

Sales drive shift is needed to make goals

BY DOUG JENNESS

To make the international drive to win 7,500 new readers to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *Lutte ouvrière*, *New Internationalist*, and *Nouvelle Internationale*, a major turn must be made in our efforts.

Supporters must take steps to reorganize and place top priority on this campaign to insure its success. The kind of spirit, extra effort, and organization needed is what we have begun to see with the initial results of the eight-day April 14-21 target week.

The *Militant* is a valuable weapon that workers need in order to have the facts about important struggles taking place and to link up fighters from around the country and around the world. For socialists today, the results of circulating the communist press are the clearest gauge by which political shifts in the labor movement are measured. This places the highest premium on this work.

Many supporters report the April 14 weekend was marked by a determination to move ahead and make our goals. As a result of laying out a well-organized plan to win subscribers and by placing top priority on this task, supporters in several cities made a needed jump forward in the campaign.

Two big Federal Express packages, for example, arrived in the *Militant* business office April 17, delivering 38 subscriptions from Miami and 48 from Seattle — half from

Continued on Page 7

'Sanctions must stay,' Mandela tells Britain

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — "Don't give up." "Keep the pressure on." "Carry on." These were some of the chants that rang out from 76,000 supporters of the anti-apartheid struggle attending an April 16 concert at Wembley soccer stadium to cheer the release of Nelson Mandela.

African National Congress leader Mandela addressed the crowd. He gave an impassioned speech, calling on all opponents of

For more on South Africa see pages 11, 14

apartheid to continue the struggle and appealing for stronger economic sanctions against South Africa.

The tens of thousands came to celebrate, to enjoy themselves, and to state their deep hatred for South Africa's system of apartheid. Many of them were not yet born when Mandela was first jailed. Others were seasoned campaigners for his freedom. Mandela was released from prison on February 11.

Singers and musicians from Africa, Europe, and the Americas joined together in the concert to express their determination that South Africa be free.

The giant stage was adorned with multi-colored banners, 50 feet high, on which black and white hands were linked under the words "Free South Africa" in many different languages. The handshake was the design of a Namibian artist, the late John Muafangejo. His work *Vision of Hope and Optimism* in



Militant/Margrethe Siem

"Do not listen to anyone who says that you must give up the struggle against apartheid," Mandela told 76,000 supporters at an April 16 concert in London. Above, Mandela salutes supporters at a March 17 concert in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Spite of Present Difficulties was printed on the stage curtains.

Mandela's words, "the struggle is my life," also the title of his autobiography, were writ-

ten across the top of the stage. Two huge video screens were placed on either side so that all in the audience could get a close-up view.

This was the scene at the "International Tribute for a Free South Africa," organized by the International Nelson Mandela Reception Committee. The event was "a celebration of a great victory for justice and humanity," said the organizers. "It expresses the world's joy that Nelson Mandela can take his rightful place amongst the leaders of his people."

"But the concert also has a second purpose of equal importance," they explained. "Nelson Mandela is in one sense free. But hundreds of others like him are still held in jail. And, like the rest of his people, he is still not

Continued on Page 10

How to protect our environment

The most significant outcome of Earth Day 1970, in which some 20 million people throughout the United States participated, was an increase in awareness about environmental destruction. In the past two decades the scope and gravity of this crisis have become far better known — not only in this country but throughout the world — and the number of organizations and protests against this degradation have grown.

Moreover, it is clear that the hazards to our health and livelihoods, as well as to the rich store of the earth's natural resources, continue

EDITORIAL

to mount. The signposts of the last 20 years — Bhopal, Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, Rocky Flats, Love Canal, and Exxon Valdez — show where we have been and what we face.

Despite voluminous legislation, conditions have gotten worse. Since 1970 we have had the National Environmental Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Occupational Safety and Health Act, hazardous waste acts, and currently Congress is discussing amendments to the Clean Air Act. While temporarily reducing this or that contaminant in this or that area, the new laws have been unable to hold back the flood of dangers to our environment.

Moreover, the Environmental Protection Agency, set up in 1970, is hog-tied by inadequate funds and its interconnections with big business from effectively enforcing the laws that are on the books.

The proliferation of hazards to our environment and health, and the scope of the damage already done, is so staggering that it is hard to grasp the total picture. Poisonous chemicals confront us on the job, in our

homes, and on our farms. Radioactivity from nuclear power plants and bomb-making installations are a constant threat. Acid rain is ravaging our forests, lakes, and streams. Emissions from automobiles and factories pollute our air. Toxic waste dumps, oil spills, elimination of hundreds of thousands of acres of virgin forest, and contaminants in food and cosmetics are just some of the grave problems.

Some toxic chemicals outlawed in the United States and Europe, such as DDT, continue to be manufactured and exported by Dow Chemical, Eli Lilly, DuPont, Chevron, and other firms for use in semicolonial countries. Third World countries, under the gun to make payments on massive debts, have become dumping grounds for toxic wastes from North America and Europe.

For a long time human society has been severely damaging the ecology of specific regions. Now, the specter is raised of a global warming effect — if enough carbon dioxide is introduced into the atmosphere — or of the destruction of the ozone layer — if there is a buildup of too many fluorocarbons. Such consequences could put the survival of our species, and many others, in jeopardy.

There is also the wanton waste of nonrenewable natural resources, such as coal and oil, supplies of which are not unlimited and infinite.

What can be done about this worsening despoliation of the environment and the resulting dangers to the health and welfare of the entire earth's population? In addition to waging a fight for more legislation to try to curb polluters, there is a wide range of proposals. Many voices argue that the main problem is the wrong kind of technology. Pollution-producing fossil fuels and nuclear power, with its deadly dangers, should be replaced by solar power, geothermal power,

wind power, hydroelectric power, or some other form of energy. Insecticides, herbicides, and chemical fertilizers should be replaced by organic farming methods.

The problem with all of these proposals is that they are abstracted from the existing class relations and structures in our society. All

Continued on Page 14

Impact of Eastern strike felt as trustee replaces Lorenzo

BY SUSAN LaMONT

NEW YORK — Texas Air Corp. chairman Frank Lorenzo, who has failed despite every effort to break the 14-month-old Machinists strike at Eastern Airlines, suffered a big blow April 18 when the bankruptcy court overseeing Eastern's affairs appointed a trustee to take management of the airline out of his hands.

Martin Shugrue, former president of Continental Airlines fired by Lorenzo in 1989, was named trustee by the court. Texas Air, the bankruptcy judge ruled, was "not competent" to complete the reorganization of the airline. Texas Air owns both Eastern and Continental.

The trustee appointment came at the end of the fourth day of hearings that were ordered by the bankruptcy court after the airline's unsecured creditors — who are owed \$1 billion — issued a call for a trustee to be appointed to run the strike-bound airline.

While the bankruptcy hearings continued in the lower Manhattan courtroom, striking Machinists — a few miles away at their headquarters near La Guardia Airport in Queens — pushed ahead with plans for a

May 3 citywide labor solidarity rally.

"We did what they told us we couldn't do — we forced Lorenzo out," said Eastern strike leader Ernie Mailhot, speaking from the Machinists strike headquarters near La Guardia Airport the morning after the announcement was made. "Everyone feels proud of what our strike is accomplishing and this defeat for Lorenzo makes it clear. This man tried to break us and he can't."

"Of course, we know he's not out of the picture," Mailhot said, "and the new trustee is hardly a friend of the strike. What happened is the court and creditors lost confidence that Lorenzo could make Eastern a going operation — in large part because the strikers won't give up and because of the support we've gotten."

"For us, who have been out on the picket line for more than a year, the key job now is to keep the strike strong so we can continue to meet whatever challenges are thrown our way by the next stage of the fight," Mailhot stressed.

Eastern filed for bankruptcy last March 9, five days after the strike by 8,500 ramp

Continued on Page 6

New Zealand supporters sign up youth, workers

During the international circulation drive of the *Militant*, supporters in Christchurch, New Zealand, have found that students are particularly attracted to the paper's coverage of the big events unfolding in the world today.

At the beginning of the university year in late February, 34 students at

dent passed by and urged a friend to subscribe, telling him it is "a very good paper."

The struggle in South Africa, Cuba's role in the world, and the recent electoral defeat of the Sandinista National Liberation Front in Nicaragua were among topics discussed. Five copies of *The Struggle*

day sales efforts have netted six new readers during the drive.

Christchurch supporters have also discussed stepping up sales to coworkers. Immediately before the sales campaign began, three workers at plants organized by the engineers' union bought subscriptions to the *Militant*, two of which were renewals. A worker at the city's largest export meat-packing plant also renewed. Since the drive began, a supporter at a union-organized fish-processing plant sold subscriptions to two coworkers.

A team of striking meat-packers are planning to visit Invercargill, New Zealand's southernmost city. There workers at three of the area's largest packinghouses are also on strike. A *Militant* supporter at one of the plants has already sold five subscriptions to coworkers.

A highlight of the circulation drive in Auckland has been sales at area plant gates. To date, 12 workers have bought subscriptions at factory gates, including four at Bremworth Cavalier, a carpet manufacturer. Workers there are organized by the Food and Textile Workers Union.

At the Nissan assembly plant two

new readers have signed up. A young woman taking a family member to work decided to get the paper every week by subscribing. She had bought the paper several times before at a table supporters set up in Otara, a working-class suburb of Auckland. Many residents of Otara are from the Pacific Islands. A visit by a sales team to the central North Island pulp and paper mill netted another new reader.

These sales are mostly the result of two visits every week to these plants. On the first visit, early in the week, leaflets advertising the paper are stapled to back issues of the *Militant* and handed out. On the second visit, supporters follow up and sell subscriptions.

Militant supporters in Wellington got a glimpse of the widening popularity of the six-story Pathfinder Mural in New York when they visited Massey University in Palmerston North on March 25-26.

While selling the paper door-to-door in a student hostel, a supporter met a young woman from California who had attended a function in San Diego supporting the mural. She was very impressed by the scale of

the project and the number of participating artists of different nationalities. She and three friends bought a subscription to the *Militant*.

Supporters who visited Massey that day reported a friendly response especially to the coverage on the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Thirteen new readers signed up in one evening, including two students from Zambia and a young woman from Japan.

A smaller team sold another 10 subscriptions the next day at a table on campus.

Wellington supporters have also organized weekly sales to factory gates and in shopping centers. A young woman who attends a Catholic high school in the suburb of Upper Hutt ran across a Pathfinder literature table and bought the pamphlet *Abortion: A Woman's Right*. She explained she had just argued that position at her school. After being introduced to the *Militant*, she left and returned with a friend who agreed to go halves for a subscription.

Joan Phillips from Christchurch, Brendan Grainger from Auckland, and Patrick Brown from Wellington contributed to this column.



GETTING THE MILITANT AROUND

Canterbury University in Christchurch bought *Militant* subscriptions and three more have signed up since the sales drive began.

In the first week of the drive, a sales team traveled 225 miles south to Otago University in Dunedin where 17 students signed up in one day. Students also bought NZ\$145 (US\$84) worth of Pathfinder books and pamphlets.

Team members reported many students they met were keen to discuss politics and a few were already familiar with the *Militant*. One stu-

dent is *My Life* by Nelson Mandela and one *New International No. 5*, which features *The Coming Revolution in South Africa* by Jack Barnes, were sold.

Throughout the sales target week April 14-21, supporters are visiting Canterbury University again to set up tables and go around the student hostels (dormitories) in the evening.

On April 21 supporters will be setting up a sales table at a busy shopping center combined with going door-to-door in a working-class neighborhood. Similar Satur-

Kentucky two-day team wins 10 new subscribers

BY JULIETTE MONTAUK AND GREG RELAFORD

STONE, Ky. — As part of the seven-week international circulation drive to win thousands of new readers to the socialist press, four volunteers traveled through eastern Kentucky in early April, selling the *Militant*.

Some miners in the Jenkins and McAndrews area of eastern Kentucky were already familiar with the *Militant*, having seen it at strike activities during the 11-month battle of the United Mine Workers of America against Pittston Coal Group. Pittston's only Kentucky operation is the nearby Eastern Coal mine. The striking Pittston miners' local in Kentucky was a hub of solidarity during the fight.

During the two-day visit 10 new subscribers were won, and three *Militant* readers renewed their subscriptions. Twenty people, mostly miners, bought copies of the paper and four purchased the Pathfinder pamphlet *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*.

One miner explained he really liked the *Militant*'s coverage of the Pittston strike, which ended in February. "It told the truth," he said. He signed up for a subscription saying, "It's important to know what's going on with the unions."

In the area around Jenkins where 50 UMW miners continue a strike against Mine 29, now renamed Jackal Mining, six people signed up to receive the *Militant* and four strikers bought copies of the paper.

One retired miner invited the sales team into his home after they explained how the *Militant* covers the Cuban revolution. All the corporations "are doing the same thing ev-

erywhere and we should know about it," he said as he filled out his subscription blank.

Terry Varney, one of the leaders in the strike against Pittston and UMW Local 5737 vice-president at Eastern Coal, explained the evolution of the response to the *Militant* in the area. When *Militant* supporters first began coming around, he said, many miners confused the paper with another —

the *Bulletin* — which calls itself socialist but plays a destructive role in the labor movement.

By reading the *Militant* throughout the strike, seeing the role supporters of the paper played in the strike, and with the aid of union leaders like himself, Varney explained, "Miners began to respect the *Militant*. It's one of the few papers that told the truth."

'Granma' sales campaign 'truly a great effort'

BY JON HILLSON

Since the campaign to reach a goal of 600 new long-term readers of *Granma Weekly Review* was launched two weeks ago, more than 50 subscriptions have come into Pathfinder Press, bringing the total to 430.

The special drive, which runs to June 1, builds on the base of *Granma Weekly Review* readers that have already been won since Pathfinder announced its effort to promote and sell subscriptions to Cuba's international newspaper last November. Most of the 430 new readers are U.S. residents.

"This is truly a great effort, very exciting," said Jesús Grasso, head of promotion and

publicity for *Granma Weekly Review*, in a recent telephone interview from Havana. "It is the most successful subscription campaign in years, one of the most successful in our history."

Pathfinder bookstores are organizing efforts to promote *Granma Weekly Review* at the meetings of visiting Cuban economist Carlos Tablada.

Among the newest subscribers to *Granma* is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard stationed in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Miami's Pathfinder bookstore is setting an impressive pace, having sold 230 single copies of the Cuban periodical.

Three inmates in a California prison asked for subscriptions. Another inmate, from the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas, noted that a Spanish-speaking friend told him that "Granma" was "the name of Castro's freedom fighters' boat in the late '50s." He stated that there are "about 300 Cuban prisoners" in the institution who, "after being incarcerated since 1980, are anxious to read about their homeland." Prisoner subscriptions are discounted at \$12 a year.

Granma Weekly Review is available in English, Spanish, or French, (please specify) at a yearly cost of \$16. Send to Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

'The Militant is the most complete source of information on current labor disputes, both here and abroad that I have had the pleasure to read. It is unsurpassed as a tool for promoting solidarity.'



DAVID YARD

member, United Mine Workers of America
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Militant/Kathy Romanov
Russell Johnson (left) and Ruth Gray

New Zealand candidates: 'The fight for socialism is realistic today'

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — The Communist League recently announced that it is fielding four candidates for Parliament in the November general elections. "The 1990s began with the masters of capital proclaiming the 'death of socialism,'" said Russell Johnson, the League's candidate in Auckland Central. "The real trend in the world today is that of working people beginning to reassert themselves, from South Korea to South Africa, from Eastern Europe to Eastern Airlines."

Johnson, who is national secretary of the Communist League, described the crisis of the worldwide capitalist system at a March 31 Socialist Forum here. This crisis, signaled by the 1987 stock market crash and confirmed by the continued dips of the economy since then, he explained, "is unstoppable, opening up the possibility of a worldwide depression in the 1990s."

The Johnson campaign and the Communist League campaigns of Ruth Gray in the South Auckland electorate of Panmure, Bridget Rotherham in the city of Christchurch, and Janet Roth in Wellington "can lay the seeds for future struggles," Johnson said. "We all know workers and students who are interested in discussing politics with us today. They sense that the problems facing capitalism are serious. We want to address those who we can draw into discussions so that we and others can be better prepared for what is to come."

"We can expect more class conflict and war in the 1990s, not peace, as the capitalists resort to rougher methods to hang on in the face of rising workers' struggles," Johnson explained.

Action Program

"Instability is the stuff revolutions are made of," he said. "That is why we say the fight for socialism is realistic today."

The New Zealand socialists are campaigning around the proposals and ideas presented in the pamphlet *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*. The Action Program explains that "unity in fighting for the right to work is the central issue facing workers today," said Johnson. The Action Program addresses "what unites us, not only within New Zealand, but internationally."

"Only the workers and farmers themselves will bring fundamental changes to society," said Gray, who is national secretary of the Young Socialists and who also spoke at the March 31 forum. "Socialist Cuba is an example in this struggle," she explained. "It shows the possibilities of transforming society." Gray pledged that her campaign will help defend Cuba, backing efforts to send a fact-finding tour to Cuba of New Zealand farmers and sending a New Zealand-Australia work brigade.

Support to the freedom struggle in South Africa is another important activity of the socialist campaign, Gray said. "The coming victory over apartheid will be our victory. It will deal a blow to every reactionary prejudice."

Solidarity with Eastern strike

Gray, a member of the Engineers Union at the Fisher and Paykel home appliance factory, described the fightback that is developing in the U.S. working class, stressing the international importance of the strike by workers against Eastern Airlines. Noting the support given to the strike by New Zealand unions, Gray pledged to continue to be part of this fight.

She also explained the Communist League campaign will be part of the international defense effort for framed-up unionist and political activist Mark Curtis. Curtis understood that it is ordinary people who change the world, Gray said. "That is why he is now

serving 25 years in a U.S. jail. The bosses and the cops want to intimidate working people from getting involved in politics."

A third speaker at the forum was James Robb, a campaign supporter who was arrested March 30 for "obstruction" and "resisting the police" while campaigning outside the security gate at General Foods in the Mt. Wellington district of Auckland. A team of campaigners had already sold two subscriptions to the *Militant* and a copy of *The Struggle Is My Life* by Nelson Mandela outside the gate when two policemen arrived. After visiting the company's security office, the

cops approached the socialists' literature table and started throwing material from it down the road, cursing at Robb. He was then arrested.

"We will fight this case both inside and outside the courtroom," Robb said. He is being represented by Barry Wilson, president of the Auckland Civil Liberties Council.

Johnson told the audience, "We will act to defend the political space we have to get out our ideas. We will go back next week to General Foods entrance gate to exercise our democratic rights."

"We want to let the bosses know that when

they touch us, they buy a fight," he said.

During the discussion, longtime union leader Jock Barnes commented that the arrest was just one of a growing number of violations of democratic rights by police that too often go unchallenged. Several days later, Barnes and a dozen other campaign supporters returned to General Foods. They carried signs saying, "Defend free speech," alongside three tables of socialist literature. The campaigners were not challenged by the police this time and received a sympathetic response from workers in the plant. An additional subscription to the *Militant* was sold.

British strikers press fight for 35-hour week

BY BRIAN GROGAN

LONDON — Workers at British Aerospace, Kingston, near here have now been on strike for 23 weeks as part of the engineering unions' national fight for a reduction in the working week to 35 hours.

The 1,000 workers decided to stay out after rejecting by a five-to-one majority a company offer of a 37-hour week to be phased in over two years.

The union convenor at the plant, Bert Long, explained why workers rejected the offer when similar proposals had been accepted at two other BAe plants, in Preston and Chester. "We are prepared to agree to a 37-hour week, and even agree to its phased implementation over the next year. But the price attached — the strings — is too high. This is the worst of BAe's offers," he said.

The company offer demanded elimination of tea breaks, an increase in the number of machines each worker operates, and acceptance of nonunion contract labor. "But the worst thing," explained Amalgamated Engineering Union (AEU) convenor Dave Hunt, "was the insistence on compulsory overtime working and compulsory shift working. What's the point of winning a 37-hour week if the working week would in effect be 43 hours?" he said in an interview. "We are fighting for a shorter working week, not higher payment for overtime."

Asked about the effect on the strikers, he said, "Morale is good. We feel so confident, it's as if we'd won victory already."

The Kingston plant is the last to remain on strike out of a number where workers struck in the first phase of the campaign by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU, or "Confed") for a cut in the working week from the present 39 hours to 35 hours. The union leaders say that deals have been concluded involving a phased reduction of the working week to 37 hours that cover 120,000 workers at 127 companies. They claim that the two-hour reduction is a necessary first step to the longer term goal of a 35-hour week.

According to Bill Jordan, Confed leader and president of the AEU, the campaign has gathered momentum and "no company, however big or however small, is going to escape it."

The employers are attempting to make sure that no new jobs are created as the result of the reduced workweek. They are seeking to achieve the same output in the fewer hours worked.

The deal agreed at the Preston and Chester plants of British Aerospace involved the unions conceding operation of the plants 24 hours a day, every day of the week — which can mean an extension of the working day, increasing individual workloads, and bell-to-bell working. As a result of the new shift patterns, some workers who had previously been working 35.5 hours a week, will actually be working longer hours.

Union officials argued in favor of acceptance of the deal on the basis that it represented a reduction in the length of the working year. Whereas previously 225 days were worked, under the new agreement this will be cut to 180 days.

Workers at mass meetings at the two sites rejected the proposed deal on a show of hands. But union leaders declared the proposal carried and the strike over. Chester shop steward John Hamilton explained, "Unfortunately, the union leadership didn't take their lead from us and the determination we showed in staying out solidly for 18 weeks. We showed we had the strength to make the bosses pay. Instead, it is us that are paying. And the price is too high. As a result, the union at BAe comes out of this fight weakened, not strengthened."

Union leaders have justified such deals on the basis that a cut in the working week

is in the common interests of bosses and workers.

The Kingston rejection comes as 10,000 workers at 11 plants in the Lucas group engineering and automotive division and three sites of Weir Pumps prepare to vote on strike action in support of a shorter workweek.

Action by these workers would reinforce the fight at Kingston and reinspire tens of thousands of workers who have been contributing to a union levy in support of the demand for the past five months. It raises anew the national character of the fight, which took a blow when the employers unilaterally ended national bargaining in the course of the current campaign. The *Financial Times* editorial cited the end of the 100 year-long national bargaining procedure as "one comfort" to have come out of the fight thus far.

Washington farm workers protest conditions in asparagus industry

BY ARMANDO LÓPEZ
AND MATT HERRESHOFF

SUNNYSIDE, Wash. — More than 400 farm workers marched on the asparagus warehouses in this eastern Washington town March 25 to demand better wages and conditions in the fields of the Yakima Valley. The asparagus crop is the lowest-paid harvest in the valley.

As the marchers passed through town chanting "Huelga, huelga!" (Strike, strike), dozens of other farm workers left their homes to join in.

The demonstration, organized by the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS), hit the growers' system of "grading" asparagus and not paying workers for asparagus that doesn't "make the grade." Workers lose an average of 30 percent of their pay to this practice, although the growers are able to sell "substandard" asparagus to canneries or on the fresh market.

The marchers also demanded an end to the bonus system. Under this system, workers may be paid 14 cents a pound for cutting asparagus, but 3 cents is kept by the grower. The worker only gets paid this "bonus" if he or she is lucky enough to not be fired before the end of the season. Many workers, who can't earn enough in the final weeks of the harvest, quit to get better-paying jobs. They also don't receive the "bonus."

"The bonus is nothing more than a bond of slavery," UFWWS President Tomás Villanueva told the rally that followed the march.

UFWWS convention

How to organize the fight against the asparagus growers was taken up at the Fourth

Annual Convention of the UFWWS, attended by 250 farm workers and supporters here April 1.

Another issue that generated discussion at the convention was child labor. The first child labor laws were enacted in 1913 and excluded agricultural workers. Villanueva said, "77 years is more than enough time to stop discriminating against children."

He pointed out that children often start work at 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning and then go to school. Farm workers are told by teachers that their children are lazy, but the teachers don't realize they have been working four or five hours before school. Asparagus growers are among the worst exploiters of child labor in the state.

Supporters from other struggles attended the convention to express their solidarity, including Fred Dube, a member of the African National Congress of South Africa; Terry Young, a striker from Eastern Airlines; Bob Tuttle, a striking Greyhound driver; Bo Booker, from the United Mine Workers of America.

"When you come together — farm workers, Eastern Airlines, Pittston Coal, Greyhound workers — and we get into struggle, we need to support each other. The '90s are for the working people to stand up together," explained Elmer Laulainen, executive vice-president of the Association of Western Pulp and Paperworkers.

At the conclusion of the convention, Villanueva said it had been a big success. "I think it's going to be a hot summer, particularly for the asparagus growers, and I'm not talking about the weather."

Markie Wilson contributed to this article.

Cuban jurist condemns 'corrupt frame-up trial'

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year prison term in the state penitentiary at Anamosa on a frame-up conviction of rape and burglary.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international campaign to fight for jus-

Fernández Pérez is a member of the Foreign Relations Commission of the National Union of Cuban Jurists based in Havana, Cuba.

"It is insulting that the U.S. is referred to as a country of civil, political, and economic freedom when those who represent the real struggle for human rights are bru-

the auspices of the U.S. judicial system against working-class martyrs Sacco and Vanzetti and against the Rosenbergs.

"The most irrational paradoxes have happened in the U.S. judicial system — Oliver North is in essence acquitted while Mark Curtis is sentenced to 25 years.

"Nobody remembers the assassins. Martyrs live more today than ever.

"To slander and condemn leaders of workers' struggles, to punish the 'conspirators,' to teach a lesson to others, and to defeat the workers' movement — such was and is the purpose of frame-up 'criminal' cases.

"If possible I ask you to urgently deliver this letter to comrade Mark Curtis — which I write as an expression of the sentiment of solidarity with the fight he is waging in a dignified and heroic way under such adverse conditions.

"In our homeland, against U.S. intervention in Central America the people say: 'We prefer to die than to betray the glory we have achieved.'

"I reiterate to you my solidarity with Mark Curtis. With revolutionary greetings."

At the recent Fourth Annual

Convention of the United Farm Workers of Washington State, 71 participants signed a petition calling on Iowa prison authorities to drop their gambling charges against Curtis. The union has led migrant farm workers in important struggles against growers in the state to defend their rights and living standards.

The first person to sign the petition was Tomás Villanueva, the union's president. Terry Young, Seattle coordinator of the strike against Eastern Airlines, also signed.

Curtis was falsely charged with gambling on the Super Bowl football game in January and his defense committee is waging an international protest campaign to reverse the charges and get the penalties lifted. The frame-up is directly connected to Curtis' ongoing political activities inside the prison. Thousands around the world have already sent messages, telegrams, and other protests to prison officials.

You can help by sending a message of protest to Paul Grossheim, Director, Department of Corrections, Capitol Annex, 523 E. 12th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309 USA; and to John A. Thalacker, Warden, Iowa State Men's Reformatory, Anamosa, Iowa 52205 USA. Copies

and replies from prison officials should be sent to the defense committee.

Iowa Judge Joel Pasternak reportedly told a courtroom a few weeks ago that he favored instituting a firing squad. The remark caused an uproar, but the judge had his defenders. Des Moines Chief of Police William Moulder, who backed Curtis' frame-up, was quick to let the public know where he stood. The April 9 *Des Moines Register* printed the following letter from the chief:

"I don't know if Judge Joel Pasternak really said, 'We ought to have a firing squad' when he was setting bond in connection with the outrageous murder of David Scott. I do know that if that violent crime incensed him as much as it did me, he should give expression to that anger.

"The danger is not that judges may set a bad example when they express revulsion to violent crime; the danger is when people may be inhibited from expressing feelings of outrage in the face of violent crime."

Laurie Burke from Seattle contributed to this week's column.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

tice for Curtis. For more information about the case or how you can help, write to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311; telephone (515) 246-1695.

If you have news or reports on activities in support of Mark Curtis from your city or country, please send them to the *Militant*.

"It is with profound indignation that I have become aware, through the case of Mark Curtis, of the tragedy U.S. working people are experiencing. Curtis' only 'crime' is to be a man of honor, a fighting trade unionist, leader in the struggle for Black rights, activist for women's rights, and an opponent of U.S. intervention in Central America," Serafin S. Fernández Pérez said in a recent letter to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

tally imprisoned under the mantle of a corrupt frame-up trial in which the rulers attempt to silence the voice of justice represented in the outstanding figure of Mark Curtis.

"Although cases like this are despicable, it is not a surprise they happen in a country where the powerful impose their will on working people through the most shameful and criminal methods.

"It is enough to recall the tragic events of May 3-4, 1886, when the streets of Chicago were covered with blood, working people fell victim to police repression, and 'justice' itself was covered with mud as the Haymarket martyrs were sentenced for the same crime as Mark Curtis — fighting for the rights of working people.

"It is impossible to convey the indignation that I feel recalling the cowardly crimes carried out under

Mark Curtis' fight intensifies on several legal fronts

BY PETER THIERJUNG

DES MOINES, Iowa — Mark Curtis, the Des Moines unionist and political activist who is currently serving a 25-year jail term on a frame-up rape and burglary conviction, is fighting on a number of legal fronts to win justice and defend his rights.

The Iowa Court of Appeals is currently considering his case. In briefs and oral arguments presented to the court by his attorneys, Curtis contends that violations of his constitutional rights during his September 1988 trial, and the lack of evidence, warrant overturning his conviction and the ordering of a new trial. A decision could come within two months. Periodically the court posts a list of cases when it is ready to issue its rulings. The next postings are expected around April 20 and May 18.

A July 9 trial date has been set in a suit against Curtis by Keith and Denise Morris, the parents of the woman Curtis allegedly assaulted. The suit seeks punitive damages for the "pain and suffering" the Morris claim Curtis inflicted on their daughter and asks the court to assign to them "any monies" received by Curtis "as the result of the commercialization of his acts."

"A request to move back the trial date has been filed with the court," George Eichhorn, one of Curtis' attorneys, said in an interview.

The case will be tried before a jury, which will be charged with deciding whether Curtis did cause injury and, if found guilty, what kind of monetary award Curtis would have to pay. Plaintiffs in such lawsuits usually attempt to enter the conviction from the defendant's previous criminal trial to hasten or bypass proceedings to determine guilt, Eichhorn said. A motion to enter Curtis' frame-up conviction, as evidence of guilt, will be challenged by his attorneys.

If the jury renders a guilty verdict against Curtis and damages are awarded, a "judgment debtor's examination" takes place. The examination is used to determine a defendant's assets and to collect the damages.

Targeting the Curtis committee

Stuart Pepper, the Morris' attorney, indicated that he intends to target both Curtis and his wife Kate Kaku at the debtor's examination, as well as John Studer, Eichhorn said. Studer is the coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. The move to include Studer would be an unusual legal step, Curtis' attorney explained, because the defense committee's finances are completely independent from Curtis' personal finances and the committee has no financial debt to Curtis.

The court's ruling in the examination can lead to garnisheeing wages and other mea-

sures. Rulings remain in force until the debt is collected or for 10 years. The 10-year limit can, however, be extended every 10 years by the court for an unlimited number of years, Eichhorn said.

At a hearing last December, Curtis' attorneys William Kutmus and Eichhorn asked the court to strike the Morris' commercialization claim. They argued that under Iowa code the claim was not applicable to the suit. The attorneys also asked the judge to dismiss the case. Pepper responded that including the commercialization claim was a harmless move only intended to put anyone who might contract with Curtis on notice. He told the court and Curtis' attorneys that it was "no big deal" and that he did not plan to bring up the issue in pretrial evidence gathering proceedings, Eichhorn said. Iowa District Court Judge Arthur Gamble, who is presiding in the lawsuit, ruled against Curtis in that hearing and denied the motions to dismiss the case or strike the claim.

Leaders of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee maintain that the lawsuit is part of an effort by an antilabor outfit known as the Workers League to use the courts to step up their smear campaign and disruption effort against Curtis and his defense.

Through their newspaper, the *Bulletin*, and their international circulation of a letter by Keith Morris pushing the Des Moines cops' frame-up of Curtis and slandering his supporters, the group has aggressively peddled the frame-up and has attempted to undermine support for Curtis' fight, Studer said.

New offensive in smear campaign

The defense committee coordinator reported that a book, titled *The Mark Curtis Hoax: How the Socialist Workers Party Tried to Dupe the Labor Movement* and authored by the *Bulletin's* editor Martin McLaughlin is now being circulated internationally in a new offensive against Curtis' defense campaign. Curtis is a member of the Socialist Workers Party, which has played a central role in his defense effort.

"Using their claim of being a socialist organization, the Workers League has received a hearing from some defenders of democratic rights and union militants who would not ordinarily lend credence to a cop frame-up," Studer said.

The *Des Moines Register*, which editorialized in favor of Curtis' conviction, has recently publicized the Workers League's support for the frame-up. "One of the aims of this coverage," Studer said, "has been to shift attention from the Des Moines police, whose racist and sexist practices and physical brutality have been publicly exposed in the press and in legal proceedings, and instead

let a group that claims to be socialist promote the prosecutor's charges."

"This lawsuit by the Morris is a serious challenge," said Studer. "Its central goal is to attack Curtis' defense campaign. It is designed to divert resources, funds, and energy from Curtis' defense effort, and to hound Curtis and his supporters indefinitely.

"If the lawsuit is successful in reaching the defense committee, it would be a deadly threat to all frame-up victims," Studer added. "Similar court actions could be used to completely strip their defense committees of all funds, rendering them incapable of publishing literature, paying legal expenses, or organizing activities."

"Since Curtis has no money, another aim of the lawsuit is to undermine any financial gains Curtis could receive in his civil suit against the Des Moines police," Studer said.

Curtis' \$300,000 civil rights suit against Des Moines police is in pretrial "discovery," a period where statements and evidence are

compiled by attorneys from each side. Curtis' attorneys will soon be taking sworn statements from police who were involved in violating Curtis' rights and beating him.

Curtis was brutally beaten by police after his arrest on March 4, 1988. His cheekbone was shattered, opening a wound that required 15 stitches. As they beat him, police called him a "Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds." The suit was filed in May 1989 and a November 13 trial date has been set.

Studer said that funds to meet these legal challenges are urgently needed. The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is currently on a drive to raise \$60,000 this spring to meet these legal costs and to publicize Curtis' fight for justice. More than \$10,800 has been raised thus far. Contributions can be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Tax deductible contributions should be made out to Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc.

Kaku's Iceland tour wins support for case despite newspaper's attack

BY SIGURLAUG GUNNLAUGSDÓTTIR REYKJAVÍK, Iceland — Mark Curtis' fight for justice won important support during an April 6-8 tour here by Kate Kaku, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and Curtis' wife. The tour was a success despite an attempt to undermine the defense effort.

The day after Kaku arrived here, *Thjóðviljinn*, a daily associated with the People's Alliance party, ran an article signed by "Th.H." and headlined "Support for a rapist?" The piece echoed the smear campaign against Curtis and his supporters advanced by an antilabor outfit in the United States known as the Workers League. The group has peddled the Des Moines, Iowa, police department's frame-up of Curtis in its newspaper, the *Bulletin*, and in a book they have now published called *The Mark Curtis Hoax: How the Socialist Workers Party Tried to Dupe the Labor Movement*.

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The chairperson and board members of the Icelandic chapter of Amnesty International met with Kaku later that day and decided to write to the international secretariat of Amnesty in support of the worldwide organization taking up Curtis' fight. They condemned *Thjóðviljinn's* slanderous coverage. (The daily later interviewed Kaku.) Among the Icelandic board members of Amnesty are a supreme court judge, a TV news reporter, and

the editor of the Icelandic Federation of Labor journal.

Kaku was also able to address a European conference of the International Christian Youth Exchange held here. Fifty delegates attended a showing of Hollywood director Nick Castle's video *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*. ICYE President Hoffy Gardarsdóttir recently endorsed the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. At the conference Khalid Salimi from the Oslo, Norway, SOS Racism, an antiracist youth group; Natalie Africa, a representative of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland; and Coskun Curyuz, secretary of the Organization of Minorities in Holland, also endorsed.

Kaku won support from the Women's Slate, a group of members of parliament. Dawn, a union that is already an endorser of Curtis' defense campaign, after a meeting with Kaku pledged financial support and volunteered to contact unionists in England to inform them of the case. Representatives of the Federation of Labor, the national church, and the executive manager of Church Aid also met with her.

Twenty people attended a public meeting on the final evening of Kaku's tour and contributed \$150 to the defense campaign. A Curtis supporter who was at the meeting volunteered his blues band for a fund-raising concert at a local high school. Kaku was also interviewed by a local radio station.

Member of Congress and City Council welcome Cuban author to Los Angeles

More than 600 came to talks by economist Carlos Tablada on rectification process in Cuba.

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

LOS ANGELES — "In recognition of your outstanding participation and contribution to our community. This certificate reflects personal appreciation for unselfish and untiring devotion for a better society," reads the Certificate of Appreciation presented to Carlos Tablada by Congressman Mervyn Dymally, on April 11.

Tablada, a Cuban economist and award-winning author, was here the week of April 7 as part of his 12-city speaking tour of the United States. He is the author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, published in English by Pathfinder.

Councilman Robert Farrell issued a Certificate of Welcome for Tablada on behalf of the Los Angeles City Council.

More than 600 came to the talks the Cuban author gave here. The warm response Tablada received from young people and others at these events was a result of the way he was able to inspire them with the idea that — as he put it — it is not socialism that is in crisis today, but capitalism.

"In Cuba," Tablada explained, "socialism has solved in 30 years what capitalism could not in 200."

Tablada had successful meetings at several area campuses, including California State University and University of Southern California in Los Angeles, and the University of California at Santa Barbara and at Riverside.

'Guevara was one of my mentors'

At the largest citywide meeting, which drew more than 225 people on April 7, Tablada was joined on the platform by representatives from the African National Congress of South Africa, the Broad Movement in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, and Jitu Sadiki, a young Black victim of a cop frame-up. Sadiki said that while in prison from 1976 to '82, "Che Guevara became one of my mentors and was part of my awakening."

Many messages of welcome for Tablada were received at the meeting, including from Humberto Camacho, international representative of the United Electrical Workers union; Sam Weinstein, regional director of the Utility Workers Union; John Randolph, an actor



Tablada (right), with students at University of Southern California on April 11. Militant/Nelson Blackstock

and leader of the American Federation of Radio and Television Actors; gay rights leader Morris Kight; and others.

Also welcoming Tablada was Pierre Desir, a leader of the Venceremos Brigade who reported on the successful demonstration held earlier that day in New York to demand "Hands off Cuba!"

Rectification process

During his tour here Tablada spoke extensively about the ongoing process in Cuba known as rectification. He explained that prior to rectification, which was begun in 1986, the Cuban economic planning system had become "very centralized, bureaucratic, and dogmatic."

There were 23 volumes of books you had to read to understand the plan, Tablada said. "Even some of us economists couldn't understand what they were about."

Throughout this period the plans were

discussed with the workers, Tablada said, but it was "a formalistic discussion," because the language and methodology that was used, "made it absolutely impossible for the average worker to understand how something was going to be produced, when it was going to be produced, for whom it was going to be produced and why it was being produced." The rectification process, Tablada explained, is beginning to overcome these kinds of problems.

The contributions made to economic theory by Ernesto Che Guevara, a leader of the

Cuban revolution who was murdered in Bolivia in 1967, are at the heart of this process of rectification today, said Tablada.

Cuba's internationalism

Tablada's last speaking event was at the Pathfinder Bookstore, where, as at his other meetings, Cuba's internationalism was applauded. In addition to discussing Cuba's role in defeating South African apartheid troops in defense of Angola, Tablada also recalled Cuba's earlier solidarity with the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. intervention. He described a trip by Cuban President Fidel Castro to Eastern Europe in 1972 where he argued for more aid to be sent to Vietnam.

Tablada also answered questions concerning U.S. threats to Cuba itself. He denounced the U.S. invasion of Panama and the use of TV Martí against Cuba.

Tablada also spent an evening with members of the African National Congress and other anti-apartheid activists. He had lunch with UE representative Camacho and officials and staff of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and met with Congressman Dymally.

Tablada was interviewed on radio shows in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, and conducted an interview with the Los Angeles Spanish-language daily *La Opinión*. More than 400 people signed an appeal to the U.S. State Department for the unrestricted right to travel to and from Cuba and for lifting the U.S. government's blockade.

The Cuban economist's next stop is in Utah. Messages of welcome to Salt Lake City were made by Mayor Palmer DePaulis; the Peace and Justice Commission of the Catholic Diocese; Ed Mayne, the Utah State AFL-CIO president; Wayne Owens, member of Congress; and David Chambers director of performing arts programs at the Sundance Institute.

From April 18 through 22 Tablada will tour the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area. Other areas he will visit include Greensboro, North Carolina (April 24); Chicago (April 26); Boston (April 27-May 1); western Massachusetts (May 2); and New York (May 6-13).

Tour boosts sales of book on Guevara's economic thought

As author Carlos Tablada crisscrosses the United States on a six-week speaking tour, people have been lining up at the Pathfinder tables at his meetings to get a copy — in some cases, autographed — of his book.

The volume, *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, is a best-seller in Cuba. In the United States, the first run of 4,000 had nearly sold out before the tour, and Pathfinder went back to press for another 4,000 copies to assure enough books would be on hand.

"We ordered a hundred copies to be sure we had enough for a good display at all the meetings we had scheduled in Washington, D.C.," reports Ike Nahem, a volunteer at the Pathfinder bookstore there.

At the meetings themselves, Nahem said, "We asked to have an announcement made explaining that the book was available for sale, and we made sure that we had plenty of people staffing the tables. We ended up selling 40 copies in English and 18 in Spanish."

In addition, Nahem noted, 10 people who purchased the book also bought subscriptions to the *Militant* so they could begin to follow developments in Cuba on a weekly basis.

In Los Angeles, sales of the book were boosted by an interview with Tablada broadcast April 12 on Pacifica radio station KPFA.

"We had 110 people at the Pathfinder

bookstore the next day, the final night of Tablada's tour in Los Angeles," reports Pathfinder volunteer Lisa Ahlberg. "You could hardly move, but we did make sure that the books were prominently displayed."

Tablada addressed six meetings in Los Angeles. "We thought we had more than enough books on hand," Ahlberg said. "But we sold 60 copies of the book in Spanish — every last one we had — and 45 in English."

Ahlberg's advice to tour organizers in other cities? Be sure you have enough copies of Tablada's book on hand for the tour — and after.

"Someone just came in the bookstore a few moments ago who had heard Tablada speak," she said. "He really wanted the book in Spanish, but we didn't have a single copy left to sell to him."

Those who attended the Los Angeles meetings purchased a total of \$2,000 in books and pamphlets, along with 20 subscriptions to the *Militant* and its sister Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Pathfinder promotional representative Helen Meyers reports that retail bookstores are beginning to increase their orders of Tablada's book as well. In cities where the Cuban economist is scheduled to speak, more than a dozen campus and commercial bookstores have special-ordered quantities of the book.

Special offer

Books on Cuba from Pathfinder

Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism • by Carlos Tablada. A comprehensive look at the contributions to building socialism by Che Guevara from 1959 to 1966, when he played a central role in reorganizing Cuba's industry and economy. \$16.95

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Until May 15

Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12, or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$1 per book postage and handling.

Miner plans 'Skate for Solidarity' to aid strikers

Some 8,500 International Association of Machinists (IAM) members struck Eastern Airlines March 4, 1989, in an effort to block the company's drive to break the union and impose massive concessions on workers.

As of the *Militant's* closing news date, Wednesday, April 18, the strike was in its 411th day.

The Eastern workers' fight has won broad support from working

Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh. The family roller-skating party is being organized by United Mine Workers of America member John Baker. "I've been to solidarity activities like the 'walk-through' at the airport last October and the big rally in Pittsburgh in August," Baker said. "And the UMWA has had rallies in Indiana County, where I work, especially last summer during the miners' walkouts. But there hasn't been any-

was called by the strikers and IAM Local 1781 to respond to the increase in air travel during spring school breaks and over Easter.

Pickets — buoyed by Eastern's growing financial crisis — chanted, "Hey Lorenzo! What do you say? How much money did you lose today?" and distributed a leaflet urging passengers not to fly Eastern or Continental airlines. Both are owned by Texas Air Corp., which is headed by Frank Lorenzo.

Passing motorists honked and waved. Other airline workers and passengers also waved in encouragement, as the chanting strikers and their supporters marched through the airport to greet Eastern passengers arriving from Miami as they picked up their baggage.

Six Eastern strikers who were recently hired at the United Airlines maintenance base came to the action and signed up to picket the following week.

"Solidarity with striking workers" is the theme of a May 3 rally in Pittsburgh, sponsored by the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO. The rally will be a show of support for the Eastern

and Greyhound strikers, UMWA members on selective strike, and steelworkers and other unionists on strike in the area. It will take place in downtown Market Square from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. and is being held in conjunction with the AFL-CIO state convention.

Participation is also being built among unions in southwestern Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. A leaflet for the action has been prepared by Eastern strikers in IAM Local 1044 at the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport.

At Hartsfield International Airport in Atlanta two pickets with signs are allowed at a table inside the concourse near Eastern's gates. A temporary restraining order issued last year against the Eastern Machinists bars strikers from picketing in other areas of the airport. Sometimes passengers approach the pickets to find out what's going on.

Recently a young man from Louisville, Kentucky, approached the table after getting off an Eastern flight. He was visibly upset. He had not known about the strike when handed an Eastern ticket by his com-

pany, he explained, and he would never fly Eastern again.

IAM members who work at the Northwest Airlines maintenance hangar at Hartsfield have taken to coming down and walking the picket line in the afternoon once a week when they get off work. Some, wearing the red "Don't fly Eastern or Continental" Machinists T-shirts, walk through the airport together — and attract a good bit of attention from passengers, even in small groups of three or four.

Strikers and supporters from Northwest, passing out flyers to passengers that explain the safety violations Eastern is guilty of, have found that many passengers are unaware of the strike. Some business travelers explain that they are flying Eastern because those are the tickets they were given by their employers.

One day recently a group of strikers and supporters were handing out flyers at the terminal entrance. Two businessmen came by and decided to buy "Stop Lorenzo" buttons to wear on their Eastern flight.

Michael Pennock from Pittsburgh, Kathleen Denny from San Francisco, and Ellen Berman from Atlanta contributed to this column.



SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

people in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, Canada, Bermuda, Sweden, New Zealand, France, and elsewhere in the world. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

A "Skate for Solidarity" to raise funds for striking Eastern workers is planned for April 24 in Latrobe,

thing visible in Westmoreland County, where I live. So I decided on the skate party."

Tickets at the door are \$3.75. The benefit will be held at the Latrobe Roller Garden from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Some 70 Eastern strikers and supporters held an expanded picket line at the San Francisco International Airport April 6. The extra picketing

Impact of strike felt as trustee replaces Lorenzo

Continued from front page

workers, cleaners, mechanics, and other International Association of Machinists (IAM) members grounded what was then the seventh-largest U.S. airline. Since then, Lorenzo has sought to rebuild Eastern as a smaller, nonunion carrier. Part of this scheme has involved selling off key portions of the airline's assets. Latest among these deals is the proposed sale of Eastern's Latin American routes, along with other equipment and assets, to American Airlines for \$471 million.

While Eastern has managed to rebuild its schedule to some 800 daily flights, the carrier has lost \$1.2 billion since the strike began. Lorenzo had barely given out his estimate for what the airline's losses would be this year when they had to be revised upward by \$185 million.

At the same time, growing concern over the airline's safety standards is keeping business travelers and other passengers away, and many travel agents are leery of booking flights on Eastern for fear the carrier will fold, leaving their customers with worthless tickets.

Eastern's difficulties have also been exacerbated by the cutthroat competition in the airline industry as a whole.

Most important, after 14 months, the Machinists walkout remains 97 percent solid and continues to move forward, winning new support.

Eastern's creditors, including General Electric, Boeing, Airbus Industrie, and other suppliers, had backed Lorenzo until just a few weeks ago, as did the bankruptcy court. They were convinced that his "reorganization" plan for Eastern provided the best likelihood for the creditors of regaining the highest portion of the millions they are owed.

After Eastern revised its reorganization plan for a fifth time in early March, informing the creditors that they would only get 25 cents on the dollar, they finally came to the conclusion that Lorenzo's course was not going to work.

"Only one statement can be made," said creditors committee chairman Allen Boyd, an official of the European aircraft consortium Airbus Industrie, on the first day of the hearings. "The committee as a whole has lost confidence in this management to pull Eastern out of the spiral in which it finds itself."

Originally, the creditors called for the bankruptcy judge to appoint a trustee to oversee the liquidation of Eastern. They then called for a trustee to complete the sale of the Latin America routes and either continue to manage the airline or find a new buyer for it.

Lorenzo, on the other hand, argued that appointment of a trustee would effectively mean liquidation of the carrier, since everyone would assume the airline was going under — and therefore it would. Eastern may appeal the trustee appointment in court.

The court has not yet ruled on Lorenzo's

request that \$80 million be released from the escrow account that holds the proceeds from assets sales, so that the airline can keep running. The creditors were against the funds being released unless a trustee was appointed.

Added pressure on Lorenzo is also being brought to bear by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp., a federal agency that is supposed to insure pension funds. The agency claims Eastern's pension plans are underfunded by as much as \$900 million. On April 12 — after the agency said it was prepared to terminate Eastern's pension plans — Texas Air agreed to remain liable for the funds.

"Stop Union Busting!" reads the new flier for the May 3 solidarity action. Eastern Machinists on strike at both La Guardia and Kennedy International airports are working together on the march and rally, which will also back striking Greyhound unionists and garment workers on strike in Brooklyn. The Domsey garment workers are fighting to win recognition for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

The New York Central Labor Council is sending out a mailing to all its affiliates, urging their participation in the May 3 event. The

rally will begin at 4:30 p.m. at the Port Authority Bus Terminal at 41st Street and 8th Avenue in Manhattan and march to the Eastern ticket office at Rockefeller Center, 49th Street and 6th Avenue at 5:30 p.m. Having a march through mid-town Manhattan at the height of rush hour will enable strikers to reach tens of thousands of other working people.

Strikers from IAM Local 1018 at La Guardia are also responding to a new challenge from Eastern. Recently, the company began to hold scab hiring sessions for ramp and cleaning jobs. Since the strike started, these jobs had been subcontracted out in New York and many other cities. When Eastern held a hiring session for these positions at an airport hotel recently, Local 1018 members went to picket and to talk to the would-be applicants. More than 250 people came to apply for the \$6.75 an hour jobs — most of them young, many of them Black and Latino.

The strikers got a good response. One person took a sign and joined the picket line. Some left when they found out about the strike. Many who went inside took the strikers' informational leaflet and said they would consider what the Machinists said.



Militant/Mark Satinoff
Striking Machinists, supporters "walked through" La Guardia Airport March 31.

Fake union steps up raid at Northwest

BY KATHIE FITZGERALD

DETROIT — At "organizing meetings" held in late March, the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association reopened its raiding operation here against the International Association of Machinists at Northwest Airlines. AMFA announced the chartering of "Local 5" at Northwest, which is seeking to break mechanics and cleaners away from the IAM.

AMFA, which recently won a union representation election among mechanics at the Trump Shuttle, is a company-minded outfit that specializes in trying to raid the IAM. Until the Trump vote, AMFA had been largely unsuccessful.

In February 1989 the National Mediation Board dismissed a bid by AMFA to hold an election to decertify the IAM at Northwest, due to the lack of sufficient cards signed by Northwest workers seeking to hold such an election. The NMB requires signed authorization cards from at least 50 percent plus one of potential voters in a bargaining unit for an election to be held.

Attacks Eastern strike

Many Detroit IAM members active in supporting the Machinists on strike at Eastern Airlines were angered by a recent AMFA flyer that ends with the statement, "I know a lot of unemployed Eastern people are wishing that they had signed AMFA cards when they had the opportunity last year." AMFA sup-

porters in Detroit, as at the Trump Shuttle, have said that the Eastern strikers, rather than striking, should have accepted the company's union-busting offer to the IAM. In Detroit, Eastern strikers and Northwest workers are in the same local, IAM Local 141.

A self-described "craft union," AMFA had originally tried to split off only the mechanics from Northwest, but National Labor Relations Board requirements forced them to include cleaners as well. One cleaner here reported that after AMFA's failed effort to get an election last year, "We went back to being 'unskilled scum,' but now that they're going after another election, they're back in our breakrooms being nice to us."

AMFA's pitch to mechanics is that they're "highly skilled" and shouldn't be in the same organization as unskilled ramp workers and cleaners. Ramp workers say that it's not uncommon to open an aircraft's bin door and find "Bag smashers are unskilled apes — vote AMFA" written inside.

AMFA has fostered divisions even within the skilled trades. Auto shop mechanics, who keep the airline's trucks and other motorized equipment running, say the AMFA supporters call the auto shop workers "K Mart grease monkeys." It is an outrage that aircraft mechanics make only \$1.20 an hour more than auto mechanics, AMFA supporters say.

"This whole thing is really antiunion," commented a striking Eastern mechanic re-

cently. "Nobody benefits but the company. At Eastern they tried to divide the mechanics from everybody else. They said because we were more skilled, we should leave the other guys behind. But we didn't fall for it, because it doesn't matter how skilled you are, the strength we have is in sticking together."

"AMFA is the problem, not the solution," was the title of an article in the March 1990 *Transporter*, IAM Local 141's newsletter. It was written by local President Bob Fettig. The article explains why Northwest mechanics should steer clear of AMFA. Responding to AMFA's charge that the Eastern strikers regret not signing AMFA cards, Fettig wrote, "Our Eastern brothers and sisters are in a fight that affects all airline employees' futures. I find it appalling that AMFA would even attempt to secure support by riding the backs of those who remain on strike at Eastern. Instead of questioning the strikers at Eastern, those of you who support AMFA should learn a lesson of solidarity and what it really means to be a union member from our brother and sister Machinists who, at the writing, remain 97 percent strong."

AMFA's raiding operation at Northwest has also stepped up among mechanics at the airline's maintenance hangar in Atlanta, IAM members there report.

Kathie Fitzgerald, a member of IAM Local 141, is a ramp worker at Northwest Airlines in Detroit.



Militant and *Perspectiva Mundial* sales at April 7 "U.S. Hands Off Cuba" action in New York resulted in 17 new subscribers. Workers and youth are showing more interest in learning about Cuba. Los Angeles supporters signed up 20 new readers during tour of Cuban author Carlos Tablada and sold 11 copies of *New International*.

Shift in sales drive needed for success

Continued from front page

farm workers — sold in the first few days of the target week.

Melissa from Phoenix called in to report that in the last week, 16 new readers were won — the best results yet. This weekend they are dispatching teams to nearby copper mining areas and to a Greyhound strike rally in Tucson.

Gary from Kansas City also reported a turnaround — 23 subscriptions sold during their "pre" target week April 7-14. When talking with potential subscribers, he said, Kansas City supporters decided to highlight the fact that by signing up for 12 weeks of the *Militant*, readers get a \$15 subscription for \$7 — more than half off. Two supporters at the Ford plant there have also sold 24 copies of the *New International* during the drive.

Charleston supporters are sending teams out daily and 17 new subscribers have signed up in four days.

It is this kind of organization — focusing on the subscription effort and maximizing the number of supporters selling the press every day — that must now be generalized and sustained for the final weeks of the drive.

Distributors will have to take measures above and beyond their usual rhythm of weekly activity to give the added, necessary boost to the drive. Within the context of this international turn aimed at achieving our goals, the campaign is being extended until May 19. This will mean making up for lost time by immediately mapping out plans everywhere on how to make every goal and launching a fight to do so.

This fight will be worth the effort because of the key role the *Militant* plays for working-class fighters and youth today. The *Militant* is unique because of its communist perspective on the class struggle in the United States and the world.

The *Militant* evaluates what is happening in the labor movement. It describes the necessary road forward for working people. And it draws the lessons being learned from the struggles of workers, peasants, and national liberation fighters internationally.

The *Militant* has news reports from supporters in Sweden, Britain, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, France, Puerto Rico and Australia on struggles taking place there. We also send reporters to South Africa, Panama, and El Salvador, and maintain a bureau in Nicaragua — all part of providing a world outlook and deepening international solidarity among workers.

The *Militant* has won a reputation as a paper that tells the truth, one that fighters can depend on, in some of the big showdowns between labor and the capitalists in the last year — like the Eastern and Pittston strikes. Many opportunities exist to increase the working-class subscription base of the paper as part of our sales drive efforts during the final weeks.

For example, over the April 14 weekend five Greyhound strikers in Philadelphia signed up on the picket line to get the *Militant* for 12 weeks and one Eastern striker renewed, adding to the 17 new readers won in that area in three days.

Militant Circulation Director Roni McCann reports that special efforts by supporters are already in the works.

"We want to seize every opportunity to win new subscribers as part of the countdown planned over the final stretch," McCann stressed.

"This weekend we can circulate the paper among coal miners and sell subscriptions," she said, "at the festivities slated for Wise County, Virginia, near Camp Solidarity." This promises to draw hundreds of coal miners and other unionists from many states.

She noted that Earth Day activities are planned in virtually every city across the United States as well as in some other countries. Thousands of young people and others will be attracted to these events, providing an excellent opportunity to sell subscriptions and get a communist viewpoint once a week for the next 12 weeks.

"In New York, a supporter getting ready to move to a new city has decided to spend his last week in town winning new readers to the press full-time," said McCann.

Another supporter — who was thrown out of work along with hundreds of others at the Farmstead plant in Albert Lea, Minnesota — has decided to hit the road as part of a team to get out the *Militant* to fellow packinghouse workers throughout the region for the remainder of the campaign. McCann reports a one-day team of Omaha, Nebraska, and Des Moines, Iowa, supporters already signed up 14 new readers in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

"Efforts by *Militant* supporters around the world will play a big role in making the drive," she said. "A team on the road in eastern Canada reports 12 *Militant* subscribers signed up and 13 others bought copies of the *New International* during the first several days of their trip, which is scheduled to last another week."

Subscription Drive SCOREBOARD

DRIVE GOALS		Total		Militant		New Int'l		Perspectiva Mundial		Lutte ouvrière	
Areas	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Austin, Minn.	75	50	67%	53	37	10	5	10	8	2	0
Kansas City	105	62	59%	78	32	15	25	10	4	2	1
Miami	200	118	59%	110	64	40	16	30	10	20	28
Seattle*	140	78	56%	108	29	15	1	15	47	2	1
Des Moines, Iowa	160	82	51%	123	62	15	12	20	8	2	0
Philadelphia	160	76	48%	108	41	25	25	25	9	2	1
Atlanta	165	63	38%	117	40	30	16	15	6	3	1
Phoenix	85	31	36%	53	16	10	4	20	11	2	0
Cleveland	110	39	35%	78	25	20	12	10	2	2	0
Omaha, Neb.	110	39	35%	80	31	15	3	13	5	2	0
Birmingham, Ala.	150	50	33%	123	46	20	4	5	0	2	0
Newark, NJ	385	125	32%	210	46	95	54	65	18	15	7
Houston	145	47	32%	98	26	20	16	25	5	2	0
Greensboro, NC	115	36	31%	90	31	15	1	8	4	2	0
New York	500	152	30%	280	66	95	36	110	42	15	8
Boston	190	56	29%	125	37	25	2	30	14	10	3
Chicago	280	81	29%	185	41	45	29	45	9	5	2
Brooklyn	340	98	29%	200	60	60	20	60	14	20	4
Salt Lake City	190	54	28%	138	37	30	11	20	6	2	0
Los Angeles	400	105	26%	210	51	75	12	110	42	5	0
Detroit	250	62	25%	200	46	30	13	15	3	5	0
Baltimore	150	37	25%	112	26	25	1	10	10	3	0
Washington, DC	145	34	23%	100	17	20	1	20	16	5	0
Twin Cities, Minn.	210	49	23%	162	35	30	11	15	2	3	1
Charleston, WV	115	26	23%	88	24	20	2	5	0	2	0
Pittsburgh	140	31	22%	113	26	20	1	5	4	2	0
Price, Utah	75	16	21%	53	10	10	3	10	2	2	1
Oakland, Calif.	185	38	21%	120	27	25	7	35	3	5	1
Portland, Ore.	100	20	20%	75	20	13	0	10	0	2	0
San Francisco	220	44	20%	150	24	30	9	35	10	5	1
St. Louis	200	36	18%	162	29	25	5	10	2	3	0
Morgantown, WV	150	19	13%	113	18	30	1	5	0	2	0
Cincinnati	7	0	0%	7	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Las Vegas, Nev.*	12	1	8%	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Louisville	10	0	0%	10	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other U.S.	-	32	-	-	30	-	1	-	1	-	-
U.S. TOTAL	5,974	1,887	32%	4,044	1,151	953	359	821	317	156	60
AUSTRALIA											
Cardiff	59	27	46%	40	21	10	5	7	1	2	0
Manchester	74	27	36%	50	13	20	13	3	1	1	0
London	162	50	31%	105	36	30	13	25	1	2	0
Sheffield	107	19	18%	65	16	30	2	10	1	2	0
Other Britain	-	8	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
BRITAIN TOTAL	402	131	33%	260	94	90	33	45	4	7	0
CANADA											
Vancouver	115	54	47%	75	35	20	6	15	10	5	3
Montréal	170	74	44%	65	23	20	9	45	12	40	30
Toronto	190	77	41%	120	46	30	10	30	20	10	1
CANADA TOTAL	475	205	43%	260	104	70	25	90	42	55	34
FRANCE	40	23	58%	10	2	5	10	5	2	20	9
ICELAND	41	14	34%	35	10	3	2	2	2	1	0
NEW ZEALAND											
Auckland	100	60	60%	80	55	15	4	4	1	1	0
Christchurch	55	30	55%	45	28	6	1	3	1	1	0
Wellington	70	35	50%	54	33	11	1	4	1	1	0
Other N. Z.	14	2	14%	10	2	4	0	-	-	-	-
N. Z. TOTAL	239	127	53%	189	118	36	6	11	3	3	0
SWEDEN	76	27	36%	45	18	5	0	25	9	1	0
PUERTO RICO	20	6	30%	2	3	1	0	16	3	1	0
Int'l teams	155	26	17%	75	12	25	13	50	0	5	1
Other Int'l	-	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	5	-	-
TOTAL	7,472	2,464	33%	4,945	1,525	1,196	448	1,080	387	251	104
DRIVE GOALS	7,500			4,950		1,200		1,100		250	
TO BE ON SCHEDULE	4,286	57%		2,829		686		629		143	

*Raised goal during drive

W. Virginia socialists on road

BY MINDY BRUDNO

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — Since launching their campaign last month, the socialist candidates in West Virginia have been getting a serious hearing from working people across the state.

At an April 4 candidates' night sponsored by the Huntington chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, nearly 40 people heard Dick McBride, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate.

"What the working class needs is unity," McBride explained, pointing to the Cuban revolution as an example for working people fighting to change the world today. The SWP's program, he said, calls for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay, extension and enforcement of affirmative action quotas, and cancellation of the Third World debt. A fight for these demands can help prepare working people to defend themselves in the face of a worldwide economic crisis.

McBride's call for stiff sanctions against South Africa was heard by TV audiences on the local news, which covered the meeting.

The socialist candidate also blasted West Virginia's restrictive ballot laws. Several people in the audience gasped and shook their heads as he described the obstacles candidates who are not Democrats or Republicans face, such as high petitioning requirements and filing fees.

Secretary of State Ken Hechler, who is in charge of enforcing these laws, also spoke at the meeting. He challenged McBride's pro-

posal of a shorter workweek to combat unemployment. "We don't need a shorter workweek," Hechler said. "We need to work harder so we can beat the Japanese."

McBride, a garment worker from Morgantown, has also taken the socialist campaign to Pennsylvania as part of a *Militant* sales team to Uniontown where steelworkers' union members are on strike against Fruehauf Trailers.

Clay Dennison, Socialist Workers candidate for state attorney general, is getting support for his campaign from his coworkers. Dennison is a coal miner and a member of the United Mine Workers of America.

One coworker, Wally, recently took Dennison to visit several friends to introduce them to the campaign. Over the course of five hours, they met over a dozen people in nine homes. They collected signatures on a nominating petition for the socialist slate of McBride, Dennison, and Maggie McCraw, SWP candidate for state treasurer. Several copies of the *Militant* were sold as well as two subscriptions to the paper. Most of the people they talked with were Black workers, including two who are working miners.

"I really didn't know what to expect," said Wally afterward. "But people here are fed up with local government, with the news media. People want change. Overwhelmingly, people we talked to were willing to sign the petition."

More than 4,800 signatures on nominating petitions have already been collected toward the requirement of 6,400. The filing deadline is May 7.

Castro: 'Cuba will continue to change'

A reporter's notebook from a recent visit to Havana

BY SETH GALINSKY

HAVANA, Cuba — Reporters flew here from around the world for an April 3 press conference with President Fidel Castro.

The Cuban leader criticized TV Martí, the U.S. government's latest attempt to undermine the revolution by broadcasting over Cuba's domestic channels.

"The name of change is revolution," Castro said in response to critics of socialism. Cuba will continue to change, not by returning to the greed and egotism of capitalism, he stated, but by deepening the fight for socialism and correcting mistakes, a process known here as rectification.

I was one of many journalists who took advantage of their visit to the island to interview other government representatives, leaders of political and mass organizations, and explore the streets of Havana.

Among the causes of the upheavals in Eastern Europe were the "schema of a one-party system," and inflexibility, Yonezo Kanda, a reporter for the Communist Party of Japan's daily newspaper, said. "Won't Cuba have to adopt similar changes as those now occurring in that part of the world?"

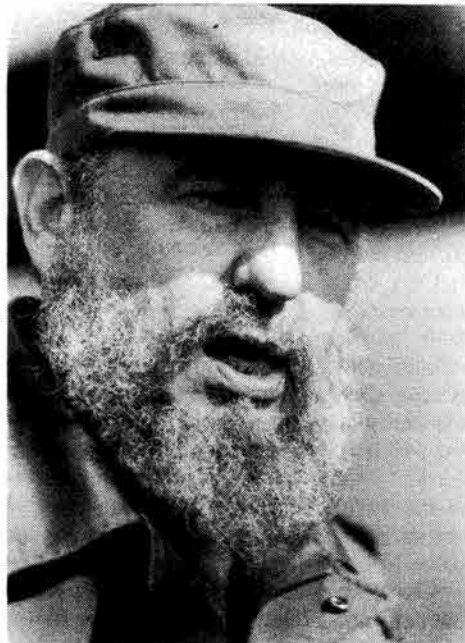
"The situation here is totally different," Felipe Pérez, president of the Federation of University Students answered. "In Eastern Europe the revolution was imposed by the tanks of the Red Army after World War II."

"But the Cuban revolution was not made by tanks, nor even by Fidel. This revolution was made by the people."

"I think there are other differences," Pérez added. "Party members in Eastern Europe had special privileges. The party became alienated from the people. It had lost prestige even among its own ranks."

The Cuban Communist Party, Pérez stressed, "is linked with the people."

What Eastern Europe proves, Pérez stated, "is that when socialist ideas are not correctly applied and capitalist methods are introduced, the result is disastrous."



Militant/Selva Nebbia
Fidel Castro, Camagüey, Cuba, 1989.

"What is in crisis is not socialism," he added, "but a particular model of socialism."

A reporter from the *Miami Herald*, interrupted Pérez's reply. "But there is no space here for more than one opinion."

"That's just not true," Pérez pointed out. "There are a wide variety of different opinions within the Cuban Communist Party. In fact, the differences within the framework of our party are greater than the differences between the Democrats and Republicans in the United States."

"Do more political parties mean more democracy, or is more democracy more participation by the masses?" asked Pérez.

Some reporters sought evidence of a generation gap and young people opposed to socialism. I found instead widespread support for the revolution among youth and opposi-

tion to TV Martí.

"Everybody here is against TV Martí," a group of young workers and students in Old Havana, none of them members of the Union of Young Communists or the Communist Party, said. "It's an insult. They didn't ask for permission or anything."

They scoffed at talk in Miami that the government led by Castro would be overthrown. "They've been saying that since before I was born," said one.

"Have you ever read about the history of the revolution and the things Fidel has done?" asked another. "If you did then you'd know why we're for Fidel."

In Havana's La Güinera neighborhood, young members of a minibrigade were taking an extended break while waiting for supplies to complete a two-story apartment building.

The minibrigade movement is a key part of rectification. Many members are workers and professionals without any previous construction experience who have been released from their jobs to join the brigade.

The idea is to rely on consciousness, creativity, and increased participation of working people to resolve the problems Cuba faces.

William Echabarra was proud of the results. "We've built a child-care center, a doctor's office, and several apartment buildings all over the last year."

Does everyone in the neighborhood support the revolution? "There are a few guys who look to the north," Ulises Jequín said, referring to those who are attracted by the United States.

"I'd rather live in the United States," said one 16-year-old waiting in line for ice cream at Havana's Copelia Park told me.

"My father lives in Miami and has his own business. He makes a lot of money. Here owning a business is prohibited."

Another youth complained about the lack

of items in the stores. "You can't get anything here," he said. "I wish we had capitalism."

"It's obvious that the majority of the people support the government," Carmen Elena Herrera, head of International Relations for the Union of Young Communists (UJC), said. "But a tiny minority of young people are still not committed to the revolution."

A big step forward was made at the UJC's 1987 convention. "Discussions leading up to the meeting were opened to all young people," Herrera stated. "We sought out their opinions on what the UJC should be doing and how to improve our work."

Herrera suggested I read the call to the upcoming congress for the Communist Party to get a better understanding of the deep-going changes taking place.

The document is being discussed in factories across the country. It calls for deepening rectification by increasing labor discipline and productivity, improving services, perfecting the functioning of the party, eliminating the last vestiges of racism and sexism, and breaking with dogmatism.

The Communist Party must "develop methods and styles that become more democratic," the call states.

These measures will strengthen the revolution, the document explains.

"The UJC and the youth are part of rectification," Herrera said.

New York officials close Casa de las Américas, citing code violations

BY JON HILLSON

NEW YORK — Casa de las Américas was closed by officials from New York City's police, fire, and buildings departments on April 15 during a party celebrating the 29th anniversary of Cuba's victory over invading U.S.-backed mercenary forces at Playa Girón (Bay of Pigs).

Casa de las Américas is a center for activities defending the Cuban revolution and other anti-imperialist struggles. It initiated the call for the April 7 "U.S. Hands Off Cuba" demonstration of 1,500 people here, hosting meetings of the ad hoc coalition that organized the protest.

The officials who ended the party claimed Casa was operating illegally because the organization lacked an up-to-date occupancy permit.

Around 1:00 a.m., 15 to 20 uniformed and plainclothes cops entered Casa and began circulating among the crowd, as officials questioned Casa leaders. In 25 minutes, all 150 celebrants present had been evacuated.

Casa's doors are posted with fire warnings, which forbid public occupancy.

Right-wing threats

The Playa Girón party was the target of public threats by ultrarightist Cuban exiles who had unsuccessfully sought to stop the April 7 march and rally.

An article in the April 2 *Noticias del Mundo*, a reactionary Spanish-language daily, gave the location, date, and time of the party. It noted "great irritation" had been caused by the decision of an area band to play at a dance "organized and paid for by the oldest dictatorship in America."

Similar messages were broadcast by Miguel Pérez, a leading right-wing Cuban radio talk-show host. The band decided not to play, and was replaced by another group.

Leading up to the party, Casa had received harassing phone calls. A bomb threat was called in to its landlord.

The week prior to the event, fire marshals visited Casa at least three times. They made no report to Casa leaders of anything out of order.

Casa is now seeking an updated occupancy permit.

Cuban painter adds Máximo Gómez to New York's Pathfinder Mural

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Among the portraits of Cuban independence fighters on the Pathfinder Mural now stands a portrait of Máximo Gómez. He joins those of two other 19th century Cuban liberators, José Martí and Antonio Maceo.

Born in the Dominican Republic, Gómez joined the Cuban Liberation Army in 1868 to fight against Spain for Cuba's independence.

The Gómez painting was added to the mural by visiting Cuban artist Héctor Catá. Catá's visit to New York is hosted by Local 1199 of the hospital workers' union.

Though the six-story mural on the Pathfinder Building in Manhattan's West Side was completed last November, Friends of the Pathfinder Mural invited Catá to add Gómez to the crowd scenes that surround the large portraits. These depict the revolutionary and working-class leaders whose works are published by Pathfinder Press. He painted the Gómez portrait on March 29.

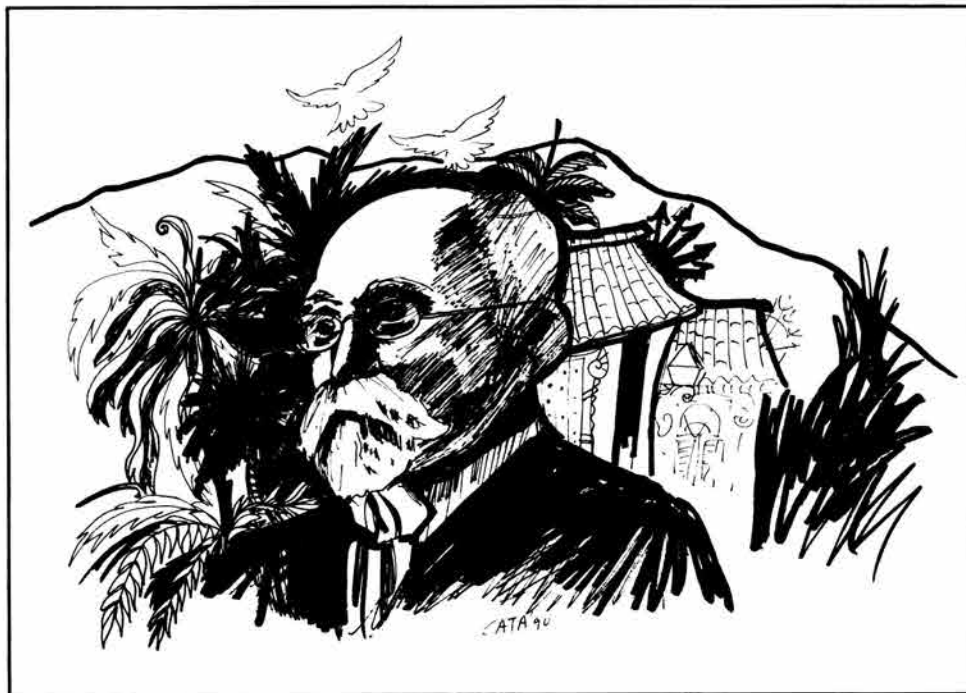
During an interview here, Catá, 43, described his work and history as a painter in Cuba.

"I have been painting since I was a child," he explained. "I won my first art award at the age of 8."

"My father was a maintenance worker," Catá said. "And like other parents, he wanted me to become a doctor or lawyer. He objected to my becoming a painter so much that he did not buy me crayons or other supplies. An aunt of mine was the one who, behind his back, gave me art materials, which I used in secret."

"After doing my military service," said the Cuban painter, "I made up my mind to study art. I worked during the day as a graphic designer in a state light industrial enterprise and attended art school in the evenings."

"All my education and art materials were paid for by the Cuban state," Catá said. "Like all other careers, such as engineering or medicine, art education is free



Sketch of Máximo Gómez, a leader of Cuba's fight for independence, done by Héctor Catá for the Pathfinder Mural.

to all who live in Cuba."

Catá, who lives in Havana, works for a Cuban cultural institution and also as an independent artist. Since graduating from the San Alejandro School of Plastic Arts, he has participated in numerous group exhibitions, both in Cuba and abroad, and has had individual showings as well. His work has received several awards, including the 1974 UNESCO competition in Paris. He is a member of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists.

"In my work I touch on Cuban themes," Catá pointed out. "I follow the style of Amelia Pelaez. In my opinion, her work is the synthesis of baroque Cuban painting."

This style is characterized by its use of

bright colors outlined in black. "The paintings resemble stained glass," he noted.

"I am very Cuban," Catá said, "and my work reflects the love I have for my country, for its flora and fauna, for the warm climate, for the colonial streets of old Havana." Some of these themes are evident in Catá's portrait on the Pathfinder Mural. The Gómez portrait is surrounded by palm trees, birds, and Spanish colonial architecture.

Since his arrival in the United States, Catá has presented slides of his work to students in Boston and at Jersey City State College. His works were shown at the El Barrio International Gallery in East Harlem April 3-7, and at the Design Masters Intergroup Galleries in Harlem on April 8.

**Suscribe to
the Militant**

Why October 1917 Russian revolution became a beacon for working people

BY PETER THIERJUNG

(Second in a series)

Massive protests developed across Eastern Europe as 1989 came to a close. Under their impact the ruling Communist Parties shattered.

Dizzied by these events and simmering upheavals in the Soviet Union itself, politicians and reporters in the capitalist world have crowed that "communism" is dead. They trumpet the crisis in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union as the final repudiation of Marxism and Leninism.

Their assertions might merit consideration if the Communist Parties of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union were genuinely communist. They are not.

Following World War II capitalism was uprooted in Eastern European countries where Stalinist political parties had come to power, often with help from Soviet occupation forces. These parties claimed to be leading working people in building communist societies.

They modeled themselves after the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and some even named themselves Communist Party. They claimed to be building on the example of the October 1917 Russian revolution, and wrapped themselves in the mantle of the most prominent leaders of the communist workers' movement, Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin.

But these parties and their policies are in reality the negation of communism. They are not just "conservative" or "mistaken" Communist Parties. They are counterrevolutionary organizations that have defended the domination of a privileged, bureaucratic caste and have fought to maintain their power against working people. They are obstacles to advancing toward communism.

To appreciate the contrast between the policies of these instruments of bureaucratic rule and a communist perspective, it is useful to review measures implemented under Lenin's leadership during the October 1917 Russian revolution and the first years of the Soviet government.

The Russian revolution

In 1917 Europe was in its third year of the first imperialist war — World War I. Barbed wire and trenches stretched from one end of the continent to the other. Millions had been slaughtered, and capitalist governments kept calling for new military offensives. Every aspect of production had been turned toward feeding the massive military apparatus in a war of territorial conquest and for acquisition of new markets.

Out of these conditions arose revolutionary upheavals throughout Europe. In February 1917 millions of workers and peasants rebelled and toppled the Russian monarchy.

In October of that year, the communists in Russia — known as the Bolsheviks — led the revolutionary movement of workers and peasants to power. It was an event that changed the world.

The new government responded to the demands and interests of working people, took anticapitalist measures, and charted a communist course. It derived its authority from councils, called soviets, which were rapidly formed by working people during the uprising against the tsar and became important instruments in the struggle for power.

Formed in the largest factories first, soviets spread to encompass workers in other occupations, soldiers, and peasants. Workplaces, as well as unions, then freely elected delegates, based on the number of workers, to citywide soviets. Peasants and soldiers also elected delegates. City and provincial soviets elected delegates to a countrywide soviet. All soviet representatives were subject to immediate recall.

Delegates were usually elected according to party, and in the early years of the revolution

The Bolshevik majority in the soviets was based on popular approval for their policies.

tion several parties fielded candidates. The Bolshevik majority in the soviets was based on popular approval of their policies on war, land distribution, the rights of oppressed nationalities, and other issues.

After the overturn of capitalist rule, these delegated bodies became organs of state power. Their popular composition and democratic character were unprecedented and helped advance unity among working people for the next steps in their struggle.

The new Soviet government immediately moved to end Russia's participation in World War I. Russian forces were withdrawn from the fighting. Secret treaties by the former Russian government, dividing up territory and markets with other imperialist powers of Europe and the United States, were made public. Previous war alliances were disregarded and separate treaties were signed after public negotiations.

The peasants and land

The Soviet government declared on the first day of the revolution that the holdings of the big landowners would be handed over to the peasants. Some 20 million peasant families in tsarist Russia scraped



The new Soviet government defended the interests of workers and peasants, and abolished capitalism. Above, workers assemble for 1918 march to celebrate May Day, the international working-class holiday.

out a meager living on an average allotment of less than 19 acres for each family. In contrast, 30,000 wealthy landowners each had an average of 6,300 acres. All together they held as much land as 10 million peasant families.

Primary responsibility for the redistribution of such holdings was assigned by the revolutionary government to the soviets of poor peasants. To encourage increased agricultural production, the Soviet government provided aid in the form of implements, fertilizer, and other necessities.

Some state farms were established as models on a voluntary basis and were operated by soviets of farm workers. Lenin held that only by winning the small peasants through persuasion and example could cooperative farming and agricultural collectives succeed, expand, and advance production.

This stance cemented an alliance between working people in the cities and countryside, without which the revolution could not survive.

Oppressed nationalities

Eradicating the legacy of racism, anti-Semitism, and national oppression, which had divided working people, was a high priority of the revolutionary government.

Tsarist Russia was known throughout the world as "the prison house of nations." Only 43 percent of the population was of the Great Russian nationality; the remaining 57 percent consisted of subjugated and oppressed peoples — from Ukrainians, Poles, Latvians, Estonians and Lithuanians of the west to the Azerbaijanis, Armenians, Georgians, Tatars, Kirghiz, Sarts, and Turks of Central and East Asia.

The communist policy was straightforward. The revolutionary government recognized without conditions the right of self-determination of these nationalities, including the right to form separate republics. It also championed the demands of the most oppressed and carried out a systematic policy designed to preserve languages and cultures that had been discriminated against under the tsars.

Jews had faced fierce discrimination, but under the Soviet government, Jewish schools and theatrical companies and Yiddish newspapers were encouraged. Facilities for Jewish poets, writers, and scholars were provided.

By taking this stance the communists led in breaking down suspicions, prejudices, and inequalities — a course they considered necessary to building a voluntary federation of soviet republics. They believed this was a precondition to advancing the struggle for a communist society.

The status of women

The communists took action to radically change the status of women.

The 1919 Bolshevik program called for a campaign of education "to destroy utterly all traces of the former inequality or prejudices." Such a campaign should not be limited to winning formal equality for women, but should also aim "to liberate them from the material burdens of obsolete household work by replacing it with communal houses, public eating places, central laundries, nurseries, etc."

Laws passed by the soviet government guaranteed women the right to abortion and contraception. Marriage was made an easy registration process. The concept of illegitimate birth was abolished. Another law enabled either partner in a marriage to obtain a divorce simply by requesting it. Tsarist laws against homosexuality were also repealed.

Asserting power over the economy

In the first days of the October 1917 revolution, the Soviet government issued decrees defending workers' rights and recognizing workers' control of production.

Lockouts by employers were forbidden. Any changes in the operation of an enterprise had to be approved by the workers. Employers were ordered to give elected representatives of the workers access to "all books and documents and to all warehouses, stocks of materials, instruments, and products, without exception," said one decree.

Other measures guaranteed the eight-hour day and insurance against sickness and unemployment and prohibited child labor. A central state bank under Soviet government control was set up.

Acting with the consent of working people, the communists advocated transforming the whole state system along socialist lines and abolishing capitalism as a long-term perspective. Class exploitation and inequality could then be ended. State ownership of industry and transportation would be developed and the wealth produced by working people would be used to benefit them, not a handful of capitalist profiteers and landlords.

In response to Soviet government policies, a civil war erupted, pitting capitalist and former tsarist forces against the workers and peasants of the new Soviet republic. Invading armies from a number of imperialist countries backed the capitalist counterrevolution.

Under these circumstances the Soviet government moved to break the economic power of the capitalist class. By the end of 1918 almost every key enterprise had been nationalized and placed under the administration of the workers. In addition a state monopoly was imposed over international trade to prevent capitalist infiltration of the economy. By the end of 1920 the counterrevolution had been defeated.

These events inspired working people and fighters against national oppression around the world and transformed the political understanding of millions. Soviet Russia became a beacon for the exploited and oppressed, showing the way out of the war and squalor that capitalism imposed.

Workers in other countries aided and defended the new revolution. They looked to the Russian communists as the example of the kind of leadership they needed in their own countries to achieve victory over capitalism. The accomplishments of the revolution provided an impulse for the growth and authority of the Communist International, an international organization of revolutionary workers' parties founded in 1919 and led by Lenin and the Russian communists.

The next article will take a look at the bureaucratic counterrevolution which overturned the communist leadership in the Soviet Union.

(To be continued)

— from Pathfinder —



Books on the October 1917 Russian Revolution



The History of the Russian Revolution • By Leon Trotsky. The most authoritative history of the October 1917 revolution written by one of its central leaders. \$22.95

The Revolution Betrayed • By Leon Trotsky. How a parasitic caste arose in the Soviet Union in the 1920s and 30s; how communist leadership was overturned; the bureaucracy's reactionary domestic and foreign policies. \$11.95

Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12, or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$1 postage and handling for each book.

Nelson Mandela: 'Sanctions must stay'

Continued from front page

fully free, because the system of apartheid still holds his country in its grip. So today's concert is once again a call to the world. The pressure must be kept up until South Africa is free!"

Two years ago, Wembley soccer stadium was the site of the celebration of Mandela's 70th birthday. The ANC leader was then in the 26th year of his imprisonment. An estimated one billion people saw the televised event around the world. A similar number watched this year's concert.

On this occasion the crowd came to hear Mandela himself. Speaking in his capacity as deputy president of the ANC, Mandela paid tribute to the musicians and thanked the people of Britain and the world whose solidarity with the anti-apartheid fight in South Africa itself played an important part in winning his release.

Mandela was introduced by the convenor of the Reception Committee, Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, a long-time opponent of apartheid. His introductory remarks were followed by a long and thunderous welcome for the South African leader, who was accompanied on stage by Winnie Mandela and Adelaide Tambo, wife of ANC President Oliver Tambo.

British government complicity

In his speech, Mandela targeted the British government's complicity with the Pretoria regime. "There are some in the world who wish to support the South African government by giving it rewards and carrots. But we, representing the overwhelming majority of the people of our country, turn to you for support, which we need more than ever before," the ANC leader declared.

"The apartheid crime against humanity," he said, "remains in place. It continues to kill and maim. It continues to oppress and exploit. Its bloodstained offspring continue to rain death and destruction on the peoples of Mozambique and Angola. Every day it produces orphans throughout Southern Africa."

"Therefore do not listen to anyone who says that you must give up the struggle against apartheid. Reject any suggestion that the campaign to isolate the apartheid system should be wound down," Mandela said.

"It is only those who support apartheid who can argue that the Pretoria government should be rewarded for the small step it has taken, such as our release and the unbanning of the ANC and other organizations."

Mandela called on opponents of apartheid to intensify the struggle. The people of South Africa, southern Africa, and the rest of the world want "the end of apartheid and the transformation of our country to a nonracial democracy," he said. "The prospect can only become reality as a result of struggle, including the struggle represented by the international sanctions campaign."

"All of us must therefore refuse to demobilize, even if those who seek to demobilize us plead that they are doing so after new-found concern for the oppressed and out of the goodness of their hearts."

"Dear friends," Mandela continued, "it will not be long now before we see the end of the apartheid system. The dreams of millions of people to see our country free and at peace will be realized sooner rather than later."

'Skunk of the world'

"We are determined to ensure that our country is transformed from being the skunk of the world into an exemplary oasis of unrivaled and excellent race relations, democracy for all, a just peace and freedom from poverty and human degradation," Mandela declared.

"Let us continue to march forward together for the realization of that glorious vision. It will be a proud day for all humanity when we are all able to say that the apartheid crime against humanity is no more."

Mandela appealed for support of those returning to South Africa. "We need your help in terms of material resources that we must provide to resettle the returning exiles. We require your assistance to make general the means which will enable us to reconstruct the ANC after 30 years of illegality."

Mandela paid tribute to ANC President Tambo, who is in Sweden recovering from an illness. He ended by inviting everyone "to attend the historic victory celebrations" that will take place in a free South Africa.

Among the performing artists at the Wem-

bley concert were Anita Baker, Jackson Browne, Tracy Chapman, Natalie Cole, Terence Trent D'Arby, Peter Gabriel, the Neville Brothers, Bonnie Raitt, Lou Reed, Simple Minds, Little Steven, and Neil Young. Particularly prominent were performers from Africa, including Abdulla Ibrahim, Youssou N'Dour, Savuka, and a "supergroup" combining the talents of many, called Kopane.

Mandela took time before the concert to meet with the various artists who performed on the historic occasion. He told them that while in prison, he had tried to follow developments in progressive music and thanked them for their contribution to the struggle against apartheid.

From the first moment of his arrival in Britain, Mandela received a jubilant welcome from anti-apartheid campaigners. Some 150 people assembled outside the Churchill Hotel in London's Portman Square for a 7:00 a.m. demonstration on April 15 as Mandela arrived. Along with Mandela and others, long-time ANC leader Ahmed Kathrada, released last November from Robben Island, ad-

ressed the demonstrators. Another political prisoner, Barbara Logan, the most recently released of all, also spoke to the crowd.

During Mandela's short stay in Britain — he was on a plane home by 11:00 p.m. after finishing his speech at Wembley at 9:30 p.m. — Mandela attended a meeting with the Reception Committee and with the ANC. He also gave a press conference backstage at the stadium. There he attacked Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's call for easing sanctions against Pretoria.

That approach, he said, has given rise to the perception that, despite claiming to be against apartheid, in actual fact the British government is siding with South African President F.W. de Klerk in upholding apartheid.

Mandela had been invited to meet Thatcher, but refused the invitation. He added that anti-apartheid forces in South Africa would "regret" a visit by Thatcher to the country before serious negotiations between the government there and the ANC were under way. Opponents of the anti-apartheid fight have

taken the occasion of Mandela's visit to open up a sharp attack against the ANC leader. Conservative Party member of Parliament Terry Dicks described Mandela as a "Black terrorist" and called on Thatcher to withdraw her invitation to Mandela for a meeting. John Carlisle, another Conservative MP and chairman of the British South Africa Parliamentary Group, condemned the BBC for televising the concert, claiming the corporation was under "left-wing" control. The *Sun*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Express* and *Daily Star* carried angry leads denigrating the concert and complaining that it had been televised.

The impact of the concert was so strong that even in South Africa — where, along with the United States, the concert was not broadcast — it was headline news. *The Citizen*, a paper published in Johannesburg that reflects the views of the ruling National Party, ran a story headlined, "Mandela's call — isolate South African government." The Johannesburg *Star's* front page read, "Mandela's plea to the world — don't provide prop for apartheid."

W. Virginia activist fights frame-up

BY ILONA GERSH

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Trumped-up criminal charges of assault and battery, as well as a libel suit, have been levelled against Phillip Carter, a professor at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. Carter, a well-known fighter for Black rights, is currently president of the Huntington branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Over years of activity Carter has earned a reputation as a principled and outspoken leader in the fight against racism. He was active in the civil rights movement in the 1960s in West Virginia and Ohio through the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Congress of Racial Equality, and the NAACP. In the 1970s, while living in Pittsburgh, Carter helped found the National Black Independent Political Party. He returned to Huntington, West Virginia, in 1980 as director of Marshall University's Social Work Department.

Carter, accused of threatening a student and poking him in the chest with his finger on February 16, will face the Cabell County Magistrate Court on April 27. On May 18 Carter is scheduled to appear in court to face a \$425,000 libel suit filed against him in December by Dwight Jensen, chairman of the university's Department of Journalism. The suit accuses Carter of publicly claiming that the department teaches students to be racist.

The recently formed Phil Carter Defense Committee held a news conference on April 9 and released a statement blasting the frame-up of Carter as "the 1990s method of lynching. The rope has been traded for unfounded lawsuits."

"We want it known in this community and at Marshall University," the statement continued, "that when you attack Professor Phil Carter, each of us who believe in social justice is also being attacked."

The legal actions against Carter are the most recent manifestation of a concerted campaign to isolate his views on campus and in the community. He was recently replaced

as Social Work Department director by individuals with fewer credentials; funding for projects under his direction has been withheld; his support staff has been reassigned to other departments; and students have been actively discouraged from taking his courses by a defamation campaign directed against his personal and professional competency.

Carter has the backing of his NAACP branch, which published a statement condemning the administration's defamation

campaign calling the "systematic attacks on Professor Carter and any person who dares to oppose racism and sexism" as "reminiscent of the McCarthy era," referring to the anti-communist witch-hunt that took place in the United States during the late 1940s and '50s.

For more information or to send messages of support and financial contributions, write to the Phil Carter Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1981, Huntington, W.Va. 25701; or call (304) 523-3735.

Malcolm X pamphlet is out in a new Pathfinder edition



Malcolm X talks to reporters, 1963.

BY DOUG COOPER

NEW YORK — Pathfinder, the major worldwide publisher of the works of Malcolm X, has just released a new edition of its pamphlet *Two Speeches by Malcolm X* with a new cover and introduction.

First published in March 1965 — just weeks after Malcolm's assassination — it includes two major speeches and other material that give a brief overview of the development of the working-class revolutionary's political course during the last year of his life.

The introduction explains that "throughout his years as a leading figure in the Nation of Islam, Malcolm X was an uncompromising fighter for Black rights and a revolutionary opponent of imperialist Washington and its oppression of the peoples of Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Following his break from the Nation in March 1964, Malcolm's stated views also became increasingly anticapitalist and, then, prosocialist, as well. His political outlook was still evolving and his grasp of the realities of world politics still deepening at the time of his assassination."

The speeches it contains were both delivered at Militant Labor Forums in New York in 1964 and 1965 and published in the *Militant*.

A Jan. 28, 1965, radio interview conducted by *Militant* staff writer Harry Ring is available in its entirety only in this pamphlet.

Excerpts from a mid-January 1965 interview with the *Young Socialist* magazine are also included. Edited by Malcolm, the interview appeared in the March-April 1965 issue, which was just coming off the press at the time of his assassination. The full interview was then published in the Pathfinder pamphlet *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* in October 1965 and has remained in print ever since.

The new cover of *Two Speeches by Malcolm X* was designed by Toni Gorton.

Sales of Pathfinder books and pamphlets by Malcolm X have increased dramatically in recent years, according to Pathfinder Business and Promotions Director Norton Sandler. "There has been a three- to fourfold increase in sales compared to how they were selling before 1987," he said.

Two Speeches by Malcolm X sells for \$2.50 and is available from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014, or from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12.

New 'Lutte ouvrière' available

The April-June issue of the French-language socialist quarterly *Lutte ouvrière* is off the press. It is published in Montréal.

Featured is coverage of the historic freedom struggle taking place in South Africa, spurred by the release of Nelson Mandela and the unbanning of the African National Congress.

Mandela's speech on the day he was freed, delivered in Cape Town February 11, is in the issue, along with an interview with Neo Mnumzana, an ANC international affairs official who discusses the tasks facing the organization now that it functions openly inside South Africa.

Other articles include:

- On Cuba, the revolutionary government's response to sharpening imperialist

attacks; and a speech by Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New Internationalist*, on the relevance of Ernesto Che Guevara's economic and political thought to today's struggles.

- On the Machinists strike against Eastman, an editorial assessment of where things stand after one year on the picket line.

- On Nicaragua, the defeat of workers' and farmers' power.

- And articles on the Mark Curtis defense effort and the constitutional crisis in Canada over the language and national rights of Québec.

Issues of the magazine are available for \$3 at bookstores listed on page 12, or by mail from *Lutte ouvrière*, C.P. 340, succursale R, Montréal, Québec H2S 3M2. A one year's introductory subscription is \$6.

Anti-apartheid forces campaign to halt violence in Natal

BY MARGRETHE SIEM
AND GREG McCARTAN

DURBAN, Natal, South Africa — Thousands of anti-apartheid activists attended a funeral March 24 in nearby Ntuzuma township for four activists shot and killed by the police.

"The four people killed were members of the Youth Congress," explained Ntuzuma Youth Congress member Damsani Mabizela. "One of them was the strongest in the 'G' section" of the township, "a highly political leader." The youths ranged in age from 15 to 19.

The killings highlight the challenges facing the anti-apartheid struggle here in Natal Province. Natal borders Mozambique in the north and the Indian Ocean in the east. Ntuzuma township, like many other areas in Natal, is part of the KwaZulu "homeland."

KwaZulu is one of 10 such homelands in the country where the majority of the African population is forced to live. Most working-age township residents travel more than an hour by bus to jobs in factories, the shipping port, or numerous tourist hotels here in Durban.

Like other homelands, areas designated as KwaZulu territory are under the jurisdiction of semi-independent homeland authorities. In KwaZulu the chief minister, in charge of the police force and other state functions, is Gatsi Buthelezi. Buthelezi also heads an organization called Inkatha, which operates under the guise of a cultural movement of Zulus.

Officially opposed to apartheid

Although Buthelezi is on record as opposing apartheid, he has taken positions on a range of issues that differ sharply from those held by the African National Congress, the leading liberation organization of South Africa.

Buthelezi has also attempted to impede the functioning and halt the growth in Natal of democratic organizations that support the ANC, such as the United Democratic Front and the Youth Congress. Members of Inkatha have frequently attacked members of these groups, burned their homes, and assaulted their events.

Some 3,000 people have died over the last four years as a result of this fighting. The

apartheid regime has utilized the violence to justify its state of emergency and recent moves to crack down on peaceful protests.

Participants in the Ntuzuma funeral reported that they had been working since last October to try and find political solutions to the conflicts.

Mamsie Ngema and Regina Moomie are both members of the Central Peace Committee, which, they explained, is called upon to help mediate disputes in the Ntuzuma area. By seeking political solutions to problems faced by people in the community, "We have reduced violent attacks by 80 percent," said Ngema.

The peace committee is one part of the efforts by township residents to rebuild UDF-affiliated organizations. "We want to educate people about the ANC," said Mabizela. He explained that activists are working in every neighborhood, holding discussions so "people can understand what we are talking about."

While these efforts have drastically reduced attacks by Inkatha members, residents say killings and assaults by the police are on the rise. "What is disturbing," explained Thabo Gcabashe from the Natal Youth Congress, "is that there is clear evidence who the perpetrators are. They are official policemen employed by the security police attached to the South African police. We are demanding that the KwaZulu police get out of the township."

The regional president of the South Africa Rail and Harbour Workers Union said that the unions are also working to educate their members on the political issues in the country so as to avoid confrontations. He reported that very few incidents of violence between union members take place as a result.

Inkatha rally

On March 25, the day after the funeral, an Inkatha rally was held in Durban, Natal's biggest city. Some 8,000 Inkatha supporters, many armed with ceremonial spears and shields, turned out in the pouring rain. The featured speaker was Buthelezi.

Buthelezi emphasized that great steps have been taken to eradicate apartheid and that he "remained true to the time-honored values of



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Funeral in Ntuzuma township near Durban, Natal Province. Four members of Youth Congress, a democratic organization associated with the African National Congress, were slain by South African police. Inkatha, an organization based in the KwaZulu "homeland" in Natal, has also used violence against democratic forces.

the Black struggle for liberation. But, he said, "we are pursuing our objectives through non-violent means."

He explained that Inkatha was condemned by other anti-apartheid organizations because it "did not opt for international economic confrontations with South Africa." Buthelezi claimed that "the politics of negotiation," which he has been advocating all along, "are tactics which have won through to the end. It is these tactics which are now so much more powerful in South Africa than the armed struggle could have ever been."

The ANC began an armed struggle against the regime in 1961 and it has advocated isolation of the Pretoria government through international sanctions.

Buthelezi went on to add his voice to the regime's campaign asserting that "Black on Black" violence is the biggest obstacle to peaceful change in South Africa. As "all political leaders are clamoring for the lifting of the state of emergency," he said, "it becomes difficult to imagine how the state president can start doing so in the present escalating violence."

The Inkatha leader joined the call by the Pretoria regime and other defenders of apartheid to halt economic and political sanctions against South Africa. He reported to the rally that he had just returned from Washington and London where, he said, he "spoke to the American president and the British prime minister" and "told these great leaders in your name that we reject sanctions against South Africa."

Much of Buthelezi's speech was devoted to attacking the ANC and United Democratic Front. He accused a UDF leader of threatening his life. He denounced the recent one-day strikes commemorating fallen anti-apartheid heroes massacred in 1960 at Sharpeville as "intimidation and violence." The strikes, he said, were efforts on the part of the UDF and the main trade union federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), "to stop people from going to work."

The following day the Inkatha paper, *Ilanga*, reported that 100,000 attended the rally and claimed Inkatha buses had been stoned by UDF supporters.

Inkatha attacks

On March 29, some 12,000 Inkatha supporters launched a series of attacks in the region. They swept through the streets of the nearby city of Pietersmaritzburg, killing 30 people.

A "Memorandum on the Pietersmaritzburg War" issued April 3 by a joint committee of COSATU and the UDF detailed numerous attacks by Inkatha warriors on at least a dozen towns in the areas.

"It is the most systematic, coordinated, and concerted onslaught undertaken in the past three years" by Inkatha, the report stated. "Whole communities have become traumatized. Schools have closed. Public transport has been halted." By the end of the week, with more than 80 dead, hundreds wounded, and 14,000 "turned into refugees," the situation was nothing "short of a national disaster."

Seeking to paint a picture of spiralling violence among Black organizations, press reports here suggest the fighting is a series of UDF-Inkatha clashes. The COSATU-UDF report rejects this and explains that only non-Inkatha areas have been devastated over the past week. The report scored the role of the police having "not seriously tried to stop the fighting."

Enemy is apartheid

In a recent tour of these devastated areas, Nelson Mandela explained that Inkatha is not to be regarded as the enemy. "We are not fighting Inkatha, we are fighting apartheid." Inkatha "must know that we are keen to make peace," he said. Mandela added that he was seeking an opportunity to speak directly to Inkatha, but the level of violence would have to subside before a joint rally with Buthelezi could take place.

Capitalizing on these events, South African President F.W. de Klerk announced a crack-down on political protest across the country. The South African Police, backed by the South African Defence Force, were quickly sent into Natal. De Klerk ordered the force to "act firmly and without delay" to "bring unrest and violence throughout the country under control. Everyone must understand that these decisions could lead to a rise in the number of people detained," he added.

Speaking at a press conference after touring the war-torn area, Mandela scored the government's unilateral action. Such moves "by the government without consulting acknowledged leaders is bound to be ineffective regardless of merit," he said.

A statement of the National Executive Committee of the ANC released after a meeting held in Lusaka, Zambia, on April 9 reaffirmed the importance of the measures already taken by Mandela and other ANC leaders to end the tragic killings in Natal. It "insisted that the South African regime play its role in this process" and insure that the police "who have led, armed, and protected the murderous vigilante groups, end their campaign of terror against the democratic movement and the people of Natal."

NEW YORK CITY

Report from South Africa

Speakers:

Greg McCartan & Margrethe Siem
Militant correspondent and photographer recently returned from reporting on the upheaval in South Africa.
Exhibit and auction of Siem's photos.

Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m.

191 Seventh Ave.

(at West 21st St.)

Manhattan

Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

Mandela in Ciskei 'homeland'



Militant/Margrethe Siem

BISHO, Ciskei, South Africa — Tens of thousands gathered in the stadium here to greet African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela. Peasants, workers, and students, many of them coming on foot, came from across the Ciskei "homeland" to attend the March 31 ANC rally. Until recently, such an event would have been banned by a now deposed Ciskei regime that collaborated with the apartheid state and its African "homelands," or Bantustan, policy. The leader of the new Ciskei government, Oupa Gqozo, told the crowd he "looked forward to the creation of a free, democratic, and nonracial society" in South Africa. Mandela said, "Our people totally reject the Bantustans, they desire to be reincorporated into South Africa."

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Cuba-U.S. Relations: A Forum. Speaker: Clinton Adlum, first secretary, Cuban Interests Section, Washington, D.C. Sat., April 21, 7 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1180 11th Ave. S. Social to follow, \$5 donation. Sponsor: Cuba Solidarity Tour Committee.

FLORIDA

Miami

Voices in Exile: Immigrants and the First Amendment. Video on the Los Angeles 8, seven Palestinians and a Kenyan targeted for deportation for their political activism. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

The Deepening Crisis of the Aquino Government: What Next in the Philippines? Speakers: Manny Lahoz, Alliance for Philippine Concerns; Bob Robertson, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7-1. Sat., April 21, 7:30 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 829-6815.

INDIANA

East Chicago

Rally to Support Locked-Out and Striking Workers. Speakers: representatives of United Steelworkers of America Local 1720 locked out at Standard Forgings, USWA Local 1206 on strike at American Steel Foundries, United Mine Workers of America 1972 on strike at Decker Coal, International Association of Machinists on strike at Eastern, Amalgamated Transit Union on strike at Greyhound. Sat., April 21, 3:30 p.m. Michigan Ave. and Dickey Rd. Sponsored by USWA Local 1720. For more information call (219) 398-0056.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

U.S. Hands Off Cuba. No to TV Marti! Panel discussion. Sat., April 21, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MINNESOTA

Austin

Support Indian Treaty Rights. Speaker: Sylvia Giesbrecht, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., April 29, 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

The Struggle for Independence in the Soviet Republics. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

U.S. Hands Off Cuba! Speakers: Rita Melgares, attorney; Janet Dennison, educator; others. Sat., April 21, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Behind the British Poll Tax Revolt: Eyewitness Account. Speaker: Frank Williams. Sat., April 21, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

Manhattan

Stop Union Busting! Solidarity March and Rally. Thurs., May 3. Rally 4:30 p.m., Port Authority bus terminal, 41st St. and 8th Ave.; march, 5:30 p.m. to Rockefeller Center, Eastern Airlines ticket office, 49th St. and 6th Ave. Sponsors: Amalgamated Transit Union Local

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS on the ENVIRONMENT

NEW YORK

Protecting Our Environment: A Marxist View

Speaker: Doug Jenness, editor of the Militant

Sat., April 21, 7:30 p.m. • 191 7th Ave. (at W 21 St.) • Manhattan
Donation: \$3. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

FLORIDA

Miami

The Destruction of the Everglades. Panel discussion. Sat., May 12, 7:30 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

From the Workplace to the Rain Forests! Who Is Responsible for the Destruction of the Environment? Speakers: Pat Birnie, codirector Maryland Safe Energy Coalition and chairperson GE Stockholders Alliance Against Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Weap-

ons; Lisa Nowakowski, Maryland spokesperson, Rain Forest Action Network; Bob Quigley, Socialist Workers Party. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Sat., April 28. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: dinner \$3, program \$2. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

TEXAS

Houston

Destruction of the Environment: What Should Working People Do? Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Almeda. Donation: \$2. Speakers: Bibi Lising, environmental activist; Randy Warren, Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

1202, International Association of Machinists, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 99.

Political Prisoners in the USA. Speakers: Dhurba Bin-Wahad, recently released from prison after exposure of government misconduct in his case; Filiberto Ojeda Rios, leader of the Puerto Rican independence movement; others. Sat., April 28, 7 p.m. Borough of Manhattan Community College, 199 Chambers St. Sponsor: Freedom Now! For more information call (212) 860-4101.

OREGON

Portland

The Truth About Cuba: Defend the Cuban People from U.S. Government Attacks! Speakers: Michael Cannarella, KBOO producer, toured Cuba with journalists group; Martin Gonzalez, Central American Program, American Friends Service Committee; Jon Olmsted, teacher, Central America solidarity activist. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 2730 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

UTAH

Price

Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis. Speaker: Tony Dutrow, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D. Sun., April 22, 5 p.m. 253 E Main. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Donation: \$2. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

Report Back from United Mine Workers Camp Solidarity. Speaker: Bill Arth, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 2-591. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Solidarity with the Eastern Airlines Strike. Video showing of *The Eastern Story*. Speaker: Frank Planinac, president International Association of Machinists Local 1044, Pittsburgh. Sat., April 28, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

BRITAIN

Cardiff

Africa Called and Cuba Answered. Video showing of *Response to the South African Escalation*. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 9 Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 0222-484677.

London

Malcolm X. Video showing. Fri., April 27, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 01-928 7993.

Manchester

U.S. Hands Off Cuba! Speakers: Jorge Valdez, cultural attaché of Cuban embassy; representative, Association of South African Students; representative North-West Area National Union of Mineworkers; Lou Kushnik, Department of American Studies, University of Manchester. Wed., April 25, 7:30 p.m. Town Hall. Sponsors: Britain-Cuba Resource Centre; Central America Solidarity Campaign; Eddy Newman, member of European Parliament.

Sheffield

The Fight for a Free South Africa: Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Rich Palser, correspondent with *Militant* reporting team recently returned from South Africa. Fri., April 27, 7:30 p.m. 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 0742-729469.

CANADA

Toronto

Eastern Airlines, Pittston, Greyhound: Labor Fights Back Against Union-Busting. Speaker: Joe Young, Central Committee of the Communist League. Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

FRANCE

Paris

Justice for Mark Curtis. Speaker: Kate Kaku, representative of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Fri., April 27, 8 p.m. 27 avenue de Choisy, 13th Arrondissement. Métro: Porte de Choisy. Donation: 10 francs.

Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism in Cuba

Hear:

Carlos Tablada

Cuban economist and author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, currently on a U.S. speaking tour.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Sat., April 21, 7:30 p.m. ILWU Local 34, 4 Berry St. Donation: \$5. For more information call (415) 282-6255 or 420-1165.

Stanford

Speaking with José Antonio Burciaga, Casa Zapata; Sue Severin, longtime Witness for Peace delegate to Bluefields, Nicaragua. Fri., April 20, 7:30 p.m. Casa Zapata, Stern Hall, Stanford University. Donation requested. For more information call (415) 326-8837.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Thurs., April 26, 3:30 p.m. Pick Hall Lounge, University of Chicago. University and 58th St.

Thurs., April 26, 7 p.m. 700 S. Morgan (opposite University of Illinois-Circle). For more information call (312) 829-6815.

MASSACHUSETTS

Cambridge

Sat., April 28, 7:30 p.m. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Bldg. 9-150, 105 Mass. Ave. Donation: \$3. For more information call (617) 322-8115.
Tues., May 1, 2 p.m. Harvard University, Cambridge International Studies Bldg., Coolidge Hall, 1737 Mass. Ave.

NORTH CAROLINA

Chapel Hill

Tues., April 24, 7 p.m. Toy Lounge, Dey Hall, University of North Carolina. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

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SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10. Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

Those callous strikers — The *Militant* reported that after a one-month strike, Hawaiian hotel workers won a tentative new contract. But the Reuters news agency



Harry Ring

scooped us on one fact. It reported that the walkout "had forced some guests to make their own beds."

Militant subscription, anyone? — One of those lively supermarket

rags shouted that Fidel Castro secretly scarfs down bushels of smuggled-in Big Macs. And a right-wing newscaster on a Spanish-language station said New York protesters against U.S. anti-Cuba policies outnumbered their ultraright Cuban opponents because they hired the homeless to swell their march.

Eh? — "A panel of U.S. Roman Catholic bishops... said men unable to deal with women as equals should not be considered fit for the priesthood. But the committee's proposed declaration reiterated the church ban on female priests." — News item.

Fasten your seat belt and shut

up — The Canadian Human Rights Commission rapped government plans for random drug testing of transportation workers. Responded Transportation Minister Douglas Lewis, "The commission's responsibility is human rights, but mine is the safety of the traveling public."

Still firm on principles — The Bush administration has "reinterpreted" the asserted ban on killing unfriendly heads of state. Officials said the CIA can help overthrow a government head even if there is a "high probability" the official will be killed. But, they add, it would still be a no-no to kill someone after he or she surrenders.

Capitalist consensus — The Associated Press reported that a survey found varying views among employers on how to curb health insurance costs. "The most popular option, chosen by three-quarters of them," the report tersely stated, "was to shift more of the cost to employees."

Law'n order, Israeli style — The Israeli military held Abed Muhammad Nasser al-Din in jail for a day and then released him on \$7,500 bail. The offender is charged with throwing stones. He's nine.

No consideration — A Rhode Island judge ruled that Lucille Anne Riccitelli could not use her birth

name without her husband's permission. Spouse Edward Martin had argued that for Riccitelli to do so was "patently discriminatory."

Not as dumb as he looks — "He's no dummy," asserted Noel Clark, spokesperson for the Hit Trail for Quayle Club, which is protesting the jokes being made about the veep by Johnny Carson, other comics, and "the liberal-minded press."

Every day could be your last on earth — With a straight face, a nuke industry PR group ran an Earth Day ad declaring, "Every day is Earth Day with nuclear energy."

Two strikes in Nicaragua end after a hard fight

Workers shut down the two factories when owners ignored their demands.

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Two strikes that were looked to as a test of the relationship of forces between the unions and bosses here were recently settled after two hard-fought weeks.

Workers at the Corona cooking-oil factory celebrated a victory April 9 as they handed back the plant they had taken over to company representatives. At the Polymer Plastics factory, strikers decided to go back to work without winning their demands.

Both plants are owned by the giant U.S.-based corporation United Brands (formerly United Fruit Co.).

"The company wanted to test our mettle at Corona," said union leader Carlos Chacón. "Now they know we're made of solid stuff. We dealt them a blow."

Part of a series of walkouts that began here in late March, most of which were settled quickly, the Polymer and Corona strikes became a focus of attention when the company refused to negotiate until the stoppages were ended.

Workers shut down the two factories when management turned a deaf ear to their demands, refusing even to meet with union representatives. The recent victory of pro-U.S. candidates in Nicaraguan government elections "had emboldened many employers," said Chacón.

The victory at Corona includes a 90 percent wage increase, 95 percent of pay for all days on strike, and a promise that no repressive action will be taken against workers.

At both plants strikers had asked for a 100 percent raise to keep up with inflation.

Corona workers united

What brought United Brands to the negotiating table in the second week of the strike was the unity of the 250 workers at the cooking-oil plant, according to Chacón.

Workers then demonstrated outside the offices of the Ministry of Labor every day during the week-long talks. Under Nicaraguan labor law, the ministry regulates strikes and is supposed to aid in negotiations.

Chacón said the solidarity of workers from 34 workplaces in the country, mainly from Managua, also contributed to the victory.

"It was a bad day for management when workers at the Pepsi and Coca-cola plants and Victoria brewery sent a convoy of 30 trucks to circle the plant, with workers chanting they were with us all the way," the union leader recounted. "Likewise when students from the university marched with us in front of the United Brands Managua offices."

According to Chacón, the employers were afraid that a long walkout garnering a lot of sympathy would encourage strikes at more workplaces.

The union at Polymer is affiliated to the Sandinista Workers Federation. At Corona, workers are organized in an independent union.

Workers pressured to end strike

Management at Polymer also began negotiating in the strike's second week. Midway through the talks, however, 38 of the 85 workers at the plastics plant petitioned the

Ministry of Labor, stating they no longer supported the walkout. Most were office and sales workers pressured by the company to sign, according to union leader Gustavo Centeno.

The Ministry of Labor then insisted that the union accept less than its full demands and end the strike, Centeno said. "It was clear the ministry would not declare the strike legal," he added, "and we would therefore have no protection against firings."

Workers accepted a 30 percent pay increase, with negotiations on wages to open in a month. Polymer agreed to take no punitive action against the strikers.

"We were not defeated," Centeno said. "We won a pay hike and no unionists were fired." Workers will continue to fight for higher wages, he added, noting that "a 30 percent raise, even double that, can be eaten up by inflation here in a matter of weeks."

Centeno stressed that the union's first task now is to "win back the 38 union members who broke ranks" by signing the petition to end the walkout.

The union leader said strikes here are letting the bosses know workers are ready to struggle for improvements in wages and benefits that have been deeply eroded in recent years.

United Brands, he said, "got a little taste of the fight that's in us."



Militant/Susan Apstein

Workers on strike at the Polymer plastics factory on picket duty at plant

British gov't seeks to restrict abortion rights

BY MARY DONNELLY

NOTTINGHAM, England — For the first time since the 1967 law legalizing abortion was adopted, the British government has introduced into Parliament legislation restricting abortion rights. This takes the form of amendments to the "Human Fertility and Embryology Bill," which will be debated in the House of Commons on April 23 and 24.

The Conservative Party government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, with the cooperation of the opposition Labour Party, will cut short the debate and force rapid votes on these issues.

Both Labour and Conservative parties are allowing a free, so-called conscience, vote on the bill by their parliamentary representatives, which means they do not have to vote along party lines. It is expected that amendments will urge reduction in the legal period for abortion to somewhere between 18 and 24 weeks. The 1967 Abortion Act established that women could obtain abortions up to the 28th week of pregnancy.

Campaigners for a woman's right to choose argue that the issue of embryology research is being used as a cover for introducing new restrictions on abortion rights and should be kept entirely separate from the issue of abortion.

Other restrictions on women's rights are contained in the main part of the bill. Under the umbrella of regulating embryo research and IVF (in vitro fertilization) treatment, a Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority will be set up, accountable to no one but the secretary of state. It will define what is meant by "mother" and "father" and only issue licenses for treatment to approved applicants.

The Trades Union Congress Women's

Conference passed a resolution March 15 against all aspects of the bill that discriminate against women. A march, sponsored by the Trades Union Congress and an organization called the Stop the Amendment Campaign, has been set for April 23, assembling 6:30 p.m. at ULU Malet Street, London WC1. These organizations have also called for a

mass lobby of Parliament on April 24, starting at 2:00 p.m. with a meeting in the House of Commons.

An organization within Parliament called the Pro Choice Alliance group, which unites a number of Labour Party women members of Parliament with others, has declared its opposition to the current attacks.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

April 25, 1980

Arm-twisting, blackmail, threats, and bribes. That's how President Carter got the U.S. Olympic Committee to go along with his boycott of the summer Olympics in Moscow.

Despite intense pressure, one-third of the committee voted to reject Carter's ultimatum. This vote by some of the bankers and other businessmen who make up most of the USOC is only a pale reflection of the opposition of the vast majority of athletes. Having trained for years with the Olympics as their goal, they feel betrayed by the vote.

The *New York Times* explained in an editorial, "Boycott is surely a sacrifice for young athletes who long to compete. But that is what makes the gesture meaningful."

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Opponents of U.S. aggression in Viet-

nam should be greatly heartened by the remarkably successful April 17 student March on Washington to End the War in Vietnam.

The turnout of 20,000 was double the number expected by the organizers of the march. These 20,000 were not there simply to voice an amorphous propeace sentiment. They were in the capital as militant, conscious opponents of a war now going on.

They were there to indict the U.S. government for aggression and oppose the reactionary efforts of President Johnson's administration to crush a legitimate, popular revolution with bombs, napalm, and gas. Their banners, their comments to newsmen, their enthusiastic response to every militant sentiment expressed by speakers at their rally, made this unmistakable.

The march was organized by the anti-establishment Students for a Democratic Society, which sought from the outset to give it a militant character. The official call for the march declared, "The current war is being waged in behalf of a succession of unpopular South Vietnamese dictatorships, not on behalf of freedom. The war is fundamentally a civil war waged by South Vietnamese against their government. The people and the guerrillas are inseparable."

Protecting our environment

Continued from front page

sources of pollution, including particular types of technology and industrial processing, as well as the sale of contaminated products, occur within the framework of capitalist ownership of factories, mines, mills, railroads, and ship lines, and of the exploitation of wage labor and debt-burdened working farmers.

Working people, as part of their struggle against the employers, can and have forced the adoption of safety measures on the job, as well as steps to curb pollution. The better workers are organized, the greater will be their power. It is well known, for example, that union-organized mines are far safer than nonunion mines.

But as long as basic industry is dominated by a handful of capitalist families locked in a drive for profits, they will determine what decisions are made about the use of science and technology and curbing pollution.

The capitalist system is marked by competition among capitalists who are each attempting to maximize their profit rates. They each make choices that will help them accomplish this objective. This means they attempt to keep wages as low as possible and increase labor productivity through speedup and other methods that intensify the wear and tear on workers. And they take shortcuts when it comes to plant safety and environmental protection.

As competition among capitalists — both at home and internationally — steps up, the pressure to cut costs and corners deepens. The laws that govern this process are determined by the capitalist market, which operates blindly and anarchistically. No matter how well-intentioned, no owner of capital can escape these laws and their dynamic.

Moreover, these laws are far more fundamental and powerful than antipollution legislation or any other bills adopted by Congress or state legislatures. The capitalists get their political hirelings to write countless loopholes into environmental legislation, and they hire lawyers to find a way through them. From a few hundred lawyers specializing in environmental law 20 years ago, there are some 20,000 today.

When they can't squeeze through a loophole or worm their way around the law, they pay off inspectors or simply violate the law — and then either pay ridiculously low fines or try to cover it up.

Nearly a century and a half ago Karl Marx and Frederick Engels explained in the *Communist Manifesto* that the capitalist class "has created more massive and more colossal productive forces than have all preceding generations together. Subjection of Nature's forces to man, machinery, application of chemistry to industry and agriculture, steam-navigation, railways, electric telegraphs, clearing of whole continents for cultivation, canalization of rivers, whole populations conjured out of the ground — what earlier century had even a presentiment that such productive forces slumbered in the laps of social labor?"

But, the two communists added, modern capitalist society "with its relations of production, of exchange and of property ... is like the sorcerer, who is no longer able to control the powers of the nether world whom he has called up by his spells."

This rings even more true today.

Advances in science and technology have made possible great leaps in the productivity of human labor and make it possible now to adequately feed, clothe, and shelter every human being in the world. But in the hands of the capitalist sorcerer, scientific and technical advances have also wrought horrible damage to the living and working conditions of hundreds of millions of working people around the world and to our environment.

Only by working people getting rid of capitalist rule and establishing our own government can we begin to take serious steps toward ending environmental destruction and launching a massive cleanup of the damage inherited from the capitalist era.

Expropriating the capitalists and establishing a planned economy will eliminate the blind, anarchistic, and seemingly irrational side to economic development and open the door to making choices based on social needs, which includes protecting the environment.

When making profits is no longer a concern, more of the wealth produced by working people can be allocated to introducing pollution controls that the capitalists consider too expensive and to developing more pollution-free technology and alternative sources of energy.

While nationalized property and a planned economy are necessary conditions for making these advances, they are not sufficient. This has been shown in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe where pollution and environmental degradation are also grave problems.

In these countries, privileged bureaucratic layers over many years have introduced some of the worst features of capitalist society. They have been a transmission belt for capitalist morals, values, and methods of functioning, including reliance on material incentives to get workers to produce. This has reinforced self-centeredness and a dog-eat-dog mentality in these countries. The new forces that are replacing the shattered Communist Parties in many of these countries, who call for the introduction of even more capitalist mechanisms, offer no way out either.

What is needed then is the elimination of capitalism along with the promotion of a new consciousness. Under these conditions working people will be able to look beyond individual needs and will want to contribute to society as a whole. For this political understanding and social awareness to fully develop, working people must be mobilized to assume control over the administration and leadership of their own state and to chart the path of the economy toward communism — and to a safer and cleaner world.

What stand on Lithuania will best advance workers

BY DOUG JENNESS

Nationalist revolts have been erupting throughout the Soviet Union during the past year, challenging Moscow's domination, as well as the country's borders. Letters by two readers printed on the facing page raise questions related to these struggles.

The first by Adam Goldsmith argues that the *Militant* has failed to offer a class analysis of the situation in Lithuania. He appears concerned that supporting Lithuania's right to self-determination, including separation, could lead to a

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

more reactionary government in Lithuania. And while he does not say it directly, the inference is that independence could mean the restoration of capitalism in this corner of the Soviet Union.

What stand should working people throughout the world take? Should we support Lithuanian independence or Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's moves to repress it? What position will best advance workers' interests?

First, it must be understood that Lithuania, like the other Baltic republics, is nationally oppressed. And this oppression adversely affects all sectors of Lithuanian society. When Soviet troops occupied the Baltic countries in 1940, resulting in their forcible incorporation into the Soviet Union, thousands of Lithuanians were deported and many others arrested and executed. Peasants were forced into collective farms against their will, and Russian became the language of government.

Whatever progressive gains were won by the overturn of capitalist property relations in Lithuania by the Soviet occupation forces, they were far outweighed by the negative political consequences of trampling on the Lithuanians' democratic right of sovereignty. The forcible annexation to the Soviet Union set back, rather than advanced, the political understanding and clarity of working people in Lithuania and drove them further away from, rather than closer to, socialism. It reinforced working people's receptivity to the "national unity" demagoguery of Lithuania's capitalist rulers, instead of deepening their struggle against class exploitation.

Moreover, it weakened the defense of the Soviet Union against imperialist attack at a critical moment by undermining working-class support both in Lithuania and internationally.

Today, lifting the Russian boot off the backs of the Lithuanian people would open up a situation where national oppression no longer looms as the main enemy. It would offer working people an opportunity to see more clearly that their interests are sharply counterposed to those of Lithuania's privileged bureaucratic caste, including those of the middle-class nationalist leadership. Working people would have more elbow room to discuss, organize, and take action in defense of their own interests, including opposing attempts by the privileged layers to introduce capitalist methods that could lead to capitalist restoration.

It is not clear what "fundamental gains of the October Revolution" Goldsmith is referring to, but there is an important one that helps shed light on the issues he is raising.

Before the October 1917 Russian revolution, Lithuania like the other Baltic states, were part of the tsarist empire. When the Bolshevik-led government came to power, it supported attempts by workers and peasants to overturn capitalist rule and establish their own governments in those countries. But these failed mainly as a result of imperialist intervention during the civil war. So the Bolsheviks in 1920 recognized "without reservation" the right of these countries to form separate governments, even though they were capitalist.

The impact on working people in these countries was so substantial that it became a pressure on their governments to not join the imperialist-backed counterrevolutionary drive. Russian revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin said without this policy "there is not the slightest doubt we should have been defeated."

Lenin recognized that unity among workers from different countries cannot be achieved through compulsion. And working people from nations that have been oppressing other nations have a special responsibility to oppose all measures and institutions that are used to foster inequalities among workers if workers' unity is to be forged.

Many journalists have been making the comparison between Soviet President Gorbachev and Abraham Lincoln that reader Davis does. I see no such similarity.

The secession of the 11 southern states was a slaveholders' rebellion, not the revolt of an oppressed nation. Hundreds of thousands of toilers in the South were slaves who enthusiastically responded to the 1863 proclamation ending slavery and, by the end of the war, made up a big part of the union army.

Regardless of Lincoln's initial temerity, he presided over a revolutionary army that suppressed a reactionary uprising. Gorbachev, on the other hand, is the chief representative of a reactionary bureaucratic caste that is attempting to squash a popular national revolt of an oppressed people.

Keep South Africa steel out!

U.S. Commerce Department officials recently reported that more than 900,000 tons of South African iron and steel, worth at least \$350 million, has entered the United States — despite a 1986 U.S. law that says "no iron or steel produced in South Africa may be imported into the United States."

This flagrant violation of even the limited U.S. sanctions against the apartheid regime underscores the importance of Nelson Mandela's appeal — made a few days later before tens of thousands gathered at an anti-apartheid concert in London — for continued and stiffer sanctions against Pretoria. "Reject any suggestion that the campaign to isolate the apartheid system should be wound down," the African National Congress leader said.

The industrially developed, capitalist economy of South Africa is tied to — and especially vulnerable to pressures from — big-business interests in Britain, Japan, the United States, and other imperialist countries. That's why the African National Congress has long advocated the imposition of comprehensive, mandatory economic sanctions to help isolate and weaken the apartheid state.

Anti-apartheid fighters the world over have heeded this call and fought to pressure their own governments to impose economic, political, and cultural sanctions against South Africa.

In 1985 and '86 students, trade unionists, progressive organizations, Black rights fighters, and others opposed to the heinous system of apartheid raised the call for "Sanctions now!" on campuses and in cities throughout the United States. Sanctions imposed by Washington — Pretoria's most powerful backer — would bring significant pressure to bear on the apartheid regime, these fighters knew.

Despite a veto by then-president Ronald Reagan, Congress passed a sanctions bill in 1986. Although the bill was far from the comprehensive measures needed to halt all trade with South Africa, the U.S. rulers have chafed

under its provisions. Now it has become clear that even its limited jurisdiction is not being enforced, due to a convenient "interpretation" of the act by the U.S. Treasury Department's lawyers. "Steel," the lawyers argue, does not include fabricated steel products such as girders, beams, and plates used to construct bridges.

Bryce Harlow, a treasury top dog, could not explain the department's rationale except that it was based on "established legal principles."

The General Accounting Office of the U.S. Congress recently admitted that "the U.S. Government does not have adequate tools to effectively enforce" the sanctions.

With the release of Nelson Mandela, the unbanning of the ANC and other organizations, and the further advances in the South African freedom fight, the U.S. Congress plans to open a discussion on sanctions. U.S. government officials claim the gains made in the struggle against apartheid are a result of goodwill on the part of South African President F.W. de Klerk. U.S. President George Bush, like British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, hopes to point to these advances as a reason to lift economic sanctions against South Africa.

As leaders of the struggle against apartheid explain, it is the mass movement of peasants, workers, youth, and other fighters in South Africa that has forced the apartheid regime to make concessions.

Working people and other opponents of apartheid should demand that Washington not only fully enforce the sanctions that are already in place, but immediately impose stiffer measures against the racist regime.

Now, more than ever, efforts must be made to bring economic pressure to bear against the apartheid regime and politically isolate it internationally. This can help the revolutionary struggle that aims to get rid of apartheid rule and establish a national, democratic, and nonracial South Africa.

Unity, union power needed to fight GM firings

BY CLEVE ANDREW PULLEY

DETROIT — Auto workers who build front-wheel drive Cadillacs and Oldsmobile 98s at General Motors' Orion Township assembly plant are seething with anger at the company for refusing to reinstate four union members and leaders fired for leading a work stoppage over safety issues February 6.

Nearly 6,000 United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 5960 members work at the Orion plant, north of Detroit.

The work stoppage took place in the chassis department "towveyor" area and was supported at the time by all union officials on the scene. The towveyor, or marriage line, is the point where the elevated assembly line carrying the car body meets the line carrying the engine and the two parts are joined. Periodically over the past two years, the

UNION TALK

towveyor has been out of synchronization. For workers whose job is to reach in and connect the engine and body, danger of injury — or worse — is increased if the towveyor is jerking and the components are not meeting at the proper time.

The problem came to a head on February 6 during second shift, when 50 workers refused to continue operations until management solved the problem. Beginning around 7:00 p.m. production stopped as some 500 workers from the chassis department converged on the towveyor area. At 10:00 p.m. workers were sent home. Union committeemen Ed Tweed and Bill Luke, along with Elmer Peters and Don Nicholson, were fired for their role in the stoppage.

During the night, the company arranged for repairs to be made on the towveyor. A team of GM and UAW International safety committee people then came to inspect the hazardous equipment and reported that no safety problem had been found. The company stuck by its claim that no safety hazard had ever existed.

Having initially sought to suspend and discipline 50 workers for the work stoppage, management was forced by the union to back down a bit. But GM has dug in its heels regarding the four fired local members. Rather than reinstating them, GM has forced the cases to go to arbitration,

the fourth and final step in the grievance procedure.

Beginning February 6 and continuing for nearly two weeks, hundreds of workers conducted nightly marches and rallies both inside and outside the plant, demanding that the fired workers be reinstated. After that, local members marched and rallied each Tuesday — the day the work stoppage happened. The largest of these rallies, involving 600 workers, happened after the plant manager came on the in-plant TV and claimed "radicals" and "militants" were planning to walk out at lunch and not come back.

More than 600 Local 5960 members also jammed the union hall for the March meeting to chart a course to fight back. The April meeting was larger than usual as well.

At the same time, workers throughout the plant on both first and second shifts have donated thousands of dollars a week to sustain the fired UAW members.

Some 150 local members rallied at Solidarity House, the UAW International's headquarters, on March 15 to seek the International's aid in forcing the company to rehire the fired union members. Stephen Yokich, who heads the UAW's GM department, came out and spoke with some of the protesters. He agreed to meet with the fired members and investigate the case.

From there, Local 5960 members piled into buses and cars and headed for GM's corporate headquarters. "Safety first" and "Bring 'em back" were the chants as workers circled the block-sized building. Company officials refused to come down and talk, sending instead a bunch of private cops.

Since the firings, management has escalated its attacks on the work force. Recently 50 workers were laid off. To maintain production levels during scheduled vacations, GM is combining jobs and cracking down on attendance. It is becoming more difficult to force management to honor vacation preferences and Paid Absence Allowance days mandated by the contract. Even timely restroom breaks are harder to get.

The fact that the cases of the four fired members have gone to arbitration makes it clear management is out for blood.

One reason GM feels emboldened to press the firings is the division within our local. Even though the work stoppage was conducted with support from the union shop chairman,

he soon switched his position and, along with the local president, has made public statements blaming the protests on "a militant political group."

In one leaflet distributed in the plant, the shop chairman is quoted as saying, "Our plant has been turned upside down by the communist party and politicians hoping to capitalize on this tragedy." The two union officials say they are referring only to the Workers League and not to the local members protesting the firings.

The Workers League, an antilabor outfit that masquerades as a socialist group, has sought to disrupt the campaign in defense of the fired workers by having people hand out at the plant a "Strike Bulletin," along with the group's newspaper, the *Bulletin*. The "Strike Bulletin" calls for a "general strike."

The workers who have been fighting GM for more than two months have nothing to do with the Workers League — a fact that is well known by most workers in the plant.

The fight at the Orion plant is over safety. It was management's callous disregard for safety that led to the work stoppage. It was GM's firings of four union members that led to further protests. Instead of denouncing the workers who are fighting to defend safety on the job and get the fired workers back into the plant, all union officials should be in the forefront of leading the protests.

As long as some union officials are attacking those workers who were fired and those fighting to defend them, the company has no reason to respect, much less fear, the union.

Many workers are looking to the union election in May to solve the firing problem, as well as the leadership crisis in the local. Others hope those fired can win their jobs back through the grievance procedure.

It is not too late for action by the entire local union to have a positive effect. Further protest marches, rallies, even a strike — whatever use of union power is necessary — needs to be called soon. It should be clear by now that the only argument management will listen to is one that threatens to interrupt their profitable Cadillac production.

Cleve Andrew Pulley is a member of UAW Local 5960. He works at GM's Orion assembly plant.

LETTERS

Lithuania I

After reading your April 6 editorial about Lithuania, I was outraged at its total lack of analysis of the class character of Lithuania.

All the article talks about is how Lithuania has been oppressed by Russian nationalism. There wasn't one mention of Lithuania's interwar government — a right-wing dictatorship led by anti-Semitic Antanas Smetona.

The last time Lithuania declared independence was the day Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941.

You won't even defend the fundamental gains of the October Revolution! I'm not trying to defend the Stalinist bureaucracy in the Soviet Union, but I had to complain.

Adam Goldsmith
Huntington Beach, California

Lithuania II

Nationalist feelings have heated up in half a dozen of the republics of the Soviet Union, most notably Lithuania.

Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the United States. "Why don't the Russians let those people go too?"

any fair-minded person might think.

President Lincoln would have done exactly what Mikhail Gorbachev did! It's very true Lincoln hated slavery. But, he said, "Much as I hate slavery, I would consent to the extension of it rather than see the Union dissolved."

So the next time you're inclined to call Gorbachev, who is always talking about human rights, a hypocrite or to blast the Russians for holding whole nations captive — watch out! You may just be finding fault with them for acting too American.

R.C.W. Davis
Zapopan, Mexico

Hear Tablada

I was among some 60 students, faculty, and others who had a chance to hear Dr. Carlos Tablada at Edinboro University April 3. It was a cool, overcast morning with wet snow falling, but the crowd warmly received his message, which shed light on the function of the Cuban revolution during the last 30 years.

I encourage others to take time to attend talks during his tour. Many people will appreciate this unusual chance for average people in the United States to hear extended comments from an articulate advocate of Cuba's progress.

My compliments to the Pathfinder Press staff who organized this portion of Dr. Tablada's tour. There was a good display of books and helpful remarks on events.

Special thanks to the translator who did an excellent job of keeping pace with Tablada's remarks that sometimes tumbled out.

James Smith
Erie, Pennsylvania

Drug testing

It was with personal interest that I read the "Union Talk" column on drug testing of rail workers in the March 2 *Militant*.

I work as a tower operator for the Southeastern Transportation Authority (SEPTA) in Philadelphia. At the beginning of the year, SEPTA

instituted "random" drug testing.

Recently I was called to replace a coworker who was pulled out of service for a minor infraction. There was no accident or injury involved. He was taken for a drug test.

While the results normally come back in three days, he was out of work for a week because the clinic "lost" his sample. Needless to say, he wasn't compensated for their mess-up.

Workers immediately raise the question: If they can "lose" a sample, can't they "inadvertently" switch samples and put you out of work with a "drug-related" firing on your record.

I was told that the Conrail "family" has a new policy for crews returning to work, with a sign-up time and interview time so "Dad" can determine if you're fit and sober.

These measures, combined with the drive to outlaw a woman's right to choose abortion, graphically display the employers' determination to control our personal lives. It's crucial that our unions do more to fight these undemocratic threats.

Craig McKissic
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

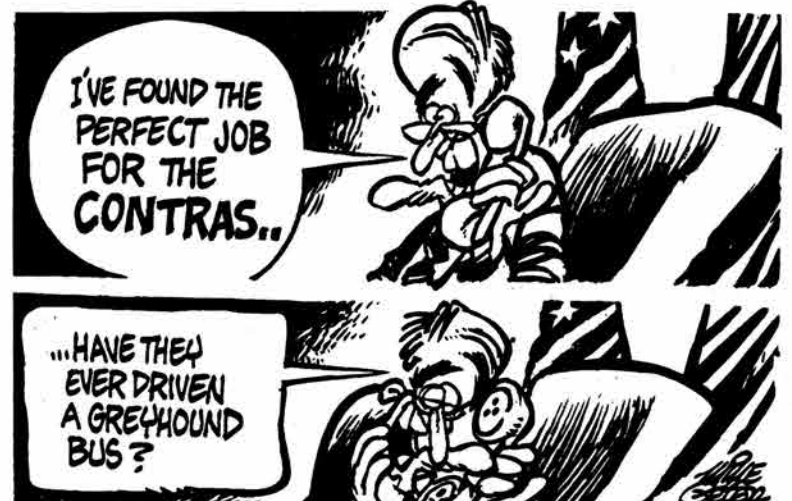
Message of solidarity

I would like to comment on your March 23 article on the "U.S. Hands Off Nicaragua, Cuba, and El Salvador" meeting in New York and Socialist Workers Party leader Cindy Jaquith's review of Central America and Cuba.

She is an acknowledged sister in the movement and her review delivered a true message of solidarity about the need for people to realize the atrocities that the U.S. capitalists are getting away with in Panama, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba.

Jaquith's extensive coverage for the *Militant* has given me more insight into U.S. intervention.

I am in prison and receive the paper through your Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund. I have been in the movement for years and can identify with the problems people in Central



America and the Caribbean are facing.

To them I would like to say, "Solidarity will gain liberation, and fight until you make it right."

A prisoner
Corcoran, California

Follow Curtis case

I am an inmate at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa. I read your articles about inmates and institutions all across the United States every chance I get.

I want to follow Mark Curtis' case through the *Militant*. But due to a lack of funds, I cannot afford the paper. So if you can send it to me free of charge, I would appreciate it to the fullest.

A prisoner
Anamosa, Iowa

Falsely accused

First of all, let me say that I think the *Militant* is a great newsletter.

I am incarcerated at the Iowa Men's Reformatory. Having read about the plight of Mark Curtis and seeing some of what is happening to him has prompted me to write this letter.

Some time ago one of the officers here wrote me a disciplinary report for "giving false information to the warden" because I denied belonging to a gang. I had mentioned the name of a group I once belonged to in a

different facility. The officer decided that I was a member of a gang and put this in my record. When I brought the error to the attention of the warden, the officer got mad and wrote me a major report. I have not given up this matter and am appealing the conviction by a committee of prison officials.

The corrections staff tell the public there is a gang problem here. To support their position, I was made one of their statistics. This is used to get more money for guards or bed space that could best be used elsewhere.

While they attempt to suppress Mark Curtis, the rest of us here are subject to the changing will of our overseers as well.

A prisoner
Anamosa, Iowa

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

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

Correction

In last week's issue there was a reference in the "Learning About Socialism" column to several sentences that were accidentally dropped from reader Lois Remple's letter printed on the facing page of the same issue.

The missing passage followed the sentence, "But the people of Nicaragua were voting for survival," and stated, "The contra war had not ended, if killing counts as war. Contra killings and threats had not abated. They were a campaign tactic. They said this is what will continue to happen if you elect the FSLN."

3 more Greyhound strikers arrested

AFL-CIO urges labor rallies

BY SUSAN LaMONT

On April 16 striking Greyhound driver Dennis Daniels was arrested in Columbus, Ohio, on federal charges of shooting at a scab-driven Greyhound bus last month. He is being held without bond pending a bail hearing.

Six days earlier, two other strikers, Harry Lewis and Roy Simes, were arrested in St. Louis on similar charges. They and four other members of their picket crew were pulled in for questioning at 5:00 a.m. that day.

"There were no phone calls all day — not to their families, not to us at the union, not to anyone seeking legal counsel," said Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1313 representative K.C. Kotyk. The ATU represents the more than 9,000 drivers, mechanics, cleaners, and clerks who have been on strike at Greyhound since March 2.

"I've got to believe that the whole crew was singled out," Kotyk said. "Three of the six had been arrested before for 'disturbing the peace' on the picket line. Then they spend a day in isolation being questioned. And they're tried and convicted on page one of the newspaper."

The latest arrests bring to four the number of strikers arrested on serious felony charges stemming from incidents in which scab-driven buses were allegedly shot at. In March striker Roger Cawthra was arrested in Hartford, Connecticut.

Ed Strait, president of the ATU's Amalgamated Council of Greyhound Local Unions, explained in the April 2 *AFL-CIO News* that Greyhound is seeking to focus attention on the shootings "as a basic tactic to avoid going back to the bargaining table. We view it as a subterfuge." The ATU does not condone the shootings, he said, and ATU members "don't have a hand in it." Negotiations broke off March 18 and Greyhound is currently refusing to resume talks until a week goes by without a shooting incident.

In a further attack on strikers, Greyhound announced April 5 that 60 strikers had been fired for alleged incidents of violence and vandalism. The company said further firings

would follow.

Meanwhile more than 60 strikers and supporters from Binghamton, New York, to Jackson, Mississippi, have been injured at bus station picket lines — either hit by scab-driven buses or, in some cases, physically assaulted by scabs.

In many cities, unionists are backing the strikers by organizing solidarity rallies and helping out on the picket lines.

In Pittsburgh on April 8 some 400 unionists attended a rally for strikers near the bus terminal. Contingents came from the Teamsters, Machinists, Food and Commercial Workers, and other unions.

"There is a war in this country against workers," said ATU Local 85 President Larry Klos. "They call it violence when you stop a bus to save your livelihood. The real violence is corporate violence. When they steal your pensions, when they steal your benefits, when they take everything we've worked for — that is violence," he said to loud applause.

Greyhound strikers in Louisville, Kentucky, got a shot in the arm April 6 when some 250 United Steelworkers of America members paid them a visit on the picket line. The Steelworkers, who were in town for a union gathering, walked the picket line for an hour, carrying a banner that read "USW supports Greyhound strikers."

"It was great," said one striker. Greyhound security personnel "looked like mice jumping for a hole in a corn crib," he added.

Several hundred unionists also attended a



Militant/Michael Carper

Greyhound strikers protest March 16 in Philadelphia

rally for the Greyhound strikers at the Port Authority bus terminal in New York April 6.

The AFL-CIO is urging its affiliates to rally in support of the ATU strikers, the *AFL-CIO News* reports. In some cities striking Eastern Machinists and Greyhound strikers have teamed up to back each other. Fifty Greyhound strikers turned out April 14 at the Philadelphia airport for a "solidarity day" on the Eastern strikers' picket line.

Meanwhile, a New York judge has signed

an order barring Greyhound from using strikebreakers within the city. The order came after the ATU sought to have a 28-year-old never-before-applied statute enforced.

Since no penalties are spelled out for violating the statute, however, ATU lawyers said they doubted the company would comply.

Kim Kleinman from St. Louis, Tom McConnell from Louisville, Kentucky, and Bill Scheer from Pittsburgh contributed to this article.

Outrage at cop killing of Black youth

BY DON MACKLE

TEANECK, New Jersey — The killing of a 16-year-old Black youth by a white cop has provoked outrage from the Black community here.

Phillip Pannell was shot in the back by Officer Gary Spath just after 6:00 p.m. on

April 10. Spath was chasing the young man through a backyard in a predominantly Black section of this northern New Jersey suburb.

The following evening 1,000 people attended a candlelight vigil to protest the killing. When the vigil ended at the Teaneck municipal building, participants were confronted by local police wearing riot helmets and carrying nightsticks.

More cops were called in from nearby communities after the glass front door to the police station was broken. Patrol cars arrived with their lights flashing and sirens on. The police got out with their nightsticks in hand.

"It was a tinderbox and the police were the match," a community activist explained to a local paper, the *Record*. "The violence occurred because of the intimidation of the police."

One police cruiser was overturned and at least 17 store windows were broken in the next several hours. One police officer had his arm broken and more than five people were arrested.

A call by the Union of African Student Organizations drew more than 100 students from 10 local universities to an action three days later.

The students walked through the neighborhood in small groups to talk with residents. Bernard Fennell, president of the Black Student Union at Fairleigh Dickinson University, said he had spoken with a local resident who saw the killing out of his back window. "He said Pannell was begging the police not to shoot him," reported Fennell.

Local newspapers and radio have also reported that other witnesses also heard Pannell pleading for his life seconds before he was gunned down.

Police harassment

Cinnamon Clark, a young Black woman who graduated from a Teaneck high school last year, explained the community reaction was not just in response to the shooting. "The people in this town don't have problems getting along," she said. "It's the way we get treated by police." Clark said police con-

stantly harass Black youths who gather in local parks.

"They act like it's the Black youth who do all the drugs and commit all the crimes," she explained. "Now the police chief is saying he won't tolerate a riot, but he is going to tolerate a murder."

Spath has been suspended with pay since the incident. Many of the protesting college students commented that it was only the community outcry that brought about even this inadequate disciplinary measure.

Reports by police and witnesses on the shooting vary widely. Police claim they responded to an emergency call about a disturbance in the park. When they arrived, they say, they frisked Pannell and felt what could have been a gun. He ran and then was shot. They claim to have found a .22-caliber revolver in his pocket.

Witnesses, however, say the police pulled into the park and got out of their patrol cars with their pistols drawn. They say Pannell ran before the cops frisked him.

The *New York Times* reported two witnesses saw Spath and another officer standing over the dead youth. The second officer was cursing Spath for getting them both in trouble.

Hundreds attended a wake for Pannell on April 15, and there was an overflow crowd at the Englewood, New Jersey, Community Baptist Church the next day for his funeral. Herbert Daughtry, a Brooklyn Black rights activist and Teaneck resident, read a message sent by Jesse Jackson condemning the "brutal assassination of Phillip Jr."

Local clergy and campus leaders issued an invitation to the young people in attendance to assemble at a nearby church after the funeral where 100 volunteer counselors would be on hand to talk with them.

Pannell's parents are filing a \$30 million lawsuit against the city for wrongful death and civil rights violations. They are also demanding a special prosecutor be assigned to the case.

Don Mackle is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey.

Leader of Korean reunification movement speaks in New York



Militant/Margrethe Siem

NEW YORK — Kiyul Chung (left), central organizer of 1989 International March for Peace and Reunification, held in Korea, spoke at the Militant Labor Forum here April 14. He called for tearing down the South Korean-built wall that divides his country and demanded U.S. troops be withdrawn from Korea. Chung also called for the release of student activist Rim Su Gyong and four others imprisoned in South Korea in connection with the 1989 reunification march. Militant staff writer Peter Thierjung (right) also spoke.