has also won broad support from working people in the United States and Canada. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

From May 16 to 20, striking Eastern workers in Detroit hosted a tour for three United Mine Workers union members from Virginia on strike at Pittston Coal company. On

May 17, some 125 members of Machinists Local 141 turned out for a second shift union meeting to hear the miners. Local 141 represents workers of all airlines in Detroit.

The Pittston strikers — James Gibbs, Mark Kennedy, and Clint Owens — were introduced to hundreds of workers at meetings of the United Auto Workers, Teamsters, and other unions. The miners also spent two days at the Michigan AFL-CIO convention, where they and the Eastern strikers were given a warm welcome. Hundreds of dollars were collected at the gathering for both striking unions.

The miners picketed with Eastern workers at Detroit Metro Airport, as well as walking the picket line at a local Auto Workers' strike.

They were interviewed by the local media and union press.

A meeting of Eastern Machinists and their families with the Pittston strikers was a highlight of the tour.

"These companies have brought us together," said miner James Gibbs at the Machinists' offices at the end of the tour. "We are not going to look the other way, as we did with PATCO," he said, in reference to the 1981 air traffic

controllers' strike. "We will remember the support you have given us and are proud that our union sent us up here. All of our unions have to stay together. That's the main thing — solidarity."

The miners raised more than \$3,000 during their brief stay, including nearly \$1,000 from the Machinists and the Eastern strikers.

Eastern Airlines has organized "open houses" in cities around the country to recruit scab flight attendants. On April 25 they scheduled one at the Quality Inn in Philadelphia, where the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) has its strike headquarters.

Striking flight attendants from the Transport Workers Union prepared for the event by producing hundreds of educational leaflets about the Eastern strike for those who came to apply.

On the day of the open house, about 70 people picketed outside the inn, including officers and members of rail, communications, garment, electrical, and postal unions, as well as the three striking Eastern unions.

About 75 applicants showed up. In addition to the pickets outside, strikers were stationed in the hotel lobby. They took applicants up to ALPA's offices, where flight attendants and other strikers talked with them. The strikers explained the issues in their fight, and directed applicants to other airline jobs.

After talking with pickets and receiving leaflets, only about 15 of those who came went through with the interview. Even some of these said they were just going in to get the other side of the story.

In Greensboro, North Carolina, there are 18 members of the Machinists who work for Eastern at Piedmont International Airport. Since the strike began, the union has sent speakers to a number of union meetings in the area and to meetings of the Central Labor Union.

Machinists' local President Tom Crutchfield spoke before members of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Local 2532, a recently organized local at Bates Nitewear. Afterward, two ACTWU members went out to the airport to

walk the picket line.

The Machinists have picketed two hiring sessions for flight attendants, in Greensboro and nearby Winston-Salem. At the Winston-Salem session, a picket line of about 25 unionists included Eastern flight attendants, pilots, and Machinists, and IAM members who work at Piedmont Airlines.

On May 21 more than 600 people from dozens of unions attended an Eastern strike solidarity rally at White Stadium in East Boston. The event was sponsored by the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, the state Building Trades Council, the Machinists, and the pilots' and flight attendants' unions. Some 200 Eastern strikers in uniform marched in formation in front of the crowd.

Eastern striker Josefina Otero from IAM Local 1776 in Philadelphia contributed to this column, along with Mark Friedman from Detroit, Kip Hedges from Boston, and Yvonne Hayes from Greensboro.

Miami strike HQ: round-the-clock organizing center

BY ZENA MCFADDEN

MIAMI — The International Association of Machinists' headquarters for the strike against Eastern Airlines here is in IAM Local 702's union hall, right across from the main entrance for Eastern's hangars and main corporate office buildings. Out of the strike headquarters, members of the Machinists', flight attendants', and pilots' unions gather to be taken to the picket lines at the terminal, fuel farm, air freight site, computer reservation center, and all of Eastern's main entrance gates. Of the 8,500 Machinists on strike at Eastern, 3,900 are members of Local 702.

The strike headquarters is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At any one time, there will be from 25 to 100 people in the union hall — talking, watching television, bringing food, or carrying out some other strike activity. On Sundays and Mondays, when Machinists who complete picket duty pick up their strike benefits, hundreds of people come in and out of the hall.

Food bank

Walking toward the strike headquarter's main entrance in the back of the building, the first thing one sees is a large refrigerated storage truck parked in the lot. Here

food is kept frozen, ready for distribution by the food bank. On most days, workers are cleaning off jars and cans of food that Local 702 buys from food distribution centers at discount prices because they have been damaged in some way during transport.

At the entrance door, notices of meetings and events are posted. Once inside, there is a table on the right that has bulletins and other leaflets put out by the local, giving updates on the status of the bankruptcy hearings. (Eastern Airlines filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on March 9, five days after the strike started.)

In the back of the hall is the food kitchen, staffed mostly by IAM members who can't do picket duty outside because of physical problems. They contribute to the strike by preparing food that the union buys, or distributing contributions that come in from local restaurants or other strike supporters.

Some of the food kitchen volunteers include nonunion Eastern employees such as ticket agents and reservation clerks, who were laid off after the strike began. Since they aren't union members, most don't picket because of possible victimization by the company. A number of non-union workers have gotten letters informing them that they were fired for walking the picket

line with the strikers.

Picket duty desk

At the front of the union hall is a long desk staffed by shop stewards who coordinate pickets. The strike coordinators send about 50 pickets per shift to the various spots where the union has picket lines. Picket duty is once a week, for four hours.

Next to the IAM picket desk is the flight attendants' check-in table where strike T-shirts, buttons, hats, and posters are for sale. The money goes to striking flight attendants based on need. The Air Line Pilots Association also has a check-in table in the union hall.

Just outside the main room, two large storage rooms have been converted into the food bank. The food bank was started by a Machinist, a flight attendant, and the wife of an IAM member and her friend, in conjunction with local officials. At first it was the place where food contributed from various organizations and individuals was distributed.

In the first few weeks of the walkout, only a few strikers came there for food. It has now grown into an operation that serves an average of 100 per day. On a recent Monday, 400 bags of groceries were given out. Most of the food was purchased with funds donated by unions around the coun-

try through the special fund set up by the AFL-CIO. On one wall, names of local individuals, unions, churches, and other groups who have donated food and money are listed.

News and information

Throughout the union hall, the walls are filled with information and newspaper articles from around the country. There are pictures of Miami Dolphins' quarterback Dan Marino distributing food at the food bank; of the sock-hop hosted by American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers Local 1907 to raise funds for the flight attendants; of a fund-raising picnic sponsored by the Transport Workers Union; and of scabs working on the ramp. There are also notices put up by restaurants, bars, and companies around the city that give discounts to strikers.

One wall is filled with notices of job openings. There are other signs posted around the headquarters, such as "Haircuts here every Wednesday — money goes to needy flight attendants," and phone numbers for the Suicide Hot Line and Financial Help Hot Line.

Zena McFadden is a member of IAM Local 702. She worked as an Eastern aircraft server before the strike began.

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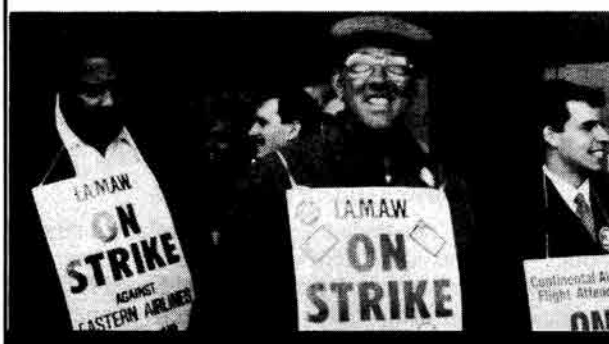
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Los Angeles teachers win

Nine-day strike of 32,000 gained wide support

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

LOS ANGELES — Public schoolteachers here have won a big victory as the result of a nine-day strike that ended May 26. A big majority of the city's 32,000 teachers participated in the strike, which won a 24 percent pay raise over the next three years.

The victory was won by the daily militant mobilization of teachers at rallies and on the picket lines, backed by strong support for the strike from parents and students.

"The militancy of the teachers was a result of anger and frustration built up over years," striking teacher Karen Newton explained. "Teachers are tired of low pay, crowded classrooms, decaying buildings, inadequate supplies, and the arrogance of school administrators."

Plans to keep the schools functioning dur-

Education. They chanted, "Settle the strike, pay the salaries."

At Los Angeles High School, students produced fliers supporting the strike on the school mimeo, and hundreds marched around the school chanting, "UTLA all the way" and "No pay, no teachers, no school."

Belmont High students appeared at strike rallies with a 20-foot sign declaring themselves to be a "scab patrol."

Parent support was much stronger than in the last teachers' strike 18 years ago. "My school is almost 100 percent Spanish-speaking," striking teacher Ann Wilcox explained. "Usually a lot of parents help in the classroom, but none came in during the strike despite the principal's efforts to get them to come."

"In past strikes, administrators have been able to turn the public against teachers—to make them appear greedy," Wilcox said. "This time it hasn't worked."

Along with the pay raise, teachers won more time for class preparation and a clause stipulating that there will be no retaliation against school employees, parents, students, or others who supported the strike. A sizable minority of teachers voted against the contract on the basis that the teachers did not get back pay, which had been docked because of previous job actions.

An important part of the settlement was the setting up of councils at all schools, with half composed of teachers and half of parents and administrators. These councils will make decisions previously made by school administrators alone, regarding school curriculum, activities, use of school equipment, and discipline.

Many teachers expressed the view that winning the councils was the biggest gain of the strike. But several teachers said they were concerned about getting teachers more involved in disciplining students in a situation where many students are alienated by underfunded schools.

Rallies of 10,000 filled Los Angeles Sports Arena.

ing the strike with substitute teachers fizzled when less than 2,000 responded to a widely advertised scab-recruiting campaign. In desperation, administrators raised daily substitute pay from less than \$100 to well over \$300.

There were several teacher rallies of more than 10,000, which filled the Los Angeles Sports Arena. The union, the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA), also organized rallies each day of thousands.

Eastern Airlines striker Greg Amodi received an enthusiastic response at a May 19 rally of 7,000 when he voiced solidarity with the striking teachers.

Many students also joined the fight. Karla Peña reported that she and other students from her high school went to a prostrike picket line of 50 students at the Board of

Nicaraguan teachers demand higher wages in work stoppage

BY SETH GALINSKY

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Thousands of teachers began a work stoppage here May 22 to demand higher wages and improved benefits. The strikers are members of the pro-government National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers (ANDEN).

While most of the country's 36,000 teachers are not participating in the action, the stoppage has received widespread sympathy from teachers. Teachers' wages are low, even by Nicaraguan standards, and the effects of inflation have driven their real income down sharply.

The strike is strongest in Chinandega, in northwest Nicaragua, and in San Rafael del Sur, which is southwest of Managua. The striking teachers show up at school, but have not been conducting classes.

Teachers at several of Managua's largest public schools stopped work for a day and a half. They agreed to end their protest with the understanding that their demands for higher wages, transportation subsidies, and free medicine would be considered in the next few days.

Before the strike began, President Daniel Ortega said that there would be no wage increase even though the teachers' demands were justified. If teachers got a raise, he said, other workers would also have a right to an increase. Raising teachers' wages would fuel inflation, Ortega argued.

The day the teachers began their action, Lucio Jiménez, president of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), told a meeting of unionists, "The enemies of the revolution must understand they cannot take advantage of the just demands of the teachers. There are sectors that want to manipulate this problem."

Sergio Martínez, ANDEN president, told the meeting, "We condemn the strike and those who promote it because we have to be clear that there are grouplets of right-wing, proimperialist pseudoleaders who want to gain a political benefit from these just de-

mands of the education workers."

On May 25 President Ortega charged that the teachers engaged in the strike were being manipulated to "destabilize" the revolution. He ordered two U.S. embassy employees expelled from the country, charging that they were supporting the strike. The two had attended a meeting of 400 striking teachers in Chinandega.

Many teachers were upset at the charge that they were being manipulated. "The only thing manipulating us is hunger," said Orlando Delgado during a meeting at the Rigoberto López Institute in Managua. Teachers at Rigoberto López did not join the work stoppage.

"We are for the revolution, but we felt we had no choice but to go on strike," one teacher in Chinandega told the *Militant*.

Other teachers, however, think the strike is a mistake. "It is the children who suffer," said Luis Delgado, an English teacher.

Government representatives have told the teachers they should try to solve their problems by visiting area factories and agricultural enterprises to ask for donations of food, other products, and even money. They could also organize fund-raising activities, officials suggested.

"This is the first time since the triumph of the revolution that teachers have gone on strike," said Ricardo Jiménez, a teacher at the Maestro Gabriel Institute, one of the schools in Managua that stopped work for a day and a half. He was elected to a committee set up to represent the teachers in their fight for higher wages.

"We are confident that the government will respond to our demands, because it is our government," Jiménez said. "But if it does not, we are prepared to return to the work stoppage."

President Ortega was scheduled to meet with ANDEN representatives from around the country May 31 to hear their proposals.

Newton pointed out that the big job of fighting for better education still lies ahead. "Our union needs to take up the fight for bilingual education, for smaller classes, for more money for the schools," she said. "We should also fight for parents and students to have a greater say."

Ann Wilcox said after going through the strike she thought teachers should be organized to take part in the June 17 labor rally in Los Angeles in support of the Eastern strike. "The teachers now know the importance of solidarity," she said. "Most teachers had never been on strike before. Many didn't know whether they would go out that first day until that morning, much less stay out to the end. But they gained confidence, especially after they saw the support from the public. And now many will want to show support for others."



Teachers mobilized daily on picket lines

Socialist harassed by Canadian customs agents

BY JOHN STEELE

VANCOUVER, Canada — Canadian customs officials detained James Harris for more than an hour at the Vancouver International Airport May 26 and interrogated him about his political affiliations. Harris is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York.

Harris was the only Black on his flight to Vancouver and the only person to be stopped for inspection when passengers from the flight passed through the customs area.

The socialist candidate had come to Vancouver to speak at a May 27-28 socialist educational conference sponsored by supporters of the *Militant* newspaper. On the same plane with him was *Militant* reporter Cindy Jaquith, also a scheduled speaker at the conference.

After passing through the immigration booth at the airport, Harris and Jaquith proceeded to the customs area. When Jaquith and other passengers handed in their immigration cards, customs agents waved them through without asking to look in their bags. But Harris was immediately told to step into the inspection area to have his bags checked.

A customs agent started going through Harris' briefcase. The officer pulled out a collection of pamphlets, including the *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, the basic platform of Harris' campaign for mayor.

Interrogation

After examining the other pamphlets closely, the agent asked Harris, "Do you belong to an organization?" Since this question was not relevant to customs matters, Harris did not reply.

The agent proceeded to read Harris' personal papers and notes. He came across an SWP constitution and asked Harris, "Are you a member of the SWP?" Harris did not reply.

The agent also went through Harris' suitcase, searching through all his clothing. He removed two U.S. license plates from the suitcase. The plates were being delivered by Harris to a friend in Seattle, where Harris was going after his visit to Vancouver. All the proper registration papers were with the license plates.

Harris was told to step into a room, where the officer had him empty his pockets and examined the contents. At one point Harris asked why he was being treated this way. The agent said it was his duty to check for "smugglers, criminals, and terrorist activities," asserting that the license plates were cause for suspicion.

Jaquith called in

Jaquith was waiting in the customs area while Harris was being interrogated. A second customs agent asked Harris if Jaquith was traveling with him. He replied yes and the agent told Jaquith to enter the inspection area with her bags, even though she had already been cleared by customs.

The agent, whose badge number was 5003, began asking Jaquith questions about Harris. Jaquith declined to answer the questions about Harris, but answered standard customs and immigrations queries.

The officer said if she did not answer questions about Harris she would be "obstructing a customs officer."

The agent then searched Jaquith's bags and took her driver's license to run through the computer, saying he had to verify if she or Harris had broken any laws and whether there were warrants out for their arrest.

When Jaquith still declined to answer questions about Harris, the agent brought over two female officers and told Jaquith, "these two officers are going to take you into that room and conduct a body search for contraband. Your clothes will be left on but they will go over your whole body."

At about this time, however, conference organizers waiting in the airport lobby for Harris and Jaquith telephoned the customs office. They inquired about the whereabouts of the two. The customs officials then quickly told Harris and Jaquith they could leave. They had been detained for more than an hour.

Vancouver's largest daily, the *Sun*, ran a story May 29 on the harassment of Harris, headlined "Detention racist, socialist claims."

"It's clear to me the only reason they stopped me was because I was black," the article quoted Harris as saying. It went on to report that Harris "was questioned about his participation in socialist organizations."

In addition to interviewing Harris about the incident, the *Sun* interviewed Canada Customs traffic supervisor Gerry Duffy. According to the *Sun*, "Duffy denied Harris' allegation and said officials are allowed to ask any visitor about their political and social affiliations if it is relevant to customs work."

As to the singling out of Harris from other passengers, Duffy told the *Sun*, "He may have been the only black person on the plane and for some reason we had to check him, but I don't think he could take it one step further and say that is why."

On May 30, the president of the British Columbia New Democratic Party, Elaine Bernard, sent a letter condemning "the racist harassment of James Harris" to Canada's minister of employment and immigration.

"The singling out of a black person for this kind of treatment cannot be tolerated," Bernard wrote. "I strongly recommend that those responsible be reprimanded and an immediate apology be issued to Mr. Harris."

Supporters of the right to travel are urging that messages protesting the racist and political harassment of Harris be sent to Barbara MacDougall, Minister of Employment and Immigration, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6 Canada; and to Gerry Duffy, Traffic Supervisor, Canada Customs, Vancouver International Airport, Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

Des Moines rights leader hits prison censorship

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year jail term 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.

Alfredo Alvarez, chairperson of

anyone that they pose no safety or security risks to anyone. I have also found out that other Spanish-language materials are available through the prison library. Why are not those materials considered safety and security risks?" Alvarez asked.

"Mark Curtis is obviously being singled out from other prisoners in your facility. If translation of those materials are a problem, then please call upon a state agency that already exists for such assistance:

mittee is asking everybody to write to the warden urging that he:

- Reverse the undemocratic ban on Spanish and other non-English language literature sent to Mark Curtis.

- Extend to all prisoners the right to receive non-English language material of their choice.

- End restrictions on prisoners' rights to share literature with each other.

- The protests should be addressed to: John A. Thalacker, Iowa State Men's Reformatory, Anamosa, Iowa 52205. Copies should be sent to: Attorney General Thomas J. Miller, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

The defense committee would like to receive copies of messages, along with any response from Iowa officials.

The international effort to win new endorsers of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee proceeds apace. Among those who have recently added their names to the list are:

Ed Asner, actor and political activist. He signed up while walking a picket line in New York in support of the Eastern Airlines strikers.

Hugo Blanco, a peasant and worker organizer in Peru who has been in prison many times because of his political activities.

Geir Gunnarsson, member of Parliament, Iceland.

Margaret Randall, writer, poet, and teacher, whom Washington has been trying to deport because of her

support for the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions.

Kim Fellner, executive director, National Writers Union.

Lucius Walker, leader of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization.

Moneta Jacob, former editor of *Metall*, biweekly paper of I.G. Metall, the 2.5-million member union in Germany that led a fight for a shorter workweek. I.G. Metall organizes auto workers, steelworkers, and others.

Attorneys William Kutmus and George Eichhorn filed a civil rights suit in Des Moines May 11, on behalf of Curtis, against the city and members of its police department.

After filing the suit with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa, Kutmus told reporters, "Mark is very optimistic, and he's looking forward to this lawsuit."

Curtis is asking for \$300,000 in actual and punitive damages and holds the city responsible for the severe beating he received at the hands of the cops following his March 4, 1988, arrest. After beating Curtis the cops charged him with assaulting the police. They dropped those charges right before the case was supposed to come to trial.

Mark Curtis Defense Committee Coordinator Stu Singer read a statement from Curtis. "Arrested on false charges, beaten unconscious, and later railroaded to prison, the cops let me know that it was my actions in support of immigrant

workers' rights at Swift that was my real 'crime.' The police said I was a 'Mexican-lover' and a 'colored-lover' and that I probably had AIDS as well. . . .

"This lawsuit is about the right of workers to defend themselves against pay cuts, dangerous conditions on the job, and not be victimized because of it," Curtis explained.

Sammye Roberts, Alabama president of the National Organization for Women; and Lorenzo Ervin, former political prisoner and a leader of Concerned Citizens for Justice in Chattanooga, Tennessee, also attended the news conference.

The filing of the suit was reported on all three local television stations. The *Des Moines Register*, the city's only daily, reported for the first time that the cops yelled racist epithets as they beat Curtis and that testimony on the beating had been excluded from his September 1988 trial.

Police Chief William Moulder declined to comment on the suit. But city attorney Ivan Webber said, "The city intends to defend the suit and defend it vigorously."

An investigation by the police department's Internal Review Board last year cleared the cops of any wrongdoing in relation to the beating of Curtis. And the city's Human Rights Commission refused to investigate the case after being instructed by city attorney Webber that it could not investigate another city agency.

The city has 40 days to respond to the suit.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

the Des Moines Human Rights Commission and an endorser of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, is one of the dozens of people around the world who have written letters of protest to John Thalacker, the warden at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa, protesting the decision to deny Curtis and other prisoners the right to receive written materials in languages other than English and their "primary" language.

Noting that Curtis had been denied access to a Spanish-English dictionary and a book of Spanish verbs, as well as being forced to cancel his subscriptions to the Spanish-language magazine *Perspectiva Mundial* and the French-language *Lutte ouvrière*, Alvarez wrote:

"I am appalled that such materials are considered safety and security problems. Even a glimpse of those materials would indicate to

the Spanish Speaking Peoples Commission. I am sure that they would entertain some type of assistance not only in Mark Curtis' case but also other Spanish-speaking individuals as well.

"Prisoners in a correctional facility have human rights just like everyone else. Mark Curtis should not be denied to expand his own working knowledge of the Spanish language. Any infringement of his or anyone else's search for knowledge can clearly be labeled for what it really is: unwarranted censorship.

"I respectfully request that you and your facility allow Mark Curtis access to those materials in question. In addition, I request that you desist from any further unwarranted actions against Mark and quit any further dehumanizing actions toward him."

The Mark Curtis Defense Com-

Curtis: inmates face restrictions on expression

BY MARGARET JAYKO

(Second of two parts)

ANAMOSA, Iowa — After telling the story of the prison authorities' denial of non-English language literature to himself and other prisoners whose "primary" language is English, Curtis discussed the highly publicized court decision last year that pornography should be available in Iowa prisons.

U.S. District Judge Harold Victor had ruled that prisoners should have the right to read the

INTERVIEW

same books and magazines that anyone else in Iowa can.

The interview with Curtis took place May 15 at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory here. A unionist and political activist, Curtis has been incarcerated in Anamosa since December 1988, serving a 25-year sentence on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

Most prisoners supported Victor's ruling, said Curtis. In order to skirt the judge's decision, however, Anamosa officials set up a pornography reading room — in the guards' office. A prisoner must make an appointment to sit in the office with a guard assigned to watch him while he reads magazines deemed to be pornographic. The lack of privacy means that very few prisoners use the room.

Inmates are resentful of this arrangement, said Curtis. They see it as yet another trick to violate their rights. With the recent Supreme Court decision giving wardens virtually unlimited powers of censorship, Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad immediately announced he will take steps to circumvent the previous ruling that allows publications considered to be pornographic in Iowa's prisons.

Martin Luther King Organization

Curtis is the secretary of the Martin Luther King Organization at the prison. The group has grown a lot since the beginning of the year, he said, involving up to a hundred prisoners in its programs.

Since both the Native American and Mexican prisoners have been denied the right to form their own organizations, the MLK Organization has offered its resources to them.

The last meeting, for example, was devoted to a discussion of abuse of Indian re-



May 19 news conference opens campaign against prison restriction against "contraband," that is, materials not in English. Chairing is Stu Singer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee; seated are Hazel Zimmerman, a leader of the committee, and Melvin Wilk, an associate professor at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa.

mains. "One of the things that helped the discussion," said Curtis, was that people were able to read a book he had donated to the organization's library on the case of framed-up Indian rights fighter Leonard Peltier. The group has placed an order with the New York-based Pathfinder publishers for revolutionary literature, including titles in Spanish.

A planned program on May 5 to celebrate the Mexican national holiday Cinco de Mayo was canceled by prison authorities at the last minute. They said they didn't have enough staff to sit in on the event.

The MLK Organization is appealing to activists in the Iowa area to get in touch with them and provide speakers for their programs. "Outside speakers are very important," Curtis stressed. The group can be contacted at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory, Martin Luther King Organization, Box B, Anamosa, Iowa 52205.

Winning support against frame-up

The fight over non-English language literature has given him an impetus to talk to more

prisoners about the fight against his frame-up, said Curtis.

He described a fellow inmate from Des Moines, who, like Curtis, had filed a civil rights suit against the Des Moines police for brutality. The prisoner had worked at the Swift/Monfort meat-packing plant there at the same time Curtis had and was fired by the same supervisor who fired Curtis. "He understands what I'm fighting for, and he supports me," said Curtis.

(In December 1987, Curtis had suffered a back injury and left the production line to seek medical help. He was fired but subsequently won his job back as a result of a fight involving the union and his coworkers.)

Another former Swift/Monfort worker at Anamosa, who was still working there during Curtis' highly publicized trial in Des Moines last September, has been very supportive and has introduced Curtis to other prisoners.

Anamosa prison has a Learning Center, where a few classes are held for prisoners. It is connected to Kirkwood Community College. The center has a library that mainly

includes technical books, said Curtis. It receives a newspaper, the *Prison Mirror*, that is published in the state penitentiary in Stillwater, Minnesota. Someone who works in the center told Curtis that an article about his case appeared in the *Mirror*.

The article was written by an endorser of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee after talking to Curtis supporters in Minnesota.

Thai prisoner fights for rights

Five days after the *Militant's* interview with Curtis, he wrote a letter describing further discussions with fellow prisoners about the fight against the censorship of non-English language literature at Anamosa.

"The impact of this fight has been felt immediately inside the prison," he wrote. Curtis referred to an article in the May 19 *Cedar Rapids Gazette* reporting the international protest campaign against the restrictions.

"Cedar Rapids is 24 miles from Anamosa," he continued. "It's the second-largest city in Iowa, and many guards and civilian employees who staff the prison live there."

"The article was brought to my attention by Camhn TrongVahn, another inmate here. Camhn and I didn't know each other, but he sought me out in the yard after reading the article. He was very excited about the article because he is denied the right to send and receive letters in his native language," wrote Curtis. TrongVahn is from Thailand.

"His three-and-a-half year battle for the right to correspond and read in Thai started the first day he was transferred to Anamosa," continued Curtis. "Prison officials told him he had to send his Thai-English dictionary out. He told them, 'No way you're getting this. I need it too much.'"

"At that time Camhn spoke little English. He and his family came to Storm Lake, Iowa, from Thailand in 1981. A former mechanic for Peterson Motors, he's spent six of the last nine years in this country locked up. Camhn spent hours every night in his cell studying his dictionary to improve his English."

But, Curtis pointed out, TrongVahn still writes to his parents in Thai. "A thing as simple as writing a letter home has been made complicated and intrusive," Curtis explained. After he writes the letter, "the institution sends it to Des Moines to be translated. The

Continued on Page 13

How banks took away Iowa farmer's land

Harold Dunkelberger tells of cops occupying his farm, seizing his property



Harold Dunkelberger on his farm. Like thousands of other farmers he was hit by farm crisis in early 1980s. Militant/Marian Carr

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

PILOT MOUND, Iowa — Police and agents of the Production Credit Association occupied Harold Dunkelberger's farm in April, seizing all his farm equipment. It was the final act of a 1985 court ruling authorizing the PCA to seize Dunkelberger's grain crops and farm equipment to pay debts.

Since March 1985 the farmer was barred by the court, in what is called a replevin hearing, from hiding, selling, or destroying any of the equipment listed for PCA seizure. And for the past four years he knew the PCA could show up without notice to haul away his equipment. What he could not have prepared for was the treatment he got on April 3.

"I was hauling corn for a friend that morning. I took the first load in shortly after 7:00 a.m. I stopped by Grand Junction and visited at the feed store and returned home at about 9:15 a.m.," Dunkelberger recalled. "When I arrived at my driveway there were two patrol cars at the entrance. Then I saw two patrol cars in the yard, four county cars, four semis and short trucks and pickups. About 15 to 20 guys were in the yard.

"Two deputies came up to my truck. One had a hand on a side arm. The other had a shotgun. They ordered me out of my truck. 'Get your arms up,' one said. 'We want to search you and your truck.' He then leveled the shotgun at me.

"They searched the truck and found an old, rusty axe," Dunkelberger said. "They seized that and then told me: 'We found a bunch of weapons, and we'll keep them until after the replevin.'"

Take son's equipment

The court order specified that only Dunkelberger's equipment would be taken, even though he was storing his son Dave's equipment on his farm.

"I then looked and saw that they had my

son's tractor hooked up, ready to take it," Dunkelberger said. "When I told them they had no right to take my son's equipment, [PCA agent] Stanton said, 'I'm in charge here. It's on the list. We're taking it.'"

After two phone calls to his attorney, Dunkelberger convinced the sheriff to order that his son's equipment remain on the farm.

The farmer explained that he had to fight to have his son's equipment stay on the farm because he knows of "other farmers who have lost equipment illegally. They have sued to get it back, have gotten a reversal, and then waited. I have a friend in Jefferson

still waiting, a year and a half after he won a court claim to get back either his machinery or the cost of it."

Along with thousands of other farmers, Dunkelberger was hit by the farm crisis in the early 1980s. "Before 1985 I had 1,200 acres here and 1,200 acres in Arkansas. I was growing corn and beans. I am the third generation on the farm here.

"With the 1983 budget and loan renewal, the setup began," Dunkelberger explained. "It was the end of May after the season. After 17 years of doing business, I always dealt [with the banks and PCA] in faith and trust. The PCA should have drawn up the loan papers in November, but they purposely let it go until May.

"Then they came to the house, got my wife down to the field, and demanded that their papers be signed. 'I've got to get it done,' the PCA agent insisted. 'The creditors are hollering. Sign the papers, and then I'll prepare them.'

"I was really busy and didn't have time to really think about it," Dunkelberger said. So he and his wife signed a stock of blank papers, with the trust they always offered the PCA.

Defrauded

Later Dunkelberger found out that the papers he signed were fraudulently filled out to put his son's farm lands on his securities list. This tied his son's lands to his PCA loan, making it vulnerable to foreclosure. "It was a setup. I called my lawyer. He said it was 'deceit and fraud.' He called the PCA and was told, 'If you don't pay your debt down in six months, we're going to drive you out.'

"So in all the paper-signing, they went after my two farms that were not mortgaged, that I owned free and clear. And they also mortgaged my son's farms."

Dunkelberger explained that this kind of

action against farmers has been going on for more than a decade. The banks and loan institutions have "increased their loan volume. These loan officers are paid commissions for foreclosing on people like me."

The farmer hired an attorney and began negotiations for repayment of the loans due. In 1984 he lost his trucks and trailers in an attempt to raise money to pay off loans. In the 1985 replevin action, the court awarded the PCA Dunkelberger's grain crop and machinery. In the spring of 1985 he lost his entire 1984 grain crop after the PCA moved to seize it.

At the same time the PCA had moved to seize his grain and machinery, the Federal Land Grant Bank was proceeding with foreclosure on his land. He's now down to 640 acres: 200 free and clear, 440 mortgaged through the Federal Land Grant Bank. "Since 1984 I have had no right to farm my land. I can't sell any of my property," Dunkelberger said. "They are bleeding us with legal fees and trying to break any attempt we are making to survive."

But he is not about to give up the fight. "I'm suing the PCA and the Federal Land Bank." He also sees this fight as more than just his own. "I picketed, shot hogs, and raised hell with the National Farm Organization. We had a strong membership in this area. Then I joined the American Agriculture Movement and am still an active member.

"Farmers sometimes have a reluctance to fight," the farmer said. "We have a lot to lose. We have to deal with the banks, and they whiplash us into backing down. The majority have given up and voluntarily foreclosed. They like to keep that quiet. . . .

"But I still can't believe their hatred," Dunkelberger said. "When they came to get my equipment, they treated me like a criminal. If anybody should have hatred, it should be my hatred for the PCA."

Sales of revolutionary books are up

BY DEB SHNOOKAL

NEW YORK — Growing interest in revolutionary ideas is evident in the increased sales of Pathfinder books both in the United States and around the world.

Sales in 1988 were 23 percent higher than in 1987. And in the first three months of 1989, they are up 40 percent over the same quarter last year.

Pathfinder is a New York-based publishing house that publishes the writings and speeches of international revolutionary leaders. Pathfinder authors include Fidel Castro, Ernesto Che Guevara, Nelson Mandela, Thomas Sankara, Maurice Bishop and Malcolm X. It also publishes works by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, Rosa Luxemburg, as well as by V. I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, and other leaders of the Communist International.

A striking feature of this trend is the rise in interest in books by Malcolm X. For example annual sales of *By Any Means Necessary* by Malcolm X rose from 3,500 copies in 1986 to 6,500 in 1988, and sales of *Malcolm X on Afro-American History* increased from 5,000 to 7,900 in the same period. As of mid-May,

around 4,000 copies of each title had already been sold in 1989.

International sales

Contributing to this rise in sales is the increased distribution of Pathfinder titles internationally. Invoice sales for the first quarter of 1989 internationally were \$20,000 — more than double the figure from the same quarter in 1988 and 29 percent more than last year's total for this category of sales.

Particularly significant was increased sales in Canada, where a newly established Pathfinder distributorship sold \$23,000 in its first nine months of operation.

The Pathfinder Bookshop that opened in London last September, sales to other commercial bookstores in Britain, and street stalls featuring Pathfinder literature throughout the country accounted for \$10,000 — half the increased international sales in the first quarter.

In addition to these international sales, Pathfinder was able to participate with great success at the Bookfair Manila held in the Philippines in February, selling nearly 2,000 books and pamphlets. Best sellers at the bookfair included Fidel Castro's *Cuba Will Never Adopt Capitalist Methods; Socialism and Man in Cuba*, by Che Guevara; *The Struggle Is My Life* by imprisoned South African revolutionary leader Nelson Mandela; the *Communist Manifesto* by Marx and Engels; *Thomas Sankara Speaks*; and a range of books by Leon Trotsky.

Pathfinder titles are also now being carried by more of the major U.S. paperback wholesalers. Sales to these distributors have more than doubled from \$10,000 in the first quarter of 1988 to \$22,000 in 1989. There has also been a significant growth in Pathfinder sales to bookstores and other retail outlets here, with a 50 percent increase in the first three months of this year.

Street vendor sales

Some of these increased retail sales are due to the growing number of street ven-

dors, especially in New York's Black communities, carrying Pathfinder titles by Malcolm X and Mandela's *The Struggle Is My Life*.

Also popular on the streets of New York are *Maurice Bishop Speaks* and *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. Bishop was murdered in a counterrevolutionary coup in 1983 that toppled the Grenada revolution. Sankara was the leader of the 1983-87 revolution in the West African country of Burkina Faso.

Pathfinder is expecting a good response to its forthcoming books, *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*, which will be available in June, and a new hard cover edition of *Malcolm X Speaks*, which will be available at a reduced price over the previous hard cover edition.

New titles

Another new title published by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia this month, *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* is the first English-language edition of this book by Cuban author Carlos Tablada and was warmly received at a conference on "The Cuban Reality After 30 Years," held in Washington, D.C., in April.

Also just off the press is *Fidel Castro: In Defense of Socialism*, which includes Castro's four major speeches on the 30th anniversary of the revolution given in December 1988 and January 1989.

Pathfinder's increased sales in the first quarter are especially significant considering that they were sales of titles that have been in print for a while. The publisher is about to launch a new sales and promotion effort with the new titles that will take its representatives to a growing number of bookstores across the United States.

New York judge denies new trial for Black activist

NEW YORK — A Queens County judge refused May 10 to set aside the conviction of Herman Ferguson and open the way for a new trial for the 1960s Black rights activist.

Ferguson and Arthur Harris were convicted in 1968 on trumped-up charges of conspiring to murder Roy Wilkins of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Whitney Young of the Urban League. At the time, Ferguson was a leading activist in the fight by New York Blacks to win control of the schools in their communities.

After exhausting all legal appeals, Ferguson and Harris fled the country in 1970.

Ferguson, now 68, lived and worked in

Guyana until he returned here voluntarily in April and began serving a term of three-and-a-half to seven years.

He came back, he explained, because new evidence gave him the opportunity to establish that his prosecution had been prompted by the FBI as part of its drive to disrupt the Black rights movement. He said FBI files on him, obtained in the case of another frame-up victim, established this.

In denying Ferguson's appeal for a new trial, the judge offered sympathy, but added that he could not permit "emotion" to cloud his judgment.

Ferguson's attorney, Colin Moore, said the issue would now be taken to the state supreme court.

This publication is available in microform from University Microfilms International. Call toll-free 800-521-3044. Or mail inquiry to: University Microfilms International, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Cleveland candidate backs abortion rights protests

Expressing his support for women's right to safe, legal abortion, David Marshall announced his candidacy for mayor of Cleveland on the Socialist Workers Party ticket at a May 22 news conference at the Board of Elections.

"As a participant in the abortion rights demonstration of a half-million people in Washington, D.C., on April 9 for women's lives and women's equality," Marshall told

support the strikers.

"Their struggle is an example of the kind of unity working people will need to display in the face of worsening economic conditions and employer assaults," explained Marshall.

The nonpartisan Cleveland primary will be held October 3.

Seven SWP candidates for mu-

Tom Fiske, 45, a presser and ILGWU member, is the Socialist Workers candidate for Manhattan borough president. Patty Iiyama, 44, a cleaner employed by Trans World Airlines and a member of the International Association of Machinists, is running for Brooklyn borough president.

National secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance, Greg McCartan, 32, is the socialist candidate for Manhattan district attorney. Jon Hillson, 39, a garment worker and member of the ILGWU, is running for city council in the 6th District.

The news conference was covered by several media outlets, and the citywide candidates were announced in an article in the *New York Times*. Supporters of the campaign will petition to put the candidates on the ballot this summer. The elections will be on November 7.

More than 40 people attended a rally on May 13 to kick off the campaign of Nels J'Anthony and Betsy Soares, SWP candidates for Boston City Council and for School Committee. The meeting was

chaired by Bob Livesey, national coordinator of Veteran's Peace Convoy.

J'Anthony condemned recent U.S. war moves against Panama and defended the right of Panamanians to determine their future free of U.S. intervention.

Soares explained, "It is in the context of the overall attacks on public education for working-class youth, such as school closings, cutbacks in special education programs, and the dismantling of bilingual education, that the most recent attack on desegregation of public schools fits."

The School Committee candidate was referring to the school-assignment plan recently adopted in Boston. It would divide the city into three zones. Parents would choose among all the schools in each zone by order of preference.

The plan was adopted over the objections of many in the Boston Black community, including the four Black members of the School Committee of 13. This plan would run counter to the desegregation plan fought for and won in the 1970's in Boston.

Other speakers that evening included Neil Callender, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance and antiracist activist at Brown University; Lauren Berly, a social worker; Meg Livesey, coordinator of the Women's Peace Convoy, which grew out of the Veterans' Peace Convoy, and Ziggy Herrmann, a member of the United Auto Workers union and a campaign supporter.

Speaking of rising unemployment, Herrmann said, "Where are we going to go if we don't have jobs. Like some of my friends, we can join the military or join the ranks of the homeless."

"I don't like the prospect of either being out in the streets or forced to shoot at workers in other countries trying to make a living like myself."

The Boston elections take place September 6

Marty Pettit from Cleveland, Jon Hillson from New York, and Kate Button from Boston, contributed to this column.

CAMPAIGNING FOR SOCIALISM

the press, "I applaud the stance taken by prochoice people who recently mobilized in Cleveland to defend abortion clinics against an assault by so-called right-to-lifers, who want to send women back to back-alley abortions."

Marshall, 35, is a production worker at the LTV steel mill here. He works in the coke plant and is a member of the United Steelworkers union.

The socialist candidate, who has joined Eastern Airline strikers on their picket lines, urged others to

municipal office in New York City were announced May 9 at a news conference on the steps of City Hall.

Mayoral candidate James Harris reported the socialist slate.

It includes Jerry Freiwirth, 38, a packinghouse worker and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, for city council president, and Vivian Sahner, 41, a sewing-machine operator and member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union for comptroller.

Eastern strike, other battles spur 'Militant' sales

BY NORTON SANDLER

Militant supporters are reporting that it is easier to sell socialist publications to working people today than it's been in several years.

From the Pacific Northwest to Appalachia, from Wisconsin to Texas, this is how distributors are explaining their success in the just-concluded circulation drive. A key part of this, they say, is increased receptivity to socialist publications at factory gates and mine portals.

Between March 25 and May 20, supporters internationally won 9,290 new readers to the *Militant*, the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, the French-language *Lutte ouvrière* and Marxist magazines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*. That is 116 percent of the goal of 8,000 set at the beginning of the drive.

Nearly 1,700 new readers, or 18 percent of the total, were won outside the United States. Supporters in Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, and Sweden all went over their targets.

Distributors say the strike at Eastern Air-

lines was the biggest factor spurring sales. The fight to defend a woman's right to choose an abortion and the strike by coal miners at Pittston Coal Group mines in Virginia and West Virginia were among the other political battles that also helped boost interest in the publications.

Highlights of the increased receptivity among working people include:

- Nearly 200 members of the International Association of Machinists purchased or renewed subscriptions during the drive. Many indicated on the subscription blank that they are on strike at Eastern.
- A one-week team sold 101 subscriptions to coal miners and their supporters in southwest Virginia, the area where the largest concentration of Pittston mines are being struck by the United Mine Workers of America.
- An international team that traveled through Canada's Maritime Provinces and New England sold dozens of papers at the gates of big shipyards in St. John, New Brunswick, and Bath, Maine, and at the

Boise-Cascade paper mill in Rumford, Maine.

'Perspectiva Mundial' sales

Perspectiva Mundial sales were spurred by the same growing interest in politics. Several dozen *PM* subscriptions were sold to farm workers in California's San Joaquin Valley and in the Yakima Valley in Washington state.

Distributors emphasize that it was also easier this time around selling on the streets to workers whose first language is Spanish and at the plant gates in cities from Phoenix and Los Angeles to Des Moines, New York, and Miami.

Ground was gained during the drive on introducing the Marxist magazines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale* to working people. Examples of *New International* sales taken from the wrap-up reports include three copies sold to workers in oil refineries in Houston, five to auto workers at General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler plants in St. Louis, four to rail workers in New Jersey, and a couple to members of the Steelworkers union in Miami.

Distributors internationally ended up selling 88 percent of the *Lutte ouvrière* goal — a major accomplishment since this is the first time most had taken on the challenge of selling the French-language publication.

Nearly half the *LO* subscriptions were sold in the last two weeks as distributors

stepped up their efforts to meet workers whose first language is French. The final push was boosted by a special *LO* supplement explaining the stakes in the Eastern Airlines strike.

Montréal distributors led the way selling nearly 50 *Lutte ouvrière* subscriptions during that final stretch.

Plant-gate and mine sales

These examples from the circulation drive point to the importance of focusing sales in the coming weeks in the coalfields, at the Eastern picket lines, and at the plant gates.

Plant-gate, portal, mill, and railyard sales are essential in meeting and talking politics with trade unionists with the aim of establishing a long-term readership in key basic industries.

Distributors will be combining sales of the *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis* pamphlet with those of the periodicals. This Pathfinder pamphlet focuses on the steps necessary to unite working people internationally in the face of employer and government attacks that will mount with the next recession.

Following up on the success of the subscription drive with well-organized plant-gate and portal sales over the summer months involving all our supporters, can lead to winning growing numbers of workers in industry to the perspectives advanced in the publications.

'Lutte ouvrière' fund drive to raise \$20,000 by June 15

"*Lutte ouvrière* is an effective tool for the political education of all activists. I don't have the space in this letter to explain how much the magazine interests me. I guarantee you that I will make sure other fighters in the revolutionary struggle read it."

This quote from a reader, a student in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, begins a recent fund-raising appeal for the French-language magazine *Lutte ouvrière*. The monthly has been coming out since November. The fund campaign, which began on May 15, seeks to collect \$20,000 by June 15.

This letter reflects a growing interest in the magazine among French-reading activists in Canada and among fighters for social justice in Haiti and in African countries such as Burkina Faso and Senegal.

Interest is also reflected in growing sales and subscriptions to *Lutte ouvrière* in the Haitian communities and others who read French in cities across the United States and elsewhere.

Lutte ouvrière, published in Montréal, car-

ries many of the articles that appear in the *Militant*. It has run articles on the strike of the Eastern Airlines workers and the historic abortion rights demonstration in Washington, D.C., on April 9.

It has also explained how the arguments waged by the leaderships of the trade unions and the New Democratic Party in Canada against the Canada-U.S. free-trade pact has seriously weakened the unity of the working class.

Over the past months, *Lutte ouvrière* has published several speeches by Cuban President Fidel Castro explaining the process of rectification in Cuba, as well as articles dealing with the devastating impact of the foreign debt on workers and peasants in the Third World.

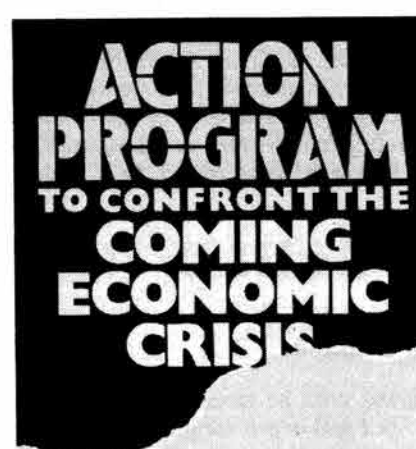
"Funds are needed to continue to publish the magazine and to contribute to the cost of moving *Lutte ouvrière*'s offices to a more central location in Montréal," explained its editor Michel Prairie.

Lutte ouvrière is an essential tool for those who fight for social justice and whose first language is French, said Prairie. "Whether you read French or not, though, you will want to make a contribution to this magazine," he added "so that it can continue to report the truth about the struggle of working people around the world."

Send checks to *Lutte ouvrière*, C.P. 280, succ. de Lorimier, Montréal, Québec. H2H 2N7.

'Militant' Prisoner Fund

The *Militant*'s special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who need help paying for the paper. Please send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.



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Meeting in Boston celebrates life of communist activist

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — The accomplishments and example of a conscious political life were celebrated by a standing-room-only gathering of friends, family, and political collaborators of Dave Cahalane on May 19.

They filled the Pathfinder Bookstore on Massachusetts Avenue. The bookstore's recognition by area activists as a center for revolutionary literature and political discussion was in part a fruit of Cahalane's labor.

A member of the Socialist Workers Party since 1973, Cahalane died on May 3 after a long fight against AIDS. He contracted the virus from blood transfusions required in the treatment of hemophilia, from which he suffered. He was 33 years old.

An activist in the movement against the Vietnam War at Belmont High School in suburban Boston, he "awoke to politics" in the fight against U.S. intervention in Southeast Asia, Boston SWP leader Russell Davis told the meeting. Davis, at the time a Newton High School antiwar fighter, worked with Cahalane in the Young Socialist Alliance in Boston.

Cahalane joined the YSA in the summer of 1973 after graduating from high school and soon after joined the Socialist Workers Party. He was the youngest of four brothers; the others had previously made the same decision.

School desegregation

As a student at the University of Massachusetts in Boston and a political activist, Cahalane participated in the fight to defend court-ordered desegregation in the Boston school system, which erupted in the fall of 1974. The struggle continued for two years until Black community-led mobilizations forced city rulers to enforce busing to achieve an integrated school system.

Cahalane was a "footloose rebel," Betsy Soares, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Boston School Committee, told the meeting. He was ready to meet new challenges in other cities.

His party-building commitment took him to St. Louis, Indianapolis, Phoenix, Portland, and back to Boston. He fulfilled a wide range of responsibilities in these SWP units. Cahalane served on branch executive committees, devoted himself to organizing socialist educational programs, and paid particular attention to both winning young fighters to the YSA and talking politics with them once they had joined.

Boston YSA member Elizabeth Kealy explained how Cahalane showed interest in her "own political experience and interests" when she first came in contact with the SWP and YSA in 1988. "He conveyed his confidence in my ability as a political person to grasp the ideas he introduced to me," she said, particularly the literature sold in the party's bookstore.

Drive and initiative

Physical limitations imposed by his disease made it impossible for Cahalane to join hundreds of members of his generation in the SWP as they began to get jobs in basic industry in the late 1970s, taking advantage of new opportunities for political activity in the industrial working class.

But these limitations failed to dampen Cahalane's drive and initiative.

A written greeting from Phoenix SWP leader Danny Booher explained how Cahalane ensured that regular midnight shift plant-gate sales of the socialist press were a mainstay of the Indianapolis branch, in which they were both members.

Portland SWP leader Janet Post noted in a message how Cahalane set a similar example with such participation in textile mill sales teams.

In Boston, he helped "turn our bookstore outward," SWP candidate Soares noted. "If he saw someone standing outside the bookstore window looking in, he'd open the door, invite them in, talk with them, not just have them 'browse.'"

Leap in sales

Cahalane was confident that the ideas in the books sold there would reach a wider audience. National Pathfinder Press representative Helen Meyers told the gathering that as part of a team that put a lot of time into the bookstore, Cahalane played a role in the

Cahalane was a "footloose rebel" ready to meet new challenges anywhere.

leap from \$4,000 to \$10,000 in the Boston bookstore's yearly sales.

In tribute to this example, the gathering responded to an appeal by Meyers, raising more than \$1,000 to help sustain Pathfinder Press.

Mac Warren, the SWP's national organization secretary, discussed Cahalane's contributions to building a communist organization in the context of the SWP's history, particularly the fight for school desegregation in Boston.

The big combat challenges to the party, and its conduct in that fight, contributed to the development of members capable of taking on general leadership responsibilities in the party, including a layer of fighters who are Black and had been recruited, educated, and assimilated in the SWP in the fight to desegregate Boston's schools, Warren said.

In this sense, Cahalane, and others like him, Warren said, "played a decisive role in the fight for the transformation of the Socialist Workers Party."

"Dave embraced this fight, and as a result of embracing it, as result of going into this fight, he transformed himself, we transformed ourselves, and in the process we transformed our organization."

"Seeing how those members responded, how the membership in general responded to a fight, how it became a part of it and didn't run from it," Warren explained, "meant we could build a different kind of organization in this country."

Genocide for profit

It was this conscious axis of his functioning, Warren said, that enabled Cahalane to

face the physical roadblocks imposed by hemophilia and the consequences of the AIDS virus he had contracted.

"Dave was a victim of a form of genocide for profit by the owners of big U.S. companies that trade in blood products," Warren said.

Concentrated blood clotting factors discovered in 1965 were made widely available to hemophiliacs by the early 1970s. This lessened permanent joint damage, enabling more physical activity, as well as increasing the number of years that hemophiliacs could expect to live, Warren noted. But the blood merchants refused to test their products as more of country's blood supply became contaminated with the AIDS virus.

It was not until 1985 that standardized blood testing was adopted. And even then the blood banks for profit and Red Cross blood banks were allowed to keep their existing products on the market until they were used up. But by then, evidence showed that up to 90 percent of hemophiliacs considered to have severe cases — about half the total number — had been exposed to the AIDS virus, Warren explained.

According to 1988 figures, of the estimated 15,000 hemophiliacs living in the United States, 652 had AIDS, Warren said, and 386 had died. Among them was Cahalane's brother John, who died in 1988.

These grim statistics, he noted, are an "indictment of 'medicine for profit' as practiced in the capitalist world" and Cahalane "never forgot this, never lost sight of this and what it meant."

He never "lost his world view, never concentrated on AIDS as his problem, but understood it and its solution as part of a worldwide struggle of which he was a conscious, integral part."

Eastern Airlines strike

Despite the increasing debilitation caused by the disease, Cahalane continued to closely follow political developments. He kept track,



Militant Dave Cahalane, who joined the socialist movement in 1973.

for example, of the big fight being waged by Eastern Airlines workers against union-busting concessions demands.

"In a certain sense," Warren noted, referring to the Eastern strike, "we face the same challenge we confronted in 1974, '75, and '76 in Boston and throughout the country" in winning support for Boston's embattled Black community.

"We're now challenged to respond to a fight, to meet new forces, new fighters, layers of which can and will decide," Warren explained, "what they think about us, our organization, on the basis of how we conduct ourselves in relationship to this battle."

As in the busing struggle, our goal, he said, should be to "convince these strikers of what Dave and others did back then: that we live for the challenge of going into combat in defense of working people here and around the world."

This will convince some of these working-class fighters to join the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance.

Those who do so, Warren said, will have the same "response Dave did: you will never, ever regret the decision."

Filipino unionist urges solidarity

Continued from front page

seems there is a "growing militancy in the trade unions here, especially among the rank and file," he said. "And it is not confined to strikers such as those I have been able to speak with."

"The basic issue confronting workers in the Philippines today is wages," Ortaliz explained. "As you know, wages in the Philippines are very low. This is imposed by the IMF [International Monetary Fund] and World Bank as a result of the huge loans borrowed by the government," he continued. The Philippine foreign debt now stands at \$28.5 billion.

According to Rigoberto Tiglaio, writing in the May 4 *Far Eastern Economic Review*, "Low wage rates remain the main attraction for foreign investors in the Philippines. Tiglaio reported the results of a Swiss bank's survey on comparative wages of construction workers in Southeast Asia, which found that "last year estimated annual gross salaries in Manila for construction workers [were] US\$1,000, compared with Singapore, US\$8,100; Bangkok, US\$2,600; Hong Kong, US\$13,900; and Kuala Lumpur, US\$5,100."

The KMU is presently campaigning for an increase in the minimum wage. The last rise in the minimum wage was in November 1987. "The present minimum wage is about \$3.37 per day. The workers are now demanding an increase of about \$1.50 per day," Ortaliz said. "The government's answer has varied," he continued. "Some have said they are amenable to a 20-peso [US\$1] increase in Metro Manila and a 10-peso [US\$.50] across-the-board increase in the regions and provinces. This is a kind of wage regionalization that would again divide the labor movement in the country."

"If the demand for a 30-peso across-the-board increase is not met, there will be a nationwide strike on June 1. All labor fed-

42 to 45 percent of the national budget goes to pay the foreign debt.

erations in the Philippines are united around this demand," Ortaliz said.

Minimum wage not enforced

As it is, Ortaliz estimated that "from 75 to 85 percent of businesses in the Philippines do not even implement the so-called minimum wage. The minimum wage for industrial workers is about \$3.30, and for agricultural workers, \$2.20," Ortaliz explained. "But the official poverty threshold for an average Filipino family of six is about \$8 per day. So the minimum wage is a starvation wage," he concluded.

Other impositions of the IMF and World Bank are also hitting Filipino working people hard, Ortaliz explained. "The latest is the increase in the price of rice, the staple food of Filipinos," he explained, along with "increases in the price of energy, light and water, transportation, and oil, plus new taxation and possible devaluation of the peso. So that even if the government gives the \$1.50 increase we demand, by next month it will be eaten up by the soaring prices of basic commodities."

Ortaliz pointed out that from 42 to 45 percent of the Philippine national budget is being used to service the foreign debt. "So what kind of recovery can we have?" he asked. "The KMU has been calling for the repudiation of all these onerous loans from the IMF and World Bank since before the overthrow of President Marcos and now with the Aquino government," Ortaliz said.

The KMU leader expressed his fear that the recently signed Labor Code, Republic Act 6715, would further increase repression against trade unions in the Philippines.

This repression is "more blatant now," Ortaliz said, "with the formation of so many vigilante groups. People are arrested illegally, detained, and tortured. Some just involuntarily disappear. Some are 'salvaged' [summarily executed]. This is escalating. It is ironic that some of those, such as Rolando Olalia, late chairman of the KMU, and other leaders of people's organizations who survived the repression during Marcos have been killed during the so-called democratic government of Aquino."

Fight at Atlas copper mine

One of the most protracted and bitter labor battles fought in the Philippines in recent years took place at the Atlas copper mine on the island of Cebu. About 10,000 workers are employed at the mine, which for 22 years had been organized by a local union connected with the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), a pro-Marcos union federation.

Ortaliz explained that four years ago the KMU won a certification election, and things began to change.

"Because of the changes made by the KMU, the management wanted to ease out the new union, leading up to a new certification election held last March," he said. "In the process of the election campaign, 11 members of the Atlas mines were killed by vigilantes. The management, in connivance with the TUCP and the city government, formed a union composed of vigilantes," Ortaliz continued, who claimed the election was "no longer about purely union matters, but between communism and the so-called democratic forces."

Despite this, the KMU won a resounding victory in the March 21 vote. "But only two weeks after the election," Ortaliz reported, "another two leaders were killed by the vigilantes. So the Atlas workers won the battle — for the recognition of the union — but have not yet won the war," he concluded.

Washington's Third World debt plan an empty promise

BY LARRY SEIGLE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Three months after the Bush administration's so-called debt reduction plan for the Third World was unveiled, the ballyhoo surrounding it has died down and what remains is the hard reality: the chains of debt-slavery are tighter than ever.

The plan was announced March 10 by Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady. It was widely presented in the U.S. capitalist press as a significant shift in policy.

Those who hailed the scheme hoped it would help defuse mounting pressure among working people for united action by Latin American and Caribbean governments against the debt. But as details of the Baker plan have emerged, even its supporters have had to concede how little the imperialist powers are really offering in terms of debt reduction.

"Perhaps most disturbing to officials of the debtor countries," wrote a *New York Times* correspondent from Washington April 9, "is that once the oratory is stripped away, the amount of debt relief apparently being contemplated . . . does not appear to be nearly enough to have any impact on the problem."

Meeting early in April, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank said they would make \$25 billion available over a three-year period worldwide to support the Baker plan. But this amounts to less than 2 percent of the total debt of \$1.3 trillion owed by the countries of the Third World to imperialist banks and governments.

Ensuring banks' profits

Moreover, the \$25 billion will be allocated in ways that will do more to guarantee the

Semicolonial countries pressed to put own assets on auction block.

continued profits of commercial banks in the United States and elsewhere than to benefit the debtor countries.

One facet of the Brady plan is to encourage Third World countries to buy back some of their debts in the so-called secondary market, where risky loans are bought and sold at a discount. This means direct hard currency transfers from the debtor countries to the banks, often to be financed by new loans.

In addition, the plan envisions Third World countries issuing secured government bonds to "swap" for their debts. There is also to be conversion of old loans into new ones at a discount, with payment on the new debts to be guaranteed in various ways.

Another mechanism favored by the plan is the trading of loans for shares of corporations in the debtor countries. This will give the imperialist banks part or complete ownership of profitable businesses, many of them formerly government-owned. Thus, the semicolonial countries are being pressed to put their own assets on the auction block, turning over even more of their resources to direct control by foreign capital.

Chains of debt-slavery tighter than ever.

Some of these debt conversion schemes have already begun to appear in Latin America. For example, several years ago, the Mexican government began "privatizing" government-owned businesses and selling them to foreign banks in return for a reduction in outstanding loans. Because of public opposition, the practice was halted in 1987, at least officially.

However the imperialist bankers are putting heavy pressure on the government to reinstitute it. This, in fact, is one of the demands of the bankers in the negotiations now under way with the Mexican government over a new package of loans.

The Mexican government has also used some of its currency reserves to buy back its own debt on the secondary market.

With such steps, Mexico was able to reduce its foreign debt by about \$5 billion in 1988. Several other Latin American countries took similar measures. Brazil's total foreign debt dropped by nearly \$7 billion. Chile and Bolivia also reduced their total debt.

In fact, taking Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole, the total foreign debt fell from \$410 billion in 1987 to \$401 billion in 1988, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Payments on debt increase

But this small reduction in the total amount owed to the imperialist banks and governments did not mean an easing of the actual debt burden. In fact, last year's payments on the debt actually increased by 10 percent compared to 1987.

This jump was due primarily to the rise in interest rates. According to the World Bank, every increase of 1 percent in interest rates in the United States means adding \$3.4 billion to Latin America's debt burden.

The case of Mexico offers an illustration of what this represents. Despite the reduction in the country's total foreign debt in 1988, payment for debt service grew as a percentage of the country's gross national product, rising from 5.5 percent in 1987 to 6.4 percent in 1988.

In other words, using the mechanism of the debt, the imperialists collected in tribute a higher percentage of the value produced by Mexico's toilers than they had the year before.

Increase in exports

Last year also saw an increase in exports from Latin America and the Caribbean. But the increased earnings were grabbed up by the imperialists in the form of more interest payments and more profits taken out of the region.

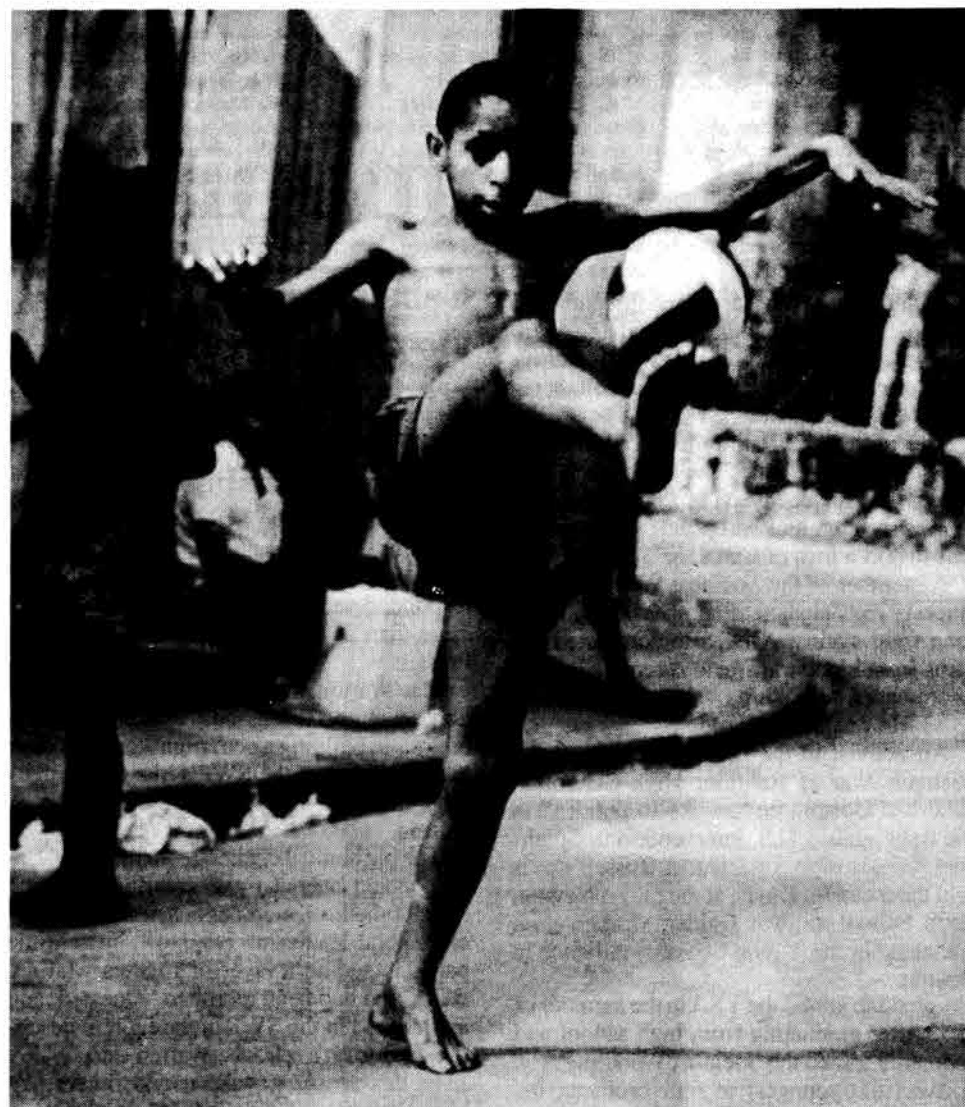
Overall, the volume of Latin American and Caribbean exports grew by 10 percent compared to 1987. Combined with higher prices

which makes statistics such as per capita income unreliable indicators of social reality.

Where there are big class differentiations, figures showing average income conceal rather than illuminate the reality. They lump together the income of a handful of very wealthy with the earnings of the great majority of workers and peasants. The result is that the "average income" is substantially higher than most people earn.

But, UNICEF's report points out, "while some people can have an income a thousand times higher than others, nature does not permit them to live a thousand times longer or their children to enjoy a life expectancy a thousand times higher."

"Therefore, in order to achieve a significant decline in the mortality rate for children under five or an increase in the average life



Child playing in Brazil. Children are chief victims of decline in spending for health and education, and of growing malnutrition in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

for most products, this meant a jump of almost 15 percent in the total value of goods exported.

But the increased earnings from exports didn't lead to any increased investment. Instead, as the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean put it, "The bulk of it was used to finance the increase in the transfer of resources out of the region."

The net outflow of capital from the region to the imperialist ruling families in 1988 was \$28.9 billion, up 74 percent over the previous year. This is one of the highest totals since the outbreak of the debt crisis in 1982.

Before 1982 there was a net inflow of capital into Latin America and the Caribbean.

Increase in malnutrition among children.

That is, more money arrived in the form of loans and investments from North America, Europe, and Japan than was taken out as profits and debt service.

But since 1982 there has been a net outflow of capital every year. The total over seven years is \$179 billion, equalling 45 percent of the region's total current debt.

In 1988 the net capital outflow from Latin America and the Caribbean was the equivalent of 24 percent of all exports of goods and services of the region. In 1987, the corresponding figure was 15 percent.

What these figures add up to is an intensification of the rate of exploitation of Latin America and the Caribbean by the ruling families in the imperialist countries.

This is translated by the local capitalist governments and employers into falling real income for workers and peasants, and sharp reductions in social services such as education and health care. It also means the spreading of environmental disasters and increasingly dangerous and unhealthy working conditions on farms and in factories.

Worldwide increase in malnutrition

On a world scale, this intensifying exploitation is exacting a horrifying toll. According to a 1989 report by UNICEF, a United Nations agency, "In many countries for which data are available there has been an increase in malnutrition among children." Average weight in relation to age, a basic indicator of a child's healthy growth, has been declining in many countries.

And in the 37 poorest countries, according to UNICEF, "spending per head on health has been reduced by 50 percent, and on education by 25 percent, over the last few years."

The overall picture, according to the report, is one of "spreading hardship and human misery on a scale and of a severity unprecedented in the post-war era."

Debt-slavery

The defenders of the current international economic order speak about the Third World debt as though in itself the debt is a thing possessing some power that society must respond to. But the debt is not a thing, it is simply a reflection of current social relationships between classes, including classes in different countries.

In a similar way, defenders of chattel slavery in the United States saw the slaveowners' property rights as an objective thing with power that had to be acknowledged. But the right to own another human being simply reflected contemporary social relations — relations that, it should be added, were bound to be transformed.

In the course of the U.S. Civil War, these property rights vanished as new relations between social classes were established.

The 19th century struggle to abolish chattel slavery in the United States drew on the participation of the most clear-sighted working people in North America and internationally. They entered the battle because justice demanded it, and because their own class interests required it.

The debt-slavery of the Third World poses a similar challenge today. The fight must be joined to transform the relations that perpetuate the enchainment of the semicolonial world by a handful of capitalist families in the imperialist countries.

The future of the struggle of the toilers in the imperialist countries as well as in the semicolonial world depends on it. And justice demands it.

UNICEF development index ranks Cuba first

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Socialist Cuba ranks first among all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in an index that most accurately represents overall economic and social development, according to UNICEF, a United Nations agency.

The scale chosen by UNICEF as "the best single indicator" of a country's overall development is the mortality rate for children under five years of age. According to the agency's report on "The State of the World's Children, 1989," this statistic "measures directly the health of mothers and children, and reflects other factors such as income and availability of food, access to drinkable water, effective sewage disposal, literacy levels, and social services."

In addition, according to UNICEF, this index avoids the "fallacy of the average,"

expectancy, it is necessary for the majority of the population to benefit from social advances that make such changes possible."

Cuba heads the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with 98.1 percent of all live births surviving to the age of five. It is followed by Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Bolivia is at the bottom of the scale, with only 82.4 percent of all infants born alive reaching the age of five. Next to the bottom are Haiti, Peru, and Honduras.

Taking the Third World as a whole, Cuba ranks second, behind Singapore.

In addition, Cuba is one of the top 10 countries in the world — including the advanced capitalist countries — in the rate of improvement in this index since 1960. — L.S.

'Resistance Conspiracy' case to go to trial

Interview with Marilyn Buck, one of six defendants in D.C. jail

BY KATHRYN CROWDER
AND NANCY BROWN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Six political activists are scheduled to go on trial here this year. The six — Alan Berkman, Timothy Blunk, Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans, Susan Rosenberg, and Laura Whitehorn — are known as the "Resistance Conspiracy Case" defendants. These activists are in prison for their political views and activities.

On May 11, 1988, they were indicted on conspiracy charges by the U.S. government. They are accused of bombing the U.S. Capitol and other military buildings in 1983 following the U.S. invasion of Grenada.

According to Mary O'Melveny, attorney for Susan Rosenberg, "The government does not know who carried out the bombings and has no evidence that any of the six were directly involved in them."

'Preventive detention'

Five of the six defendants are already serving long prison terms on previous charges. They were brought to Washington from various prisons around the country following the indictment. The sixth defendant, Laura Whitehorn, has been incarcerated for four years awaiting trial. She has been convicted of no crime, but continues to be held under "preventive detention," without bail.

In the federal courtroom where the six will go on trial, the government has erected a three-inch-thick bulletproof wall to separate the defendants from supporters and friends. Surveillance cameras have been installed on the walls to record actions of defendants and visitors in the court.

During the pretrial hearings, which began in March, visitors passed through metal detectors and were searched twice. Inside the courtroom, nine federal marshals sat inside the Plexiglas wall. Other government agents sat on the other side of the wall.

The Washington Area Committee for Political Prisoners Rights, which is organizing support for the Resistance Conspiracy defendants, has built picket lines and meetings to protest the bulletproof wall and cameras as "prejudicial."

In April, Judge Harold Greene ruled that the wall and cameras would stay.

In the pretrial hearings, the defense attorneys argued against the government's attempt to use evidence from earlier trials of three defendants to convict them again. Last month, Judge Greene dismissed the charges against Berkman, Blunk, and Rosenberg, stating that to try them with the same evidence used to convict them earlier would be

double jeopardy.

For the past year the defendants have been held in the D.C. Detention Facility.

In March, the *Militant* spoke with Marilyn Buck. Although the defendants fought for and won the right to visitors, including the press, it took the *Militant* more than three weeks to be allowed inside the prison.

Buck has been a political activist since

In 1981 Buck was targeted by the FBI for her alleged role in a Brink's armored car robbery. She was arrested in 1985, denied bail, and in 1987 was tried and convicted along with Mutulu Shakur. She is now serving sentences totaling 70 years in prison.

When Buck and the other defendants arrived at the D.C. jail they were put under "special handling." They were in lockdown

would start coming to our cells anyway. Even if it was just to say, 'Who are you? Why are they doing this to you?'"

"They tried to inspire fear on the prisoner level," Buck said. "We couldn't come out when anyone else was out, and when we did," she said, "we were chained and shackled."

In November prison officials were finally forced to do away with some of the restrictions.

"The jail officials then created the category of 'modified special handling,'" explained Buck. "We're no longer under 23 and a half hours lockdown, but we can't go anywhere off our unit. We still haven't been outside for nearly a year. I don't know if it's sunny or snowing, or if there's a hurricane. I don't know if it's day or night."

Buck gets only eight hours' visiting time each month.

She continued, "We can't go off the units except for legal meetings and social visits. So even if anyone wanted to go to church, you can't go to church. You can't go to the law library. We can't see each other except at our legal meetings."

Right to work

For months the defendants were denied the right to work.

"I finally got a job washing women's clothes two week ago," Buck told us. "I fought for it. Part of the reason is that I like to work. I think that part of being in prison is to really demean a person's labor. A lot of the isolation is about lack of productivity. The thing I've really understood about being in a situation like this is that part of our social value and also part of our own self-esteem comes from our level of productivity and socialization within society."

Work details include laundry, painting, cleaning, and secretarial work for the administration.

"It's all extremely exploitative," Buck said. "It's 11 cents an hour."

Curtis frame-up and human rights

Buck talked about her support for Mark Curtis, the packinghouse worker and political activist who was convicted on phony rape and burglary charges in Iowa. She's been following the case in the *Militant*.

"I definitely have been supporting him," Buck told us. "I've written several letters to the support committee. Because I'm a political prisoner, I want to talk with him."

"I'm outraged," she continued. "It's clear from just looking at his history that he's a real dedicated comrade and someone to be contended with. It's part of the political repression that they have to target some people to scare other people away from doing the same types of things."

"The issue of immigration and the whole attack on the so-called illegal immigrants and undocumented workers is bad right now."

"I think international conditions are changing, to be able to focus on human rights and, of course, political prisoners," Buck said. "Although the United States is still strongman, king of the mountain, in terms of power worldwide, it is eroding."

She talked about how differently these questions are approached in Cuba.

"Look at the fact that Cuba would let people from this country go look at the prisons there, but [the U.S. government] wouldn't allow the Cuban people to come look at the prisons here. Cuba has released some of their political prisoners. They don't talk about political prisoners here."

In Cuba, she added, "you don't have people rising up. Nobody is homeless. People go to school. The youth of Cuba are much better educated than us. Cubans are educated with more of a world view."

"I love Cuba. I love the Cuban people," Buck said. "They are such an amazing country, such a small country. They have been able to live the politics, to put the theory into practice and not just say that everything is great in Cuba. There are problems I'm sure, but the fact of the constant struggle forward and being internationalist is so important. To me it's the future of the world, the kind of internationalism the Cuban people have."

For more information on the case and how to contact the defendants, write: Washington Area Committee for Political Prisoners Rights, P.O. Box 28191, Washington, D.C. 20038-8191.



Militant/Nancy Brown

Marilyn Buck. She is already serving a 70-year sentence.

1967. She has been a participant in women's rights struggles, and in solidarity with the Vietnamese revolution, Palestinian struggle, and the fight to overthrow the shah of Iran. She was a leader of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), and coeditor of their newspaper, *New Left Notes*, when she was 20.

Because of her support to the struggle of Blacks fighting for their liberation, Buck became a target of the FBI's Counterintelligence Program (COINTELPRO) in the 1970s. In 1973 she was arrested and convicted of buying two boxes of ammunition with false identification. She was sentenced to 10 years in prison — the longest sentence ever given for such an offense at that time.

for 23 and a half hours each day.

Before the defendants' arrival, prison officials tried to insure their isolation by telling other prisoners the six were "terrorists."

"One story," Buck explained, "was that we were here for plotting to assassinate Jesse Jackson. Another was that we were Ku Klux Klan people."

More than 95 percent of the prisoners at the jail are Black. The six defendants are white.

"The reaction of the prisoners was different than what the government wanted," explained Buck. Even though "they ordered people not to come around because they would get a disciplinary report and they would go to the hole for 14 days, prisoners

Coal output slowed by miners' strike

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The eight-week-old strike by the United Mine Workers has cut Pittston Coal Group's production by 60 percent, the May 27 *Charleston Gazette* reported. Some 1,700 miners are on strike at Pittston's Virginia and West Virginia mines.

Demand for coal is higher than last year, and Pittston President Michael Odom admits the strike is preventing the company from getting its share of the expanding market.

Mass picket lines in Virginia and West Virginia are continuing. Hundreds of miners, standing shoulder to shoulder, have kept scabs and coal trucks out of Pittston's West Virginia mines in Slab Fork Hollow. Because both the pickets and the trucks are on private CSX railroad property — and the railroad hasn't objected — there have been no arrests there so far.

However, in southwest Virginia, 200 miners were arrested on May 18 and May 26. They were charged with obstructing vehicles.

Special prosecutors in Virginia have begun hearings on the cases of more than 2,000 miners arrested earlier. Thirty cases were dismissed on May 23 for lack of evidence.

UMWA attorney Frank Kilgore told the press that while massive numbers of warrants have been issued against miners, the union has had a difficult time bringing charges against scab coal haulers who have

hit and injured picketers. He pointed to one case where 21 miners are charged with "conspiracy to throw one rock" and have had high bonds set.

Under pressure to fill orders for coal, Pittston has stepped up its legal assault and slander campaign against the union.

On May 16 a federal judge fined the union \$218,000 for contempt of an injunction limiting the number of pickets at Pittston's Virginia mines. The company's attorneys had asked the judge to fine the union \$122 million (the amount in the union's selective strike fund), and to jail union officials.

Mine Workers spokesman Joseph Corcoran said the judge refused to jail union representatives and limited the fines because he felt the union had been sincere in its efforts to discourage violence. The union is considering appealing the fines.

Pittston also filed suit in West Virginia to have the union held in contempt of an earlier injunction that ordered pickets to stop blocking mine entrances at Slab Fork Hollow. Pittston is demanding that miners be arrested and removed from that picket line, despite CSX's position allowing them on railroad property. The hearings in this case are continuing.

UMWA officials in both states say union members will continue to peacefully block coal from moving, despite court rulings.

For more than two weeks, Pittston has

been running a series of major ads in newspapers of the coalfields area.

One set accuses the union of violating a sweeping federal injunction issued after the UMWA's 1984-85 selective strike against A.T. Massey Coal Co.

This injunction orders the United Mine Workers to refrain from "mass picketing which is coercive," to refrain from blocking entry to mines, or threatening employees of Massey. The terms of the injunction also apply to any other coal industry employer involved in a labor dispute in the states of West Virginia, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania. It holds local, district, and international union officials responsible for enforcing the injunction.

Some of the ads accuse miners of stoning coal trucks, arson, using gunfire, death threats, endangering the life of a pregnant woman, and use of explosives.

Other ads try to portray Pittston as a civic-minded, prouction company that is offering a better contract than other coal operators.

On May 21 the United Mine Workers sponsored a full-page ad in the *Charleston Gazette*. It was signed by 90 prominent religious leaders in the Greenwich, Connecticut, area, where Pittston is headquartered. The ad supports the miners' effort to gain a fair contract, points to the company's record earnings, and calls on Pittston to "act justly."

Decades of struggle led to victory of Chinese revolution

BY FRED FELDMAN

(First of a series)

The current upheaval in China takes place in a country that was transformed several decades ago by one of the most profound social revolutions in human history.

Beginning with the opening stages of World War II and extending into the mid-1950s, Chinese workers and peasants

BEHIND CRISIS IN CHINA

waged battles that toppled the dictatorship of Chiang Kai-shek, ended imperialist domination, abolished landlordism, established a unified national state, and overturned capitalist property relations.

In 1949, when the Chinese Communist Party and its peasant-based army came to power, China was a country of some 450 million people. (There are 1.1 billion now.) More than 85 percent lived in rural areas, with the overwhelming majority barely eking out a living as peasants and agricultural workers.

For many centuries, the country had been ruled by a semifeudal landed aristocracy that was thoroughly intertwined with the military-bureaucratic machine headed by the emperor.

Plundered peasantry

In a series of wars in the 19th century, China was virtually stripped of its independence by Britain, Japan, the United States, Germany, and other imperialist powers. Capitalist exploitation became intertwined with traditional forms, a brutally exploited industrial working class began to emerge in cities such as Shanghai, and the conditions of the peasants deteriorated further.

Peasants were plundered by the imperialists, local capitalists, landlords, merchants, marauding warlords, and tax collectors and other government bureaucrats.

The mass of peasants lived in hunger, illiteracy, and isolation from the rest of the

world. Famines and epidemics of cholera and other diseases periodically took a heavy toll in lives. Democratic rights were denied to all sectors of the population.

Women were doubly oppressed, toiling in silk production, processing grain, carrying fuel and water, and performing household tasks. As children, they could be bought and sold as prostitutes or concubines. Among the upper classes, women's feet were often bound so as to deform them — supposedly for beautification but actually as a symbol of subjugation.

According to a 1927 survey, 30 percent of the rural population owned no land, and another 25 percent held title to only part of their land. They were required to pay up to half of their crop as rent. More than 20 percent owned land, but held less than 1.7 acres. A 1936 survey found that those owning 1.7 acres or less had increased to 60 percent of the population. About 20 million lived as vagabonds, with no fixed dwelling place.

The emperor had been overturned and a republic established in 1911, but competing warlords linked to imperialist powers established their power in various regions of the country. A big revolutionary upheaval of workers and peasants took place from 1925 to 1927, but was defeated, and the dictatorship of Chiang Kai-shek was established.

In 1931 the Japanese imperialists invaded. They set up a puppet regime in Manchuria under the former emperor. In 1937 they launched a drive to seize the whole country.

Chiang Kai-shek's regime put up ineffective resistance to the Japanese drive to colonize China. He initially prohibited anti-Japanese demonstrations and sought peace with the occupiers, insisting that the first priority had to be wiping out rebel peasant armies that operated in parts of the countryside led by the Communist Party.

War and civil war

The national resistance to the Japanese imperialists was spearheaded by the peasant-based army that was forged by the Communist Party. The central leader of the

party was Mao Tse-tung.

At the end of World War II, shortly after the Japanese defeat, the rebel forces had seized areas of the Chinese countryside encompassing nearly 150 million people. The CP regime in these areas gained support by advocating and implementing measures that reflected many of the aspirations of peasants, workers, students, and others opposed to Chiang.

Mao and other leaders (who included Deng Xiaoping, the current leader of the government) sought first of all, however, to guard the interests of an increasingly privileged stratum in the governing bureaucracy, a stratum that included the hierarchy of both the party and the army.

After the breakdown of efforts to reach agreement with Chiang on a coalition between Chiang's forces and those led by Mao, full-scale civil war broke out in 1947.

To win broader support, the CP-led forces had begun in 1946 to undertake large-scale redistribution to the peasants of land held by relatively big landowners in liberated areas. During the next three years, 178 million peasants obtained land.

This, combined with mounting outrage against imperialist domination and the Chiang regime's corruption and repression, fueled a revolutionary upsurge.

At the end of World War II, Washington had landed 50,000 troops in China to help prop up Chiang. But when U.S. soldiers began being shifted to Asia from Europe instead of being demobilized, protests broke out among the GIs and spread throughout the forces in Europe and Asia. Washington was forced to send them home, and intervention in China on a larger scale was blocked. In 1946, the U.S. government sent a team of military advisors to try to salvage Chiang's regime.

The CP-led army, however, defeated Chiang and won control of the major cities. In October 1949, the People's Republic of China was proclaimed, with Beijing as the capital.

Social revolution

The political and military machine that had represented the landlords, corrupt capi-



Chinese peasants burn the land deeds of former landlords during agrarian reform in 1951.

talist cliques, and army warlords was broken. For the first time, China had a centralized, national government that was independent of the imperialists and based on the support of the oppressed and exploited.

The U.S. government and other imperialist powers reacted with fierce hostility to the 1949 revolution.

Washington withdrew all diplomatic personnel from China in January 1950 and, until 1979, recognized Chiang's forces as the government. Chiang's forces had fled to the island of Taiwan. Chiang's regime continued to represent China in the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council until 1971.

When war broke out between North and South Korea in 1950, the United States, Britain, and other imperialist powers sent troops to attack North Korea, which was allied to China. The U.S. 7th Fleet was sent to the Taiwan Straits, and Congress barred all trade with China.

As U.S.-led forces pressed toward the Chinese border, Chinese troops poured into Korea, forcing U.S. and allied forces to retreat. A stalemate ensued, and Washington had to accept a truce along the 38th parallel, the former demarcation line between the two parts of Korea.

The imperialist assault heightened pressures on the Mao government to institute further social changes. A sweeping agrarian reform continued, eradicating landlordism throughout the Chinese countryside.

In the later stages of the Korean War, as the Chinese capitalists attempted to sabotage the economy, the regime expropriated them. The great bulk of industry, banking, and commerce was nationalized, and a planned economy was established.

Big advances

This social transformation made possible other important advances. Expanded medical care largely wiped out diphtheria, tuberculosis, polio, tetanus, and other diseases that had been rampant in the past. (In 1948, a total of 18 percent of the students at one Beijing university were suffering from tuberculosis.)

The percentage of children receiving primary schooling grew from 22.5 percent to 60 percent between 1950 and 1958. Illiteracy was sharply reduced.

The production of electrical power increased 400 percent, coal by 300 percent, textiles by more than 100 percent, and steel by more than 1,100 percent.

These gains were better than those being scored in those years by semicolonial countries, such as India, that had recently won their independence, but remained under capitalist rule.

In the wake of these events, however, the Mao government stepped up efforts to stabilize the privileges and power of the bureaucratic caste. From the beginning, the regime had resisted demands for institutionalizing even the most elementary democratic rights — freedom of speech, press, assembly, and others.

Efforts to stabilize the regime and control mass unrest led to a pattern of bitter factional struggles and sharp zigzags in policy that has continued to this day.

The next article in this series will take up the economic and social policies that the Mao Tse-tung leadership called the "great leap forward."

China gov't begins to arrest protesters

Continued from front page

motorcycle club, who had played a role in informing the protest leaders in the square about troop movements and other developments in the city.

The government also seized on the students' installation on the square of a 27-foot statue modeled on the U.S. Statue of Liberty as a pretext for stepping up a counter-offensive. The protesters named the statue the "Goddess of Democracy and Freedom."

A government radio announcer declared May 30 that the statue was "an insult to our national dignity."

On May 31 backers of the government of Premier Li Peng staged a counterdemonstration in Beijing supporting the authorities — the first such demonstration in the capital since the current wave of protests began.

The government has not yet enforced the May 20 decree proclaiming martial law in parts of Beijing, in part because of the massive outpouring of support for the Tiananmen protest that the decree evoked and because of divisions within the military command structure.

Deng gains in fight

But the protests began to lose steam as evidence mounted that Premier Li Peng and Deng Xiaoping, the dominant figure in the government, had the upper hand for the time being in the faction fight being waged in the government and ruling Communist Party.

The student protesters had demanded that Li resign and Deng step down. They voiced support for party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang, who was reportedly stripped of his authority by Deng before the martial law decree was made public.

At about this time, reported Daniel Southerland from Beijing in the May 26

Washington Post, Zhao's allies in the party "began actively joining the demonstrations, presumably with Zhao's explicit support."

Li and Deng were reported to have obtained majorities in meetings of the party Political Bureau and a Central Working Conference of 100 party officials.

Radio Beijing carried a message from the army high command May 25 denouncing a "small group of people" for creating "chaos." The message called on soldiers to follow the orders of the military commission headed by Deng.

On May 25 the state radio claimed that 27 out of 30 provincial governments had given their support to martial law.

Up to 200,000 troops are now reported to be on the outskirts of Beijing.

The Supreme People's Court, the top judicial body, announced May 29 that the state would "severely punish" those found guilty of causing disturbances.

These steps dealt blows to the confidence of many student leaders, who had been counting on the demonstration to pressure the party into reforming its leadership and practices.

A core of organizers, Fox Butterfield reported in the May 24 *New York Times*, were students in the Party History Department at People's University in Beijing. This is the only department at any Chinese university devoted to studying the history of the Communist Party, and many of the students are sons and daughters of high party officials.

Students from the Party History Department organized the first public events honoring Hu Yaobang, when he died on April 15. He was ousted as head of the party in 1987. These actions opened the current wave of demonstrations.

Hu had advocated expanding the regime's reliance on capitalist commodity production and market relations to develop the economy,

as well as allowing more space for political dissent.

The wing of the party machine headed by Deng and Li has now reportedly drawn up charges against General Secretary Zhao in preparation for ousting him from his post. According to these accounts, he has refused to resign.

The charges are said to include that he headed an "antiparty clique," incited the student demonstrations, was the top corrupt official in the country, fostered splits in the military, and released national secrets by revealing that the Central Committee had voted to consult Deng on all important questions.

A May 28 dispatch in the *New York Times* quoted from a copy of a speech said to have been given by China's President Yang Shangkun that may also shed light on the clashes in the top party leadership. The talk reportedly was given May 24 to high military commanders.

Yang denounced Zhao for refusing to support the decision to crack down on the protests, charging that he refused to carry out the assignment to give a speech May 20 declaring martial law. This forced Li to make the announcement instead, the president claimed.

"The movement started among the students, but the root cause is inside the party," Yang stated. "There are two different voices in the Politburo's standing committee. Mr. Zhao exposed to the students the fact that there were different opinions in the standing committee, and this incited the students."

The protests demanding democratic rights and the crisis in the regime take place in the midst of worsening economic problems that confront China's workers, farmers, and other toilers. These include high inflation rates and stagnant or declining production of food grains.

Haitian union continues fight to organize

BY LINDA JOYCE

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Since the fall of former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier in February 1986, May Day here has become a popular national holiday. Workers, peasants, and students around the country organize meetings and events in the week leading up to May 1.

I visited Haiti this May Day and traveled with leaders of the Independent Federation of Haitian Workers (CATH) on several organizing trips to meet with workers and peasants. CATH is Haiti's leading union federation.

On April 28 our first stop was the large flour mill, Minoterie d'Haiti, outside this

"The growers took all our land," explained union leader Mysteur Rampono Camilus. "Now they pay us the equivalent of \$1 a day to work up to 12 hours in the fields. It's worse than slavery — at least slaves got taken care of."

"We have no electricity, running water, indoor toilets, schools, or medical care of any kind," explained Baunaro Charles, the union's vice-president. "We organize our own schools, with volunteer teachers."

The peasants explained their long-standing demands to end the contraband importation of rice that undercuts the national rice industry, and for the government to make good on their promise to return the hardy "creole" pig, which was eradicated in 1983. They are also calling for an end to corruption and repression by local police chiefs.

Return to city for May Day

Back in Port-au-Prince, many workers waved at the CATH jeep as we wound through the city's tiny alleys. We stopped and talked to Jude Oreste, president of the CATH-affiliated union in an undergarment factory. He told us that the 350 sewing-machine operators at the Chancrilles Manufacturing Co. are paid \$3.50 a day — \$.70 of which goes for transportation to and from work. Oreste described the militant sitdown strike the workers had waged two years ago. He said they are now pushing for a workers' cafeteria and sanitary bathrooms.

On May Day more than 300 workers and peasants — including some who had made the long ride from L'Artibonite — filled the Taxi Drivers Union hall for a day of discussions. More than 17 worker and peasant unions were represented at the CATH-sponsored event.

During the meeting, workers called for an end to the regime of Gen. Prosper Avril; for the uprooting of remaining Duvalierists and their thugs, the Tontons Macoutes; and for a workers' and peasants' alliance to press for a popular, democratic government. Peasants raised demands for land, and women workers spoke about the special problems they face.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

capital city. While we were there more than 250 members of the Union of Flour Mill Workers — a CATH affiliate — held a meeting where they confronted the boss over wage disparities, production norms and incentives, and health and safety conditions. Outside the meeting, and in the workers' cafeteria at lunchtime, police and army personnel patrolled.

Union Secretary-General Placid Jean Robert described to us the workers' strikes last year, which won dismissal of the mill manager. Afterward, the union had to fight to regain the jobs of the workers — including himself.

Visit with farm workers' union

We then drove to the rice-growing region of L'Artibonite. Some 30 members of the Union of Farm Workers of Boudette Petit Place, also part of CATH, greeted us. They took us to a thatched meeting area, which serves as a school and church as well.

The peasants talked with the CATH leaders about the problems of their young union, especially the lack of funds and the long distances that must be traveled by foot. CATH hopes to provide them with a motorscooter to aid their organizing efforts.

Miners hit with injunctions in West Virginia strike

BY LIZ SOMMERS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Some 130 members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1895 have been on strike against New Beckley Mining Corp. since January 23 at the company's mine south of here in Glen Daniel. The strikers are seeking a union contract with the new mine owner.

On May 1 a Raleigh County judge added new restrictions to a strike injunction that had been issued March 28. The amended injunction lowers union pickets allowed at the mine at any time from 21 to 12. The judge also set a limit of 12 company security guards.

At the same time the judge ordered the county sheriff to increase patrols at the mine site, and to keep written records of the surveillance of union pickets. The union and company are required to keep duty rosters and make them available to the court.

The original injunction said structures used to shelter pickets must allow clear vision from all sides. It also prohibits loitering and carrying any weapons — from guns to slingshots — anywhere within 1.5 miles of the mine.

New Beckley Mining (NBM) bought the mine last year from bankrupt Beckley Mining for \$100 and a promise to hire off Beckley Mining's seniority list, if the UMWA would give up the back pay and benefits owed its members. The deal went through the courts, and about 130 miners were eventually recalled.

Stalled negotiations for a new contract brought the miners out in January, after working about four months without an agreement.

Two weeks after the strike began, NBM said that they had begun job interviews to

"fill every vacancy" at the mine. On February 19 NBM informed the mine union that Mahon Enterprises had been hired to supply the mine with a work force.

On February 22 more than 100 strike supporters staged a protest at a Beckley motel where Mahon employees were being housed. After the demonstration, the scabs checked out and were housed at the mine site.

Local 1895's fight to win a contract is getting wide support. The union hall has three blackboards filled with the names of individuals and organizations that have donated food and money to the miners. An active auxiliary of miners' widows and strikers' family members is organizing support. Local 1895 retirees are also involved. Several coalfield newspapers have carried an ad by a local doctor urging support to the strikers.

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and state cops have been called in to investigate company allegations that NBM equipment, buildings, and vehicles at the mine have been damaged in recent weeks. The company also filed a complaint against the union for the February 22 protest at the motel.

UMWA Local 1895 President Joe Carter told the Beckley Register-Herald May 5 that the scabs are "tearing up the equipment" in the mine. "We could see them running a little bit of coal for a while," he said, "but lately they've just been doing repairs and stuff like that." He cited a series of equipment failures at the mine, ranging from a burst water line that flooded part of the mine, to a burned up coal dryer that basically idled the coal preparation plant.

Liz Sommers is a member of UMWA Local 2271.



Militant/Linda Joyce
Independent Federation of Haitian Workers (CATH) headquarters in Port-au-Prince.

At a press conference during the meeting, CATH Executive Secretary Jean-Auguste Mesyeux denounced the recent arrest of 23 members of the Neighborhood Security Committee of Cité Soleil and demanded their release. Cité Soleil is one of the poorest working-class sections of Port-au-Prince.

Later, the Union of Electrical Workers of Haiti organized a cultural event to celebrate the third anniversary of its founding. The union president explained that the Electrical Workers are demanding electrification

of the countryside. "The bosses only provide electricity for industry, and for their luxurious neighborhoods. They have no concern for the workers."

Two other union federations — the Organized Workers Federation and CATH/CLAT, which is dominated by the Christian Democrats — organized May Day meetings and participated in the official government function at the National Palace. CATH had also been invited to go, but declined, refusing to be associated with the military government.

— WORLD NEWS BRIEFS —

S. Africa condemns 14 Blacks to death

A South African judge handed down death sentences against 14 Blacks on May 26 charged with killing a Black policeman. Another defendant is expected to be sentenced on the lesser charge of attempted murder. Judge Jan Basson will make a second ruling on the cases of 11 other Blacks who together with the 15 have become known as the Uppington 26.

On Nov. 13, 1985, police attacked a demonstration of several thousand Blacks who were protesting living conditions in Pabellelo, a segregated township adjacent to Uppington. Hundreds of Blacks converged on the home of a Black policeman, Jetta Lucas Sethwala. The cop fired from his house into the crowd wounding a child. When Sethwala attempted to flee he was captured and killed.

The court found that only one defendant, Justice Bekebeke, delivered the blows killing the cop, but all 26 defendants were convicted under the doctrine of "common purpose." Six Blacks from the town of Sharpeville were previously convicted under the same doctrine, which holds that if a member of the South African security forces is killed during a protest all those participating in the protest are guilty by "common purpose." The Sharpeville Six were granted a reprieve from execution after international protests. They are now serving life sentences.

Among the 14 Uppington defendants sentenced to hang are 60-year-old Evelina de Bruin and 61-year-old Gideon Madlongolwane. Defense lawyers are preparing appeals of the convictions, a process that they say may take several years.

Nuclear bomb lost off Japan leaked plutonium

The United States has told Japan that a hydrogen bomb lost overboard from a U.S. aircraft carrier 24 years ago almost certainly burst under intense water pressure and spread radioactive plutonium on the ocean floor. But a team of U.S. weapons designers claim the plutonium leak would have "no environmental impact" because the dense material probably set-

tled and mixed with other sediment.

Some 10,000 people participated in a May 15 protest rally on Okinawa, 200 miles from where the bomb was lost. Opposition to nuclear weapons is very strong in Japan. In August 1945 the U.S. government ordered A-bombs dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Weapons designers concluded that the bomb's shell would have burst under pressure of the 16,000-foot depth of the Pacific at the point where the bomb was lost. The Pentagon added that there was no chance of the bomb exploding because the sea water would corrode the detonator. The Pentagon also claimed that the plutonium would dissolve in a "relatively short time." Plutonium-239, often used in weapons, has a radioactive half-life of 24,000 years.

Torture in Sri Lanka by Indian troops reported

Two recently completed reports charge that Indian troops have beaten, tortured, and killed Tamil militants and their supporters in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. Tamils are an oppressed minority in Sri Lanka. Since 1983 Tamil guerrillas have fought for an independent homeland. The reports are done by Amnesty International and the Jaffna University Teachers for Human Rights.

The reports charge that prisoners detained by Indian troops have been tortured with electric shock treatments or had their bones broken. They also charge Indian forces with random retaliatory attacks on civilian neighborhoods following encounters with armed Tamil guerrillas.

There are about 45,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka under a July 1987 agreement between New Delhi and the Sri Lankan government to disarm the Tamil guerrillas. More than 900 Indian troops have been killed and thousands of others wounded in battles with fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

An Indian official in New Delhi said their troops have a "difficult and demanding role." He admitted to a handful of instances of misbehavior by Indian troops but added that in such instances soldiers have been "immediately court-martialed."

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Ten Years After the Grenada Revolution: The Caribbean and Central America Today. Speaker: Don Rojas: secretary for propaganda and information, Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America; former press secretary to Grenada's assassinated prime minister Maurice Bishop. Translation to Spanish. Fri., June 2, 8 p.m. Our Lady Queen of Angels Church (La Placita), 100 W Sunset Blvd. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Oakland

Nicaragua, Cuba, and Revolutionary Perspectives Today. A discussion series for workers and activists held every Monday 6-8 p.m. and Tuesdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in June. 3702 Telegraph Ave. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

Medicine for Profit or Human Need? The Growing Crisis in Health Care. Speakers: Mary Henry, union representative, Hospital Workers Union 250; Al Steinback, M.D., representative Physicians for a National Health Plan; Everado Hernandez, family mental health educator, counselor, La Clínica de la Raza; Paul Montauk, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 10, 7:30 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave., Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

San Francisco

Canción del Pueblo: A Benefit for Teacher Brigades to Nicaragua. With Claudia Gómez, Venezuelan and Colombian music; Galo Paz, Andean music; K'Antu Trio, Latin American Nuevo Canción; René Ariza and Michael Ruiz, poetry and performance. Sat., June 3, 7 p.m. Dolores Street Baptist Church, 15th and Dolores. Tickets: \$7, available at Modern Times Bookstore, La Peña, Pathfinder. Sponsor: Maestros por la Paz. For more information call (415) 282-9071 or 893-0173.

Salsa for Palestine. A Benefit for Palestine Solidarity Committee and the Latino Task Force of PSC. With Conjunto Cespedes. MC: "Chuy" Varela, KPFA. Sat., June 10, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Capp St. Center, 362 Capp St. Donation: \$7-\$10. For more information call Palestine Solidarity Committee, (415) 861-1552.

Challenging Washington's War on Nicaragua. Special guest speaker: Holly Sklar, author of *Washington's War on Nicaragua*. Sat., June 24, 7:30 p.m. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. Sponsor: Barricada Internacional Support Committee. For more information call (415) 863-6955.

FLORIDA

Miami

Postal Workers Brigade to Nicaragua. Join

U.S. and Canadian letter carriers, clerks, and mailhandlers. Tour and meet with postal-telecommunications union of Nicaragua, and with other labor, women's, neighborhood, farmer, and youth groups; work alongside Nicaraguan postal workers to help reconstruct war- and hurricane-damaged facilities; join celebration of 10th anniversary of July 19, 1979, overthrow of Somoza dictatorship. July 11-20. Cost: \$900 from Miami (includes airfare, hotel, two meals/day, guide translator). For more information contact Postal Workers for Peace, P.O. Box 37-0135, Miami, Fla. 33137; (305) 435-0392.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Free Mark Curtis. End the Frame-up. Defend Prisoners' Right to Read! Speakers: Ellen Whitt, Steering Committee, Mark Curtis Defense Committee, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431, coworker of Curtis; Sammie Roberts, president, Alabama State National Organization for Women; Hollis Watkins, longtime activist in Mississippi, board member, Foundation for Children and Youth; Maxine Cousin, Concerned Citizens for Justice, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Linda Riggins, president, Service Employees International Union Local 679, Justice for Janitors; Robin Singer, Atlanta Committee on Latin America; others. Sat., June 3. Reception 7:30 p.m.; rally 8 p.m. M.L.K. Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change, 449 Auburn Ave., Rooms 261-2. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Georgia Supporters of Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

The Drug Trade: A Highly Profitable Capitalist Business. Sat., June 10, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Victory Rally for Embassy Suites Five. Sat., June 10, 7 p.m. Oak Park Community Center, North Minneapolis. For more information call (612) 625-0045.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

A Night of Food, Dance, and Solidarity. Benefit for Nicaragua Solidarity Network. Sat., June 3, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. 63 W 92nd St. Donation: \$7.

Protest Iowa Prison Ban on Non-English Literature for Mark Curtis. Benefit for the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Poetry reading with Piri Thomas, Rich Lesnick on flute. Sun., June 4, 4:30 p.m. Local 802 Musicians Union Hall, 330 W 42 St. Donation: \$10. Sponsor: Supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

Women to Women Struggling for Peace and Justice in El Salvador. A recital of women's poetry, video, music, and reception, with Sonia Sanchez, poet; Pura Fe, an Indian women's group; Flor del Valle, Salvadoran musician. Fri., June 9, 7 p.m. Local 1199, 310 W 43rd St. Donation: \$10 to Salvadoran Women's Health Project. Sponsors: MADRE, WREE, Women's Workshop for the Americas, Somos Hermanas, Union of Palestinian Women Association in U.S., Organization of Asian Women, others. For more information call (212) 255-3559.

Sanctions Now! March and Rally — Soweto Day, a Celebration of the Uprising of South African Youth. Mobil Out of South Africa and

U.S. Hands Off Panama!

FLORIDA

Miami

Speaker: Thabo Ntweng, 1989 Socialist Workers mayoral candidate. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., June 10, 7:30 p.m. 37 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

IOWA

Des Moines

Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 3, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

MINNESOTA

Austin

Speaker: Dean Peoples, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-6. Sat., June 10, 7 p.m. 407½ N Main St. Donation: \$2. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

Speakers: Alan Dale, Nicaragua Solidarity Committee; Erica Lepp, community activist; representative Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 3, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Do-

nation: \$2. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

OREGON

Portland

Panel of speakers including Martín González, director of Central America Outreach for American Friends Service Committee; Robin Cash, Socialist Workers Party, activist in Central America solidarity movement. Sat., June 3, 7:30 p.m. 2730 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. (formerly Union). Donation: \$2. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

TEXAS

Houston

Sat., June 17, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Speaker: Maria Hamberg. Sat., June 17, 15.00. Folkets Hus, room 614 (entrance Barnhusgatan 12).

All events sponsored by the Militant Labor Forums.

Namibia! Speakers from African National Congress of South Africa and South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia. Cultural presentations by the ANC Sechaba Singers and Dinizulu Drum and Dance Ensemble. Fri., June 16, 3 p.m. Picket at Sen. Alphonse D'Amato's office, 1 Penn Plaza, 7th Ave. between 30 and 31 sts.; rally at Mobil Oil headquarters, 150 E 42nd St., between 3rd and Lexington aves. Cultural presentations begin at 4 p.m. Sponsor: The Northeast Region Southern Africa Solidarity Network. For more information call (212) 870-2928 or 962-1210.

OREGON

Portland

Cuba Now: A Report from Recent Visitors. Speakers: Steve Craine, participant in April trip to Cuba with the Venceremos Brigade; others. Sat., June 10, 7:30 p.m. 2730 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. (formerly Union). Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

The Battle Against AIDS. Speaker: Peter Thierjung, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 17, 7:30 p.m. 2730 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. (formerly Union). Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

Timber Monopolies vs. Working People — The Fight to Protect Jobs and the Environment. A panel discussion on the log-export referendum, fight to protect old forests, and how to defend jobs of workers in wood industry. Sat., June 24, 7:30 p.m. 2730 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. (formerly Union). Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

TEXAS

Houston

The Housing Crisis. Speakers: Gladys House, Freedman's Town Association; Joan Dinckler,

Houston Housing Concern; Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 3, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

The Eastern Strike: What's at Stake for Working People. Speakers: Greg Rosenberg, member International Association of Machinists, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. Sat., June 10, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

China: Behind the Demonstrations. Speaker: Terry Hardy, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 24, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

WASHINGTON

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China: Behind the Demonstrations. Speakers to be announced. Sat., June 10, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

The Battle Against AIDS. Speakers: Peter Thierjung, Socialist Workers Party; representative of ACT-UP. Fri., June 16, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

BRITAIN

London

The Attack on Democratic Rights. Public meeting. Tues., June 20, 6:30 p.m. Unity House, Euston Rd. Sponsor: London Transport District Council of National Union of Railwaymen.

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Speedyburger, anyone? — A new Department of Agriculture "Streamlined Inspection System" gives inspectors all of 12 seconds to examine slaughtered cattle as



Harry Ring

they whiz by. Officials say this makes inspection more "scientific," and, they add, it can give production a 40 percent boost.

Lorenzo's loony toon — East-

ern Airline strikers are being brainwashed by union propaganda, says Eastern's Frank Lorenzo. "What is being put in their heads," he said, "gets them excited about giving up their jobs." He said he had "a bunch of psychiatrists and psychoanalysts" studying the union material.

The just society — To comply with a court order to make lawyers available to prisoners, the North Carolina legislature moved to choke off prison law libraries. Ten lawyers will be hired for 18,000 prisoners. Funding will come from money allocated to buy law books and hire a prison law library supervisor.

Due process, Israeli style — In

Franz Kafka's novel, *The Trial*, the accused never finds out what he is charged with. In the West Bank village of Dhahiyeh, owners of some 350 acres of farmland were notified by Israeli authorities that they had 45 days to file objection to the confiscation of their land. No reason was given for the confiscation.

Major credit cards accepted — With Britain's water supply about to be privatized, the folk who are taking it over want to know who will pay for the water used by fire fighters. That's simple. Privatize fire-fighting. People shouldn't have fires if they can't pay to have them put out.

Doubledose burgers — Soviet packinghouse workers refused to handle beef contaminated by fallout from the Chernobyl nuke blow-out. Officials did say the meat shouldn't be served to children. A government disease control agency assured that soaking the beef in salt water rendered it harmless.

With an up-to-date price tag — "The simplicity and esthetics of a bygone age are charmingly displayed in a French rocking horse for children 3 and up, \$650." — Ad in *Montreal Magazine*.

Bon appetit! — "The nation's crops are soaked, sprayed, and powdered each year with about 1 billion pounds of herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and other toxic chemicals, a 10-fold increase since World War II" — News item.

They measure your feet and wallet — An old-fashioned New York shop offers what the *New York Times* describes as "sensible" custom-made shoes. Women's sensibly priced at \$700, men's \$800.

Quaylespeak — "I mean, you're the second most important political figure in the country and yet people don't even want to think about you." — The vice-president on why he finds his job "awkward."

Trump Shuttle demands union-weakening contracts

Continued from front page

craft servicer, described what the workers were told at the orientation session. Perez-Grajales has worked at Eastern for nearly 17 years. She is a shop steward and member of the local's strike committee.

She recalled that it had been a difficult decision to apply with Trump last fall. Basically, she hoped the shuttle would provide more job security and a better work schedule.

"We were in a temporary state of shock after the orientation session," Perez-Grajales said. Lower wages, fewer job classifications, and reduced vacations are some of what Trump is demanding from the Machinists. The IAM represents mechanics, workers in ramp service and aircraft service, facility cleaners, and stock clerks.

Part of Trump's proposal is to combine two job classifications — ramp service and aircraft service — into one: fleet service. Now, ramp service workers load and unload baggage, freight, and mail; set up the "jetways";

and park aircraft. Workers in aircraft service clean, service, and resupply the planes between flights. Fleet service workers would do both jobs, which will reduce the number of jobs at the shuttle in the future.

"The thing that hit everyone hardest was that workers in the new 'fleet service' classification would make a maximum of \$12.04 an hour," Perez-Grajales said.

For an aircraft servicer with as many years as Perez-Grajales, this would mean a pay cut of \$4 to \$5 an hour. Trump has said that the highest wages for most Machinists would be what those with eight years' seniority at Eastern made — and no higher. Mechanics, however, will continue to receive basically the same wages they did at Eastern.

The seniority setup will also change. In bidding for jobs and shifts, workers coming from Eastern will have their seniority determined by "company time" — that is, the total time they were employed by Eastern. Pre-

viously, seniority for bidding was determined by how long they'd been in a given job classification.

"When I came out of orientation, I was disappointed, because we'd been told one thing last fall, and now it's another," said Perez-Grajales.

Many of the workers who applied for the shuttle last fall were high-seniority workers who thought that by making the move to Trump they would be able to bid onto a better shift or have more desirable days off. Now it's clear seniority won't be arranged that way, and it's too late for workers to back out and remain at Eastern.

"At the meeting, they talked a lot about trust and integrity," Perez-Grajales said. "I've been hearing that for 16 years."

Trump also plans to cut the maximum number of weeks' vacation from seven to five. For airline workers, who often spend years working every holiday and weekend, with days off only during the week, and who work odd shifts, "vacation time is precious," said Perez-Grajales. Trump is also demanding that workers pay for some of their health, dental, and life insurance costs.

The Trump Shuttle will contract out some of the maintenance work now performed by Eastern mechanics, the workers were told at the orientation session. Companies in Florida and Texas have been lined up to perform engine overhauls and some of the routine checks required by the Federal Aviation Administration. Trump mechanics will perform maintenance and repairs that can be done "on line" — that is, that don't require a hangar.

About 1,000 workers are expected to be hired for the shuttle altogether, Perez-Grajales said. Some 168 pilots, 240 flight attendants, and 250 Machinists will come from Eastern workers who have already been hired; a few of these are workers who crossed the picket lines. The rest will be hired off the street. Machinists were told they would start working two weeks after the sale is finalized, which is expected to be soon.

The Trump Shuttle will maintain some ties

with Texas Air, Perez-Grajales explained. For example, while travel benefits for workers at the shuttle will be more limited than at Eastern, two of the airlines they can use will be Continental and Eastern. The shuttle will also honor frequent-flyer miles accumulated by passengers on Continental and Eastern, both of which are owned by Texas Air.

Threat to IAM

There is growing concern among the IAM members who have been hired by Trump that no agreement with the union has yet been reached.

One mechanic, who was also in the strike headquarters with Perez-Grajales, said he thought that union officials might reach a temporary agreement with Trump to return to work while negotiations continue.

"No IAM member is going to go back to work without a contract," said Perez-Grajales. "It would be defeating our purpose and what we've been fighting for to do that."

Perez-Grajales is also concerned about what the start-up of the shuttle will mean for the Eastern strike as a whole. "It's hard to consider going back to work when the rest of my brothers and sisters are still out on strike."

In an interview several days later, Local 1018 member Ernest Mailhot said, "Returning to work without a contract would pose a serious threat to all three unions." Mailhot is also a member of the local's strike committee. "For Machinists to begin working for Trump under imposed conditions would open the door to the same kind of union-busting we've been fighting against at Eastern."

"We need to maintain the same unity we've had during the strike," Mailhot continued. "We shouldn't return to work for Trump until all the workers at the shuttle have a contract they can support. This means a contract for the IAM and defending the flight attendants and pilots against pressure by Trump to 'relax' the work rules they've fought so hard for. We've learned from our months on the picket line that we're strong enough to resist this kind of pressure if we stick together."

Prison rules limit expression

Continued from Page 4

translation and original are sent back to the prison to be read by the censor. If approved, the original is sent on to his parents. An incoming letter gets the same treatment," reported Curtis.

"Camhn filed a grievance protesting this harassment, but he was ruled against. Now, he wants to file a lawsuit. 'I don't care about winning money,' he says, 'but they can't do this to me.' Camhn believes that his lawsuit would be very much to my benefit too. 'When I win, you win too,' he explained.

"He plans to send information on his case to the reporter from the *Gazette* to show that the warden's statements to the newspaper that the prison doesn't stop people from getting letters in any language is completely untrue," Curtis continued.

"Camhn has experienced other restrictions on his freedom of expression as well. As part

of a class he was taking he kept an entire spiral notebook with his thoughts, drawings, and satirical comments about U.S. justice and democracy. After his cell was shaken down, a guard confiscated the notebook.

"He complained to the school, asked who took it, and demanded that it be returned. The guards wouldn't say which one took it, but they did say it had been destroyed."

Curtis also pointed out that the routine scrutiny and censorship of mail at Anamosa is applied more harshly against letters that are not in English.

As each prisoner "grasps the importance of the fight" against the restrictions on receiving and circulating literature at Anamosa, "more weight is added to my side," concluded Curtis. "Excitement is being generated as we see what we're capable of."

To write to Curtis, address letters to: Mark S. Curtis, No. 805338A, Box B, Anamosa, Iowa 52205.

Soviet congress strengthens Gorbachev

Continued from back page

about top officials having country retreats and himself a luxurious home in Crimea.

Gorbachev answered some of the criticisms by saying he accepted them in a "comradely spirit." He said that he did not hear of the attack against Georgian demonstrators until the next morning and considered it a mistake.

The use of troops, he added, might be justified, however, in cases such as last year's clashes in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The first few days of the congress were largely dominated by the debate around the election of the Supreme Soviet.

The outcome of the elections to the legislative body caused outrage both inside the congress as well as outside. The majority of those nominated to the Supreme Soviet and delegates were in general proponents of what Gorbachev has called *perestroika*, or more reliance on market forces and profitability to overcome stagnation in labor productivity and economic growth.

Yet many of those who voiced sharper

differences around the question of oppressed nationalities, for example, as well as some of the sharpest critics of previous regimes were blackballed. The most controversial name missing among those elected was that of Boris Yeltsin. He had been elected to the congress from Moscow with 89 percent of the vote, and to not include him on the Supreme Soviet undermined the attempt to give the regime a democratic image.

In 1985 Yeltsin was chosen by Gorbachev to head the party in Moscow. He was forced out of this post in 1987 and later given a lesser position after he sharply criticized the slow pace of implementing glasnost, and perestroika at a meeting of the party central committee.

In the face of mounting public opposition, the congress voted to give Yeltsin a seat in the Supreme Soviet after another delegate withdrew in his favor.

Gorbachev quickly gave his approval. Adding a vocal and aggressive backer of perestroika like Yeltsin also strengthened Gorbachev's hand in dealing with the resistance to his policies in the Supreme Soviet.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

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

June 8, 1979

DECATUR, Ala. — Blacks have vowed to continue their protests here despite Ku Klux Klan violence and police frame-ups.

An armed assault by Klan members on a May 26 march left two Blacks hospitalized with gunshot wounds. But the cops—who didn't defend the marchers from the KKK—have now arrested Curtis Lee Robinson, a Black, and charged him with attempted murder of a Klansman.

At an evening rally May 28, at the Wayman Chapel AME church, Rev. R.D. Cottonreader placed blame for the attack two days earlier squarely on the police and city officials, who refused to take adequate measures to assure the safety of marchers.

The May 26 march, led by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, marked the first anniversary of the arrest of Tommy Lee Hines. The 23-year-old retarded Black man is now serving 30 years on a frame-up conviction for raping a white woman.

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

June 8, 1964

LEESBURG, Ga.—A worker for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), released here after 31 days in jail for passing out voter-registration leaflets at a Negro public school, says he served his time in a cell across from the white man who broke a white SNCC worker's jaw in an Albany, Georgia, jail in 1962.

Willie Ricks, 20, was arrested here April 20 after he distributed leaflets urging parents of school children to register to vote. The warrant was served as he escorted an elderly Negro woman to the Lee County courthouse.

"I found out a white man in the same jail with me was the one who beat Bill Hansen and broke his jaw in 1962," Ricks said.

"He told me the reason he beat Hansen was that the sheriff promised to drop six or seven counts of burglary against him if he 'roughed Hansen up good,'" Ricks stated.

No to death penalty in New York

Every defender of democratic rights should speak out against the drive under way in New York State to reinstitute capital punishment.

The New York State legislature is weighing a proposal to override Gov. Mario Cuomo's March 20 veto of a death penalty measure. The last execution in New York State, one of 13 states where there is no death penalty, took place in 1963.

The current bill calls for a maximum sentence of death for those convicted of killing for hire or killing police, prison guards, or alleged witnesses to crimes. It also provides for possible capital punishment for individuals convicted of murder who are already serving life sentences or who have been previously convicted of murder.

This is the 13th time that the state legislature has approved capital punishment legislation. Each time the measure was vetoed by Cuomo or by his predecessor Hugh Carey.

Now President George Bush, police organizations, rightist groups, and many newspapers and capitalist politicians have thrown their weight behind a stepped-up push to gain the two-thirds votes in both houses to override the veto. The effort has included rallies and marches in some areas.

To gain more support, they have manipulated widespread concern about the drug trade and the many killings associated with it and the outrage over the rape and beating of a young woman in Central Park in April. But drug peddling and antisocial violence isn't something these forces care about. They want the death penalty as a weapon against working people.

The antidemocratic character of the campaign was captured in a May 1 advertisement in New York newspapers

by real estate and financial speculator Donald Trump.

"Bring back the death penalty," Trump proclaimed. "Bring back our police!" "Criminals must be told," he continued, "that their CIVIL LIBERTIES END WHEN AN ATTACK ON OUR SAFETY BEGINS." (capitals in original)

"Unshackle" the police, he demanded, "from the constant chant of 'police brutality'... We must cease... pandering to the criminal population of this city."

When this billionaire rip-off artist talks about the "criminal population of this city," he means workers, young people, and anyone else who resists exploitation and oppression.

That includes the workers on the picket lines at Eastern Airlines in New York City, who are demanding that Trump or any other potential owner recognize union rights and conditions.

As far as the rulers are concerned, "civil liberties end" — or ought to — when workers and farmers fight back. Working people, however, need every inch of elbow room in which to carry on the battle for our rights. That means fighting for freedom of speech, press, and assembly; for the right of bail and the thoroughgoing enforcement of the rights of people charged with crimes in the courts; and against savage punishments such as the death penalty.

Capital punishment is a weapon of intimidation and terror in the hands of the exploiters. New York should follow the lead of the Nicaraguan government, which outlawed the death penalty 10 years ago when it came to power as the result of a popular revolution. The death penalty should be abolished everywhere and not reinstated in New York State or anywhere else.

Defend the right to travel

Do customs officials have the right to single out travelers for special harassment if they are Black or hold certain political views? This is at issue in Canada, where customs agents at the Vancouver International Airport detained James Harris on May 26 and threatened to deny him entry into the country.

Harris is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York. He explains that the harassment began because he was Black and then escalated when customs officials saw socialist literature in his briefcase.

The charge rings true to many leaders and activists in the labor movement, Black struggle, and immigrant rights groups. They are all too familiar with abuse by customs officials on both the U.S. and Canadian sides of the border. Elaine Bernard, president of the British Columbia New Democratic Party in Vancouver, has already written Canada's immigration minister demanding that "an immediate apology be issued to Mr. Harris." More such protests are needed.

The largest daily in Vancouver, the *Sun*, ran a story on the incident headlined "Detention racist, socialist claims." In addition to interviewing Harris about the harassment, the *Sun* spoke to Canada Customs traffic supervisor Gerry Duffy. He "denied Harris' allegations and said officials are allowed to ask any visitor about their political and social affiliations if it is relevant to customs work," the paper reported.

Duffy's statement should not go unanswered by supporters of democratic rights. Political and social affiliations have nothing to do with the right of travelers to visit Canada. Nor should the color of a person's skin be used to

single them out for discriminatory treatment.

Each time customs and immigration authorities get away with this kind of abuse, they are emboldened to further restrict the right to travel, especially for workers, and Black, Latino, Middle Eastern, and Asian workers in particular.

What happened to Harris is not new in Canada. It is similar to the racist and political harassment suffered by James Warren in September 1987 when he sought to enter Canada. Warren, an SWP leader who was the party's candidate for U.S. president in 1988, is Black. He too was stopped when he went through Canadian customs. When socialist literature was found in his bags, customs officials demanded that he answer questions about his political affiliations. Warren, like Harris, declined to do so.

Warren was held for five hours, subjected to a strip search, and then deported on a plane to the United States. A U.S. cop falsely suggested to other passengers on the plane that Warren was a suspected drug dealer.

By waging a protest campaign against this outrage, Warren forced the Canadian government to allow him to reenter the country within a week. The campaign also helped bring to light the many other cases of visitors and permanent immigrants to Canada who were being denied their rights because of race, national origin, or political affiliations.

By publicizing such violations as widely as possible the border cops can be pushed back. All supporters of democratic rights should strongly denounce the attack on Harris' right to travel.

Debt sets off social explosions

In spite of growing repression and a state of emergency, Argentine working people unable to pay inflated prices are storming supermarkets for food.

Argentina — one of the world's largest exporters of food — is a victim of the foreign debt trap set up through the banks of the ruling rich families in the United States and other imperialist countries. The Third World foreign debt is \$1.3 trillion. Argentina alone owes the imperialist banks \$59.6 billion.

The crisis in this Southern Cone country is part of the generalized economic, political, and social crisis sweeping Latin America. Half of the region's savings and a third of its export income go to pay the foreign debt.

As the crisis deepens, the region's toilers have stepped up efforts to defend themselves. In Brazil, the largest debtor nation among the semicolonial countries, tens of thousands of workers walked off the job in a two-day strike in March protesting the government's belt-tightening measures. The strike was led by the steelworkers and transit unions.

On April 6, thousands of workers in the sugar industry in Guyana stopped work to protest debt payments to that

country's foreign creditors at the expense of the living standards of working people.

In Venezuela, workers successfully paralyzed the country on May 18 during a 12-hour general strike called to protest the government's antilabor policies. Two months before, Venezuela was the scene of actions similar to those taking place today in Argentina.

There have been 13 general strikes in Argentina in the past five and a half years to protest government measures that have resulted in worsening living conditions for working people.

The road forward for the peoples of Latin America, Asia, and Africa burdened by the foreign debt has been pointed to by Cuban President Fidel Castro. Castro points out that the debt is immoral, illegal, and unpayable, and must be canceled.

Working people in the United States and other imperialist countries should support the demand to cancel the debt owed by the semicolonial countries. Doing so is a step toward unifying workers around the world in the face of the sharpening capitalist economic and social crisis.

Will U.S. abide by Panama Canal treaties?

BY DOUG JENNESS

In the recent barrage of media coverage on Panama, there's one date that is rarely mentioned. By Jan. 1, 1990, the U.S. Senate must confirm a Panamanian nominated by the Panamanian government to be the administrator of the canal commission. This body was set up under provisions of the canal treaties signed by the U.S. and Panamanian governments in 1977.

These agreements replaced the Panama Canal Co., exclusively controlled by the U.S. government, with a nine-

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

member commission — five from the United States and four from Panama — all of whom must be approved by the U.S. government.

Since 1979, when the commission began functioning, its head has been from the United States, but according to the treaties, the chief administrator must be a Panamanian after the end of this year. This is part of the transition that is supposed to turn full operation of the canal over to Panama and dismantle 13 U.S. military bases in the canal zone by the year 2000.

When the first phase of the treaties was implemented in October 1979, Panamanian laws became applicable for the first time in the 10-mile-wide strip that divides the country. Since 1903 the canal zone had been run directly by the U.S. government.

On Oct. 1, 1979, a rally was held in the canal zone to celebrate the first steps in implementing the treaties. Some 100,000 people cheered when they heard Panamanian President Aristides Rojo proclaim, "The canal zone will be erased from the map. All that has been off limits to us since 1903 has begun to be ours."

But in the last 10 years, there has been ample evidence that significant sectors of the U.S. ruling circles don't want to see this happen. The strategic military role of the canal, the U.S. military bases in the canal zone, and the multimillionaire-dollar annual canal revenues are too important to give up without further resistance.

However, Washington can't easily abrogate the treaties. These were won through years of massive protests by the Panamanian people and were widely acclaimed throughout Latin America. If Washington unilaterally backed out of the treaties now, it would pay a high political price throughout the region. While a few voices in Congress have called for immediately canceling the treaties, most Democratic and Republican politicians prefer not bearing this cost.

That's what the campaign begun by the U.S. government in 1986 to drive Gen. Manuel Noriega out of Panama is all about. Noriega, who heads Panama's Defense Forces, has demonstrated that he doesn't intend to obediently follow orders from the U.S. capital. As long as Noriega and his supporters don't knuckle under, Washington is haunted by the specter of formally abiding by the schedule outlined in the treaties without having a compliant regime in place.

The prospect of confirming a Panamanian nominated by the current Panamanian government to head the Panama Canal Commission is very unpalatable to the lawmakers in Washington. It's highly dubious that such a nominee would be approved by the Senate.

Perhaps Washington will try to get around this dilemma by asking Eric Arturo Delvalle to name someone to head the commission. Delvalle was president of Panama until he tried to fire Noriega last year and the National Assembly removed him instead. The U.S. government still recognizes Delvalle as the head of Panama's government.

But there's a thistle in the way here too. Delvalle's term as president expires in September. U.S. officials base their recognition of him on his being the "legitimately" elected and constitutional president of the country. State Department officials admit, however, that there's no way the Panamanian constitution can be interpreted to allow continued recognition after September. To continue recognizing Delvalle, Washington will have to change the basis it uses for attempting to legitimize his presidency.

It's no wonder then that U.S. officials are so persistent in trying to force Noriega out as soon as they can, including imposing sanctions and threatening to use U.S. troops. They scream that Noriega is involved in the drug trade and is repressive. In light of the U.S. government's backing of military dictators such as Gen. Augusto Pinochet in Chile and the drug-running counterrevolutionary guerrillas in Afghanistan, however, these accusations are hypocritical in the extreme.

The charges against Noriega have nothing to do with why Washington wants to get rid of him. Rather, they are aimed at attempting to win acceptance in the United States and other countries for this drive and to prepare public opinion for the possible use of U.S. troops.

Washington can't accept permitting Panama to wield sovereignty over the canal zone and the canal. That's the issue in this conflict.

New pamphlet is a useful tool in Curtis defense

The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis: A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice, by Margaret Jayko. Pathfinder, New York, 1989, 71 pp.

BY SELVA NEBBIA

"I've learned a great deal in this fight. Any illusions I might have held in the so-called justice system have been shattered, and that's to the good. Through this fightback, I will leave here a stronger, more conscious fighter. Those who fight along with me will also become stronger and more conscious."

These are the words of Mark Curtis. They appear in the preface he wrote from prison to the new Pathfinder pamphlet.

IN REVIEW

phlet *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*. Curtis, a political activist, was a packinghouse worker in Des Moines. He was convicted on trumped-up rape and burglary charges last September and is serving a 25-year sentence at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa.

This pamphlet tells the story of his frame-up. It is based on a 12-part series that appeared in the *Militant* from Oct. 7, 1988, to Jan. 20, 1989. The articles have been edited to eliminate repetition and new material has been added as well, including a chronology of the case.

Having this material compiled in one piece of literature and reading it as a whole is a refreshing experience, both for those familiar with the Mark Curtis case and for those who know little or nothing about it.

This pamphlet goes over every detail of the case. It covers the events leading up to the frame-up, and Curtis' arrest and beating by the Des Moines police. It vividly describes the

immediate response to the arrest and frame-up, by those who worked closely with Curtis as a socialist political activist, and of those who knew him as a union fighter at the Swift plant where he worked, as well as members of his family.

Margaret Jayko, the author, introduces the reader to the people who, in the course of the international defense effort, were won over to defend Curtis against the cop frame-up. We are introduced to fighters such as long-time civil rights activist Edna Griffith and farmer activist Harold Dunkelberger.

We find out about Robert and Nellie Berry, who first heard of the frame-up case at a March 17 demonstration against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua, a couple of weeks after Curtis was arrested.

"The Berrys were both born in Kansas; Nellie in 1918 and Robert in 1912," explains Jayko. "Her parents were farmers and his were workers. They moved to Des Moines in 1948."

"The more they found out about Curtis and the defense campaign," the author points out, "the more committed the Berrys became, especially when they learned about Curtis' active involvement in the struggles of immigrant workers."

Curtis was arrested, beaten, and framed up while he was in the midst of a fight to defend 17 Latino immigrant coworkers who were being victimized by U.S. immigration cops and by Swift's owners.

The pamphlet puts the case of this political activist within the context of that fight, as part of what has been taking place during the past decade in the political and economic life of working people in Iowa. It goes over the bosses' assault on the living and working conditions of meat-packing workers and on working farmers. "Agriculture and related industries are the economic and political heart of Iowa," explains Jayko.

"In the meat-packing industry, the [bosses'] assault opened in 1982 when Iowa Beef Processors demanded big

concessions in wages and work rules at its Dakota City, Nebraska, plant and defeated a strike by the United Food and Commercial Workers local there."

Workers throughout the industry were forced to give back many of the gains they had won in the past. By 1985, wages in the packing industry were slashed, plants shut down and speedup imposed, leaving thousands out of work.

The attack against meat-packers was part of a generalized offensive by those who own the wealth in this country against those who produce that wealth. One characteristic of the offensive in the first half of the 1980s was the fact that workers took the blows without fighting back.

Jayko describes how this trend began to change as a layer of workers began to resist the takebacks.

"This shift was symbolized by the 1985-86 strike of packinghouse workers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9, at the Hormel plant in Austin, Minnesota," she explains.

Although the P-9 strike was defeated, it helped inspire a wave of strikes throughout the Midwest. These struggles also helped set the framework for the current battle against Eastern Airlines.

It was this increasing fightback that brought Mark Curtis to Des Moines in November 1986. He began to work in the meat industry and became a member of the UFCW. He joined the battles that were developing in Iowa. It was these actions that led the Iowa cops to frame him up.

The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis is an invaluable tool for those who wish to understand this case and for those who want to win others to the campaign to defend this fighter. Special efforts were made to make this a lasting and attractive tool. Its cover is especially sturdy so that it will hold up to a lot of use. It also includes a number of photographs.

LETTERS

Prochoice march

When I came back from the April 9 March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives, I did feel more confident about talking about what I had done to the people around me where I work as a janitor.

I have gotten to be good friends with one person who said, "Oh, I used to go to demonstrations all the time. That's great that you went!" His union is the Communications Workers of America, and they had Eastern strike support leaflets on their bulletin boards.

Because he is active in the anti-nuclear movement, he received an announcement of a demonstration against nuclear power June 3, from noon to 5:00 p.m. at Hampton Beach State Park, within sight of the Seabrook, New Hampshire, nuclear reactor.

I think this will be the first Clamshell Alliance demonstration since the Exxon oil spill, and they hope it will be big. We can't go, but put this in your paper so other people may come.

Denis Hoppe
Dearborn, Michigan

West Virginia ballot

In the May 26 *Militant* there was an article on West Virginia's ballot access suit. It states that the New Alliance Party was the only third party to get on the ballot in West Virginia in 1988. I heard that the Libertarian candidate was on the ballot in all 50 states. So which is true?

I think any laws that prohibit people from voting in the primary of their choice, in order to vote for an independent candidate in the general election, is unconstitutional.

I'm glad to see there are people

who are challenging the undemocratic election laws in the United States. We should have a right to vote in the primaries as well as general elections even if we're third parties or independent!

Gary McIntire
St. Paris, Ohio

Editor's reply:

The Libertarian Party was on the ballot in 1988 in every state except West Virginia.

New Zealand subs

A feature of the *Militant* circulation campaign in the Wellington region has been the number of subscriptions sold to university students. Fifteen *Militant* subscriptions and one to *Perspectiva Mundial* have been sold at Wellington's university. Twenty-two have been sold at the university in Palmerston North.

This is on top of the 27 sold before the campaign's start to students enrolling for their new year's courses.

A number of those buying subscriptions were students from neighboring Pacific Islands who had come to New Zealand to study.

The *Militant* is sold weekly at two plant gates in Wellington — the meat works and the major car plant, Mitsubishi. Six *Militant* subscriptions have been sold as part of these plant-gate sales during the campaign.

Several subscriptions have also been sold at political events held in this city. The highlight of these was the meeting for a leader of the Comadres organization of El Salvador, where two *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions and three to the *Militant* were sold.

As a result of these successes, the target for *Militant* sales in Well-

ington was doubled, from 45 to 90.

Janet Victoria
Wellington, New Zealand

UC Berkeley strike

All the major entrances to the University of California at Berkeley were picketed by some 2,000 graduate students and their supporters May 3 and 4 during a two-day strike demanding recognition of their union. The graduate student instructors and research assistants are members of the Association of Graduate Student Employees (AGSE), an affiliate of United Auto Workers District 65.

The walkout was an outstanding success, with up to 70 percent of classes canceled. Seventy-one professors signed a letter to the chancellor calling on the university to negotiate with AGSE.

More than half of undergraduate teaching here is handled by graduate students. Their average wage is \$1,000 a month. Although they must pay state and federal taxes, they receive no health benefits as do other university employees.

In 1987 the Public Employees Relations Board ruled that graduate student instructors were employees and as such entitled to collective bargaining rights. But in April of this year, the board reversed itself, stating that they are not employees but students and therefore cannot be recognized as members of a union.

The university offered to discuss their demands but not negotiate with them as a bargaining unit.

The graduate students' success has led to a big discussion among members of other unions on campus, including within my union, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3211, UC Berkeley. We represent about 2,400 of the 5,600 sup-

port staff at the university, but only about 16 percent of the bargaining unit belongs to the union.

Mary Lou Montauk
Berkeley, California

Panama

Camp Lejeune, a U.S. Marines base, is located in southeastern North Carolina. Some of the 2,000 troops recently deployed in Panama were sent from this base. I went to Camp Lejeune as part of a team of *Militant* distributors to talk with soldiers about what they think about Panama.

The reactions we got ran the gamut. One soldier was convinced of "the need to keep America strong" and "to defend our interests there." A few others said they were prowar and anticommunist.

The most common reaction we encountered was soldiers and their families who said they hoped not to have to go.

A couple were against the sending of troops to intervene. One woman said her husband thought it would be another Vietnam. A soldier who bought a subscription to the *Militant* strongly protested against going but said if he was sent, he'd have to go.

Bill Caffey
Sherrie Love
Jacksonville, North Carolina

Anamosa strike

While waiting for *Militant* editor Margaret Jayko to interview prisoner Mark Curtis at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory, I drove down Main Street in the small town of Anamosa where the prison is located.

Just the other side of downtown I passed three women holding up picket signs reading, "United Auto Workers on strike for equity." I

pulled over and went up to talk with them.

The workers are on strike against LeFebure Corp. because the company is paying this small electronics assembly plant's female work force around \$5 an hour. Their benefits are minimal. Meanwhile, at LeFebure's other plant of majority male workers in Cedar Rapids, the pay is from \$10 to \$12 an hour. The company refuses to bring the Anamosa plant wages up to \$6 even after five years of plant service.

One of the strikers said the company counted on "dumb farmers" and "dumb women" to accept low pay and nonunion working conditions. But these rural women workers fought to organize the union and win a first contract.

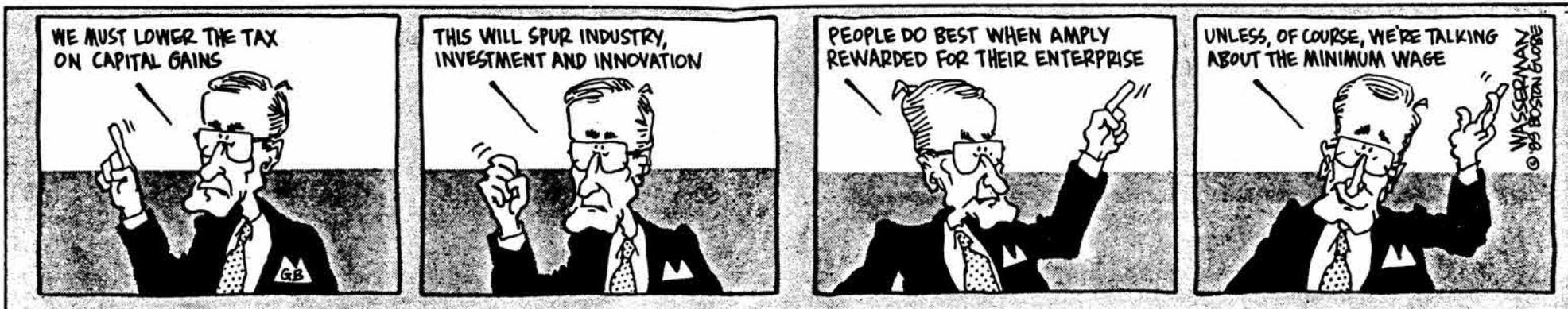
Just before the contract expired in May, the company laid off 20 of the 50 workers in an effort to intimidate them.

The Anamosa strikers are getting solidarity from the workers at the Cedar Rapids plant. They came down to picket with the strikers in Anamosa — "to get in shape for next February" when the Cedar Rapids contract expires.

I told them about Mark Curtis and his fight against a frame-up for his political and union activities. The strikers eagerly took copies of defense committee material and the pamphlet on his story and said they'd let everyone know about the case.

Ellen Haywood
Anamosa, Iowa

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.



State of siege declared in Argentina Rise in food prices fuels angry protests in major cities

BY SELVA NEBBIA

At least 12 people have been killed and dozens wounded by police and government troops in several Argentine cities since May 27. Hundreds have been arrested.

On May 29 Raúl Alfonsín, Argentina's president, declared a 30-day state of siege to attempt to control a massive and widespread wave of popular actions in the country's major cities.

Hundreds of city dwellers, mostly women and children and many from what in Argentina are called *villas miseria* (towns of misery), broke into supermarkets and other stores and emptied the shelves of food.

In Rosario, a city of 1 million in the province of Santa Fe, where the rebellion was most massive, at least 50 food stores were emptied as groups of people went through the shelves. At least seven were killed and hundreds wounded. More than 1,000 were arrested.

In the city of Mendoza, 40 women accompanied by children broke supermarket windows and took food items on May 27.

Similar actions occurred in the city of Córdoba. In San Miguel, a working-class suburb of outside the capital city, Buenos Aires, at least five were killed.

'Out of desperation'

"The sackings are out of desperation," said Norma Zaragoza, a Buenos Aires slum dweller. She said she could not afford to keep up with the prices of staples such as bread and rice to feed her husband and six children.

"I had a shotgun and prepared a system to electrify the doors," said Pablo Davola, a Rosario storeowner. "But there were many people I knew, people from the neighborhood who used to come and buy things. I didn't

know what to do."

The head of the Peronist party in Santa Fe said that some 10,000 people participated in the actions.

State of seige

Under the state of siege all constitutional liberties are suspended. The authorities are allowed to arrest people without a court order and to move prisoners to other parts of the country. The government also has the power to limit freedom of the press and of assembly.

The state of emergency, however, did not dampen the actions.

Government figures blame the popular actions on "elements of the extreme left."

Argentina's economic crisis

At the root of the protests is the severe economic situation facing working people and the additional belt-tightening measures imposed by the Alfonsín government in recent weeks.

"Not only will we implement a war economy, but we will have a crisis government," said Alfonsín on May 20. "We are going to carry out a socially conscious policy, but nevertheless it will be hard, as everybody can imagine."

Alfonsín was referring to the transitional government he is setting up between now and December 10, when he will turn over his office to Carlos Menem, the Peronist candidate for president who was elected in the May 14 elections.

Alfonsín offered to turn over power before the date set by the constitution. Menem turned the offer down.

In the week before the actions the government had announced a 40 percent increase in



Militant/Mary-Alice Waters

Demonstration in Buenos Aires in 1988 against privatization of state shipping firm. Handing over state firms to private owners is an issue in current protests.

the cost of public transportation. It is estimated that May's rate of inflation will be more than 70 percent. On May 28 Alfonsín announced further cuts in public spending and the handing over to private ownership of publicly owned radio and television stations.

On May 30 the government raised the

monthly minimum wage from \$23 to \$57, yet it is estimated that it costs around \$150 a month to feed a family.

Prices up 100 percent

Over the past several weeks, the prices of basic foodstuffs rose by more than 100 percent, through markups sometimes as often as twice a day.

In February Argentina's currency, the austral, was 17 to the U.S. dollar. By May 26 it was valued at 210 to the dollar. Argentina is about \$3.6 billion behind in its interest payments on its \$59.6 billion foreign debt.

As Alfonsín was announcing his new "crisis cabinet" on May 26, several hundred housewives held a demonstration in Buenos Aires' Plaza de Mayo to protest the economic situation. Another protest demonstration a few days earlier drew 3,000.

Supporters of the United Left, a coalition of the Communist Party, the Movement for Socialism (MAS), and other organizations, have been organizing "demonstrations against hunger" in the capital and in other cities around the country.

Gorbachev gets boost from congress, calls for enforcing law and order

BY SELVA NEBBIA

The first gathering of the new Congress of People's Deputies in the Soviet Union showed how the wider electoral competition, debates, and criticism now permitted in that country have been utilized by Communist Party head Mikhail Gorbachev to bolster his authority and power within the Soviet government.

The party leader clearly dominated the meeting and kept control of it at all times. Criticisms leveled against him were generally in the framework of backing his economic restructuring proposals and permitting him more formal powers.

When the congress elected Gorbachev to the post of president, it gave him broader powers in legislation, foreign policy initiatives, and military matters than the presidency previously had.

In his inaugural address on May 30, Gorbachev made a strong appeal for law and order. In condemning the "current state of discipline and order," he said, "I have in mind attempts by isolated persons and groups to attain their own personal or group objectives by organizing mass disorders and provoking acts of violence."

One of the most debated and publicized actions of the congress was electing the Supreme Soviet, a new 542-member parliamentary body. The proposal to establish the Congress of People's Deputies was adopted at a Communist Party conference held last July, as part of Gorbachev's proposal for reorganizing the government.

Of the congress' 2,250 members, 1,500 are elected from territorial and national districts and 750 from governing bodies of the party and other organizations it controls, such as

youth, union, and artistic organizations. The congress meets once a year.

The newly elected Supreme Soviet will take up legislative and administrative matters. It will hold spring and autumn sessions, each running for three or four months.

Congress is nationally televised

In line with Gorbachev's current policy of *glasnost*, that is, openness, the congress was televised live nationally. The Moscow City Council agreed to open up an area near Luzhniki sports stadium for public assembly while the congress was in session.

Some delegates vented differences, including criticisms of Gorbachev. Before casting her vote for the presidency, for example, Marju Lauristin, a delegate from Estonia and leader of the Estonian Popular Front, demanded to know when members of the Communist Party Politburo had learned of plans to send troops against Georgian demonstrators last month, which resulted in the death of 21 demonstrators.

She asked what Gorbachev thought of using troops to break up domestic protest demonstrations.

Andrei Sakharov, a physicist and Nobel Prize-winner, was the first speaker recognized by Gorbachev, who chaired the first session of the congress. Sakharov, who took the floor several times, said that while he supported Gorbachev for president, the Communist Party head should deliver a "self-critical review" for his four years in power and present his future platform.

Gorbachev compared to Napoleon

Leonid Sukhov stirred some controversy

when he told Gorbachev, "I compare you not to Lenin or Stalin, but to the great Napoleon, who, fearing neither bullets nor death, led the nation to victory, but owing to sycophants and his wife transformed the republic into an empire."

Delegates also questioned Gorbachev
Continued on Page 13

Caribbean meeting condemns book banning in Grenada

BY AL DUNCAN

CHRISTCHURCH, Barbados — The Caribbean Studies Association (CSA), meeting here in its annual conference May 23-26, condemned the recent banning of 86 political books by the government of Grenada.

This is "a violation of the rights of Grenadians and an affront to writers, publishers, and all concerned with the unfettered circulation of ideas," said the association. The CSA represents 700 scholars.

Rev. Allan F. Kirton, general secretary of the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC), issued a statement May 27 condemning the Grenadian government's action.

"In October 1983 we were told that Grenada was being invaded so as 'to make the Caribbean safe for democracy,'" Kirton said. "The authorities in Grenada have no choice other than to practice democracy,

which necessarily includes respect for and protection of human rights."

Caribbean Contact, the CCC's widely circulated monthly newspaper, devoted the back page of its May issue to a detailed account of the Grenadian government's seizure of "banned" books. It placed the action in the context of rising police brutality and increasing attacks on the democratic rights of public workers and opposition political groups under the U.S.-imposed regime of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize.

An interview with Pathfinder spokesperson Helen Meyers was broadcast throughout the region May 30 by the Caribbean News Agency radio service. Other interviews were conducted by *EC News*, a major regional weekly published here, and the Barbados *Advocate*.

Pathfinder, publisher of many of the banned books, is participating in a book exhibition in Barbados connected with the CSA meeting.