

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Trial begins for cops
who beat Rodney King**

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U.S. threats escalate as Washington plans war

BY DEREK BRACEY

The U.S. government is openly preparing for a war within the next few months. It has already established a course that will result in the use of U.S. military forces.

The Bush administration has been stepping up provocations against Iraq, North Korea, and Libya. It has begun seriously discussing what military force is needed to press each of these countries to accept Washington's wishes.

The governments of the United States, Britain, and France, with the cover of the United Nations Security Council, are campaigning to force Libya to extradite to one of these countries two Libyan citizens accused of the bombing of a Pan Am jet over Scotland in 1988. Washington has acknowledged it is weighing military options to force the issue.

U.S. forces are threatening to board two North Korean cargo ships that they say are taking missiles to Syria and Iran. U.S. officials have announced that it is possible that naval forces assigned to maintain the blockade of Iraq in the Persian Gulf may be used to stop and board the vessels.

Despite the fact that the ships are not headed for Iraq, officials in Washington argue that the naval challenge and inspection could be viewed as part of the general interdiction program in the area. "We certainly still reserve the right to interdict ship traffic in that area," said a Bush administration official.

Washington has set June as the deadline for North Korea to allow inspections of its nuclear power plants, alleging they are being used for nuclear weapons development. Central Intelligence Agency director Robert Gates accused North Korea of stalling the inspections while continuing to develop and rearrange its nuclear installations.



U.S. tanks in Saudi desert. Washington is stepping up threats against the people of Iraq, North Korea, and Libya and openly preparing for a war.

Gates claims North Korea is months away from making nuclear weapons and has raised the further charge that Pyongyang might sell nuclear material and technology to other countries.

Douglas Paal, a U.S. national security adviser, expressed dissatisfaction on what he said was the lack of progress in nuclear talks

between North and South Korea, during a February 24 meeting with South Korean officials. He warned the Seoul government to exercise caution in its relations with North Korea. Earlier this year Seoul had announced it would no longer participate in Washington's huge annual Team Spirit military ex-

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Minnesota socialist campaign to answer ultraright

BY GREG McCARTAN

United Steelworkers of America member Chris Nisan announced his campaign for U.S. Congress on the Socialist Workers Party ticket in Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 11. Twenty-six-year-old Nisan is a well-known political activist in the area.

"I encourage all young and working people to join with me in a fight against the increasingly reactionary and rightward direction of the Democratic and Republican parties," he said in a phone interview. "Presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan represents what the ruling rich have in store for working people and the logical fascist outcome of the bipartisan drive against us."

"Here in Minnesota we have a home-grown Patrick Buchanan," he said. "The White Student Union (WSU), a fascist-minded outfit, is organizing to win a hearing among youth, workers, and farmers in the state. It demagogically poses reactionary solutions to the real social and economic catastrophe facing us in the early stages of a world depression."

Nisan has been a leader of the fight against the WSU at the University of Minnesota. This has included building demonstrations of hundreds that have condemned the group's violent attacks on others on the campus, answered its anti-working-class and racist "white rights" propaganda, and called on the university administration to deny the outfit recognition as an official student group.

Previously a student at the University of Minnesota, Nisan was a leader of the Africana Student Cultural Center. He has been

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Solidarity with Caterpillar strike grows

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

Striking members of the United Auto Workers continue to press for a contract with Caterpillar, as other unionists join in solidarity with the fight. Unions are sending funds from locals, organizing plant-gate collections, and making plans to attend the March 22 UAW-sponsored solidarity rally in Peoria, Illinois.

The United Auto Workers (UAW) contract with Caterpillar expired September 30. The

union granted an extension, but talks collapsed October 31 when the company refused to provide an agreement patterned after the union contract signed with the other major heavy equipment manufacturer Deere and Co. The Deere contract includes a 3 percent wage increase the first year and 3 percent lump sum bonuses in the second and third years.

The union first signed a full-fledged pattern agreement with Caterpillar in 1958. The

UAW successfully defended the pattern agreement in 1982 by waging a lengthy strike.

Four months ago, on November 4, the UAW called a selective strike, pulling out 2,400 workers in East Peoria and Decatur, Illinois. Caterpillar responded with a November 7 lockout of 5,650 union workers in East Peoria and Aurora. When Caterpillar ended the lockout February 7, the 8,000 UAW members on the picket line decided not to go back to work without a contract but rather to strike.

Another 2,750 UAW members walked out February 21 at the Mossville engine plant, just north of Peoria. This brings the total number of strikers to almost 11,000.

Both Caterpillar and the UAW placed full-page advertisements in the March 1 edition of the *Journal Star* in Peoria. The company claimed it made a "real-life effort to reach agreement on a contract that we believe is fair." The union advertisement states, "All that's required is serious pattern bargaining."

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Japan-bashing fuels violence

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

"You should draw a mushroom cloud and put underneath it, 'Made in America by lazy and illiterate Americans and tested in Japan,'" said U.S. senator Ernest Hollings March 2. He was addressing workers at the Roller Bearing Company of America plant in Hartsville, South Carolina. His comment drew applause from some in the crowd.

Hollings said his remarks on the nuclear bombing of Japan by Washington during World War II were in response to Japanese legislator Yoshio Sakurachi, who had said that American workers are "lazy" and that a third of them "cannot even write."

Remarks directed against Japan have become the stock-in-trade of many Democratic and Republican politicians and spokespeople of some U.S. corporations recently. They have helped to fuel a wave of attacks against Asian-Americans, in-

cluding the 850,000 people in this country of Japanese origin.

Yasuo Kato, a real estate consultant of Japanese descent, was found stabbed to death in his garage in the town of Camarillo, California, February 24. According to a police report the murder occurred two weeks after a visit by two men who threatened to kill him because he was Japanese.

One of the men shouted that "he was an unemployed American worker and that he lost his job because of the Japanese and that he wanted money," a police spokesperson said.

Other recent incidents reported by Asian-American organizations include a cross-burning outside an Asian restaurant in the Los Angeles suburb of Lakewood in January; stones thrown through the windows of a home of Japanese-Americans in the suburb

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Students protest recognition of whites-only group

BY GREG ROSENBERG

MINNEAPOLIS — The battle here is heating up over the White Student Union, an ultrarightist group that is on the offensive. The group's leader, Tom David, applied January 30 for official student organization status at the University of Minnesota.

Students here organized activities in opposition to the White Student Union March 4 and 5 under the auspices of the Coalition Against White Supremacy, which includes student cultural centers and other organizations on campus.

A March 4 press conference, held in the offices of the Asian-American Student Cultural Center, drew reporters from the major local newspapers and TV stations.

The press conference demanded no recognition of the group.

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Buchananism—What It Is and How to Fight It
The Socialist Answer in 1992

Toronto, Saturday March 14, 7:30 pm

Hear Jack Barnes, National Secretary of Socialist Workers Party
in the United States

Location to be announced. For more information phone (416) 533-4324.

Washington, D.C., Saturday March 14, 4pm. Days Inn Downtown, 1201 K St., NW.

Hear James Mac Warren, Socialist Workers Party National Committee.

For more information phone (202) 547-7557.

New York ballot laws provoke criticism

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The New York State Board of Elections ruled March 2 against a challenge filed by the New Alliance Party to prevent presidential candidate Paul Tsongas from appearing on the April 7 Democratic Party primary ballot.

The New Alliance Party (NAP) charged that Tsongas had collected insufficient valid signatures to meet New York State's stiff ballot requirements. It also challenged Democratic presidential candidate Jerry Brown's petitions, claiming they contained cover sheet errors.

This latest controversy involving New York State's election laws is one of many disputes that have arisen during the past several months within the Democratic and Republican Parties over access to the ballot.

Republican presidential candidates Patrick Buchanan and David Duke have both been denied ballot spots in several states.

Duke has been ruled off the Florida and Georgia primary ballots. Massachusetts decided to place Duke's name on the ballot after being threatened with a lawsuit. And in Rhode Island a federal judge ordered the state to include Duke's name. The

American Civil Liberties Union is representing Duke in these court challenges.

Buchanan was prevented from appearing on the South Dakota ballot and has failed to qualify in New York as well.

Fighting to end undemocratic election laws and defending the right of all candidates to appear on the ballot is an important question for working people. Precedents denying ballot access can be and have been used against working-class candidates and parties.

Many of the restrictive ballot laws adopted by state governments were designed to make it as difficult as possible for working-class parties or other independents to challenge the Democratic and Republican party's stranglehold on political power.

Bradley Smith, writing in the *Harvard Journal of Legislation*, points out that in the 48 years between 1896 and 1944, no less than 128 congressmen were elected on third-party tickets, but in the same stretch of time since 1944, only one third-party U.S. senator and no congressmen have been elected.

New York State's ballot laws have come in for particularly harsh criticism within some ruling-class circles for denying and threatening to deny major capitalist candidates a spot on the primary ballot. "New York's election law is a destructive national laughingstock," commented a *New York Times* editorial recently.

New York requires candidates to turn in 10,000 signatures, with at least 17 of the state's 34 Congressional districts each providing a minimum of 100 of these signatures. The *Times* points to several other legal technicalities that have been used to throw candidates off New York's ballot, such as when petitions were filed on the wrong color paper or when paper clips were used to fasten pages rather than staples.

"If you were trying to think of a way to discourage participation in democracy you

would come up with the New York election law," commented Julian Palmer, executive director of New York State Common Cause.

The New Alliance Party hypocritically claims their use of New York's restrictive election laws to knock Democratic Party candidates off the primary ballot is done in the interests of promoting democracy. It claims this petition challenge is in response to the barring of NAP presidential candidate Lenora Fulani from debates that were organized among the major Democratic Party candidates prior to the New Hampshire primary. The NAP plans to fight the election board's denial of their challenge through a suit filed in the State Supreme Court.

In 1990 the NAP succeeded in getting the New York election board to remove two other

parties — the Unity Party and the United African Party — from the ballot.

In a related matter, the U.S. Supreme Court is planning to hear arguments in late March in the challenge by Alan Burdick to Hawaii's ban on write-in voting. The Socialist Workers Party has filed an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) brief supporting Burdick's case.

"The franchise is undermined without the right to cast a ballot for the candidate of choice," the brief explains.

"The Socialist Workers Party has from its inception been opposed to restrictions on the franchise. It has both engaged in litigation and broader political action along with others to expand voting rights of all individuals in our society and to make meaningful the right to vote," states the brief.

Join in defending the write-in vote!

Yes! Here is a donation for the SWP's amicus brief

The Socialist Workers Party has filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court in support of Alan Burdick's suit to overturn Hawaii's ban on write-in voting. \$10,000 is needed to cover the legal and publicity expenses. You can join this fight by helping to publicize the constitutional issues involved in the case and by making a donation to help defray the costs of the brief.

Enclosed is: ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$other

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Send to: Socialist Workers Party, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tax-deductible contributions can be made out to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc., earmarked for the SWP Hawaii ballot fight. Send checks to: PRDF, P.O. Box 761, New York, NY 10008



Militant/Marc Lichtman
New York State ballot laws are among the most restrictive in the country. Socialist Workers Party has always opposed ballot restrictions. Above, Meryl Farber, 1991 SWP candidate for New York City Council, petitioning for ballot status.

Pro-choice activists mobilize to defend abortion clinics in Los Angeles

BY KIM ALLEN
AND JOHN EVENHUIS

LOS ANGELES — Hours before sunrise members of the Young Socialist Alliance joined with other defenders of abortion rights to fend off attacks by Operation Rescue at area clinics here February 17. The call to action was issued by the Clinic Defense Alliance.

Three hundred people mobilized county-

wide in this defense effort, outnumbering the antiabortionists more than 2-to-1.

YSA members discussed with others the need to build the national "March for Women's Lives," which will take place April 5 in Washington, D.C., and handed out the YSA statement "All out for April 5." A contingent of 12 students from the University of California at Santa Barbara attended the day's action and said that they already had plans to go to the pro-choice action.

For many young people this was their first demonstration. One young woman explained why she thought abortion rights were so important. "How can you contribute to and really be a productive part of this society if you are chained to your fetus? It is as if they are saying that is all you are good for."

Passing cars honked in support of the pro-choice forces. At Her Medical Clinic in downtown Los Angeles, clinic defenders were especially pleased when two 18-wheeler Domino's Pizza trucks blew their horns. The owner of Domino's is a notorious funder of Operation Rescue.

Antiabortionists showed up just before noon at Her Medical Clinic. Pro-choice forces outnumbered them 2-to-1 and were able to maintain a human corridor to the entranceway, successfully escorting patients into the clinic. The police relegated Operation Rescue to the other side of the street. By 1:30 p.m., Operation Rescue began to leave.

Operation Rescue activists then went to a private practice clinic in nearby Torrance. Pro-choice forces were able to mobilize 50 people to the clinic, but were outnumbered by 150 antiabortionists.

With the numbers on their side, the rightists did not hold back from using violence. Making so called "citizen's arrests" they handcuffed several pro-choice demonstrators and assaulted those attempting to keep the clinic open. Two abortion rights supporters were even handcuffed to an occupied wheelchair. The rightist thugs struck some clinic defenders.

Though the police were present, no arrests were made.

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Quayle faults liberals for New York crisis

The real problem is capitalism, says socialist candidate for U.S. Senate

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — In a sharply-worded speech here February 27, Vice President Danforth Quayle said New York City was proof of the failure of liberalism and the "welfare state."

The mayor of New York City, David Dinkins, and the state governor, Mario Cuomo, are both prominent Democratic Party liberals.

While calling for support in the upcoming elections for President George Bush, who is widely viewed by right-wing Republicans as too moderate, Quayle echoed many of the themes raised by Bush's main opponent, Patrick Buchanan. A *New York Times* article pointed out that Quayle is "the White House's primary link to the Republican right."

"The liberal vision of a happy, productive, and content welfare state hasn't even worked on 22 square miles of the most valuable real estate in the world," Quayle said.

"In what should be a liberal paradise, what do we find instead?" the vice president asked.

He pointed to "one in every eight people on the dole," "the highest local taxes in America," and a predicted loss of "320,000 private sector jobs" by 1994.

Quayle also took up the large vote for Buchanan, in elections such as the recent New Hampshire primary, without mentioning him by name.

"The message is simple and direct," Quayle said. "The people are fed up with Washington. They're fed up with big government. They're fed up with high taxes. They're fed up with government regulations. And they are fed up with our bad economy. We agree with that message."

Quayle sounded a similar theme in a speech a few days earlier to the 19th annual Conservative Political Action Conference.

'We believe in traditional family'

"Conservatives believe in the traditional family — and by that I mean a mother, a father, and a child," he told the right-wing gathering. "This very day 1,100 teenagers are making the tragic choice of abortion. We believe these numbers are a national scandal, and we believe in fighting to turn things around."



Offensive against workers is bipartisan, says SWP candidate Ed Warren.

"When it comes to crime," the vice-president continued, "we believe in putting the rights of victims ahead of the rights of criminals."

He added, "And we think every welfare 'right' should be matched with a welfare responsibility."

Taking up Buchanan's "America First" slogan, Quayle said, "We believe in free trade. We believe that America is first, right now, and that we will keep her first the way we always have: by outdistancing the competition everywhere in the world."

Lest there was any doubt on what methods he thought the U.S. government should use, Quayle bluntly said, "We believe in global leadership and in using force, when necessary, to defend our interests."

Quayle said Republicans should vote for Bush even if he was not "100 percent" conservative because it was the only way to prevent the White House from falling into the hands of liberals and the best way to advance the conservative agenda.

Buchanan, meanwhile, has stepped up the pitch of his campaign activities.

'Read my lips: No more taxes'

In one televised advertisement in Georgia, Buchanan reproduces excerpts from a movie showing some leather-clad gay men, which he says was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. "In the last three years, the Bush Administration has invested our tax dollars in pornographic and blasphemous art too shocking to show," the ad says.

An anti-affirmative action ad by Buchanan shows what appears to be an all-white crowd, while the announcer says, "George Bush has broken many promises, but the one that hurts the most is the one that steals hope and fairness from our children."

Continuing with the ad he used effectively in New Hampshire, other Buchanan commercials show Bush during the 1988 election saying, "Read my lips: no new taxes," a pledge the president broke.

Buchanan has come under attack for anti-Semitic remarks. At one campaign event in Georgia, he was greeted by two dozen Jews protesting his views.

Buchanan brushed them aside by declaring, "This is a rally of Americans, by Americans and for the good old U.S.A., my friends."

Liberal capitalist politicians have been unable to provide serious answers to either Quayle or Buchanan. The best Governor Cuomo could muster was to argue that "the Republicans have done their political homework. They've decided from their polls that a significant number of voters are susceptible to divisive and irrational arguments that welfare is largely to blame for the nation's economic ills."

A.M. Rosenthal, a *New York Times* columnist, has complained in several articles that neither the Democratic Party presidential candidates, nor liberal non-candidate Cuomo, nor Bush have responded to Buchanan's anti-Semitism, much less to his other reactionary views.

A March 1 *New York Times* editorial got to the heart of the difficulty, noting that when the election-year rhetoric is set aside, and underneath Buchanan's demagogic appeals to the "little man," there is little difference of substance on the economy among the candidates.

"The differences between the leading candidates this year are pragmatic, not ideological," the *Times* stated. "Republicans and Democrats can be judged together."



Vice President Danforth Quayle

ical," the *Times* stated. "Republicans and Democrats can be judged together."

The Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New York, Ed Warren, pointed to the bipartisan anti-working-class policies being carried out today in New York City, New York State, and across the country.

Socialist: 'The problem is capitalism'

"Police brutality is an issue across the country, from Rodney King in Los Angeles and Larry Milton in Des Moines, Iowa, to the killings in New Jersey and New York at the hands of the cops," Warren said. "None of the liberals or conservatives, Democrats or Republicans, say one word about that. This police violence takes place in cities run by liberals, like New York, and those run by conservatives, like Miami. There is no difference between them on this question."

"Liberal mayor Dinkins," Warren noted, "has been forcing through deep cuts in social services, while boosting the budget for the police department. He intends to put fewer teachers in the schools and more cops on the street."

"Take a look at homelessness," the socialist candidate said. "Buchanan says homeless people should be locked up. Dinkins sends out the so-called Homeless Outreach Unit of the police to the subway system."

"They outreach to the homeless by throwing them out of the subways in subfreezing weather and forcing them to shelters that are overcrowded and unsafe."

"The liberals can't answer the Buchanans and the Quayles in any effective way," Warren stated, "because they have no different program or policy to put in place. The problem is not liberalism or conservatism, but capitalism."

What about Caterpillar and GM?

Warren noted a number of recent economic statistics that show the depths of the current crisis.

The crisis in banking is one example. One management consulting firm predicts there will be 100,000 layoffs in 1992 in commercial banks alone. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 45 states and the District of Columbia had higher annual unemployment rates in 1991 than in 1990. Only three states had declines in unemployment, and these were declines of less than 0.5 percent.

"It makes little difference whether the city, state, or national governments are in the hands of liberals or conservatives," Warren said. "Unemployment and plant closings have nothing to do with the amount of money spent on welfare programs or how much taxes some businesses pay."

"What about the massive countrywide layoffs at General Motors? What about the concession contract that Caterpillar, the earth-moving giant, is trying to force down the throats of auto workers? What is the cause of all that?"

The United States, like the rest of the world, is already in an economic depression, the socialist candidate stated. What the Democrats and Republicans propose, with their plans for war, their Japan-bashing, and their economic schemes, is to defend the interests of U.S. corporations against their competitors

abroad and against the working class here and around the world, and to shore up their declining rate of profit.

As part of the bipartisan attacks on the standard of living of working people, 40 states froze or cut benefits under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program in 1991. Eleven states cut emergency payments for avoiding homelessness and 9 cut programs set up to help those already homeless.

'Something is seriously wrong here'

Liberal governor Cuomo has proposed sharp tuition increases at state college campuses, eliminating 5,000 state jobs, and \$1 billion in cuts for Medicaid.

"Neither New York City nor New York State are 'liberal paradises,' but for many working people they are a capitalist hell," stated Warren.

"Quayle seems to think that even these kinds of cuts proposed by Cuomo and Dinkins are not enough," he said. "He wants more cuts in social services and more tax breaks for the rich."

"Working people know there is something seriously wrong here," Warren said. "Polls and interviews show that many people are for 'none of the above.' Many believe radical solutions, that is, solutions that go to the root of the problems, are necessary. What are needed are radical working-class solutions."

"It is this framework of an economic depression and the lack of solutions from the traditional Democratic and Republican Party politicians, that makes many people, including many workers, willing to consider the reactionary ideas promoted by right-wing demagogues like Buchanan."

Warren said workers need to defend the level of welfare benefits, not slash them to protect working people from the ravages of the economic crisis.

Need for working-class unity

"We should also defend affirmative action programs that can guarantee women, Blacks, Latinos, and other oppressed minorities access to employment and education," he stated. "That is the road to deepen the unity of the working class so that we can begin to defend our interests."

"Part of building unity is to see ourselves as part of a world working class and to firmly oppose Japan-bashing. Japanese workers face the same kinds of problems that we face in the United States. They are our allies, not our enemies."

Another way of strengthening the unity of workers, Warren said, is to call for cancellation of the foreign debt, which is used to impoverish people in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

"The strike at Caterpillar," Warren added, "is a good example of what working people can do, right now, to defend our rights. It's by saying no to the offensive of the bosses, by standing up and fighting for our rights, that we can prepare for the bigger battles to come. These striking auto workers deserve our solidarity."

Japan-bashing fuels violence

Continued from front page

of Bellflower in mid-February; and a gasoline bomb thrown at a Japanese couple in the San Francisco area December 7.

A report released by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights March 3 said that the 7.3 million Asian-Americans face widespread discrimination on the job and are often victims of racist harassment and violence.

The report singled out several murders including the 1989 massacre of five Indo-Chinese children in an elementary school in Stockton, California.

The lack of teachers and interpreters that speak the languages of immigrants from Asian countries is another cause of racist treatment.

The commission cited a case in Florida where a Vietnamese immigrant who spoke little English stood trial for two days on murder charges. Even his own lawyer did not realize that the jail staff had brought the wrong defendant to the courtroom, since there was no interpreter.

The Opening Guns of World War III

The War Against Iraq

By Jack Barnes

In *New International* no. 7.

Washington's recent threats against Iraq, Libya, and North Korea, indicate that the U.S. government is on the road to new military aggression. This issue of *New International*, published just after the 1991 Gulf War ended, remains indispensable for understanding the threat of war today and what working people can do to fight against it. 333 pp. \$12.



Available from bookstores listed on page 12 or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Include \$3 shipping, \$.50 each additional title.

Bankrupt TWA obtains union concessions

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK

NEW YORK — Trans World Airlines (TWA), the seventh largest U.S. airline, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy January 31.

Leading up to the court action the company sought, and won, significant concessions from the International Association of Machinists (IAM), the union that represents approximately one-half of the airline's employees.

Carl Icahn, TWA's chairman, stated in a press release that "we have just successfully concluded our negotiations with all of our secured and unsecured bondholders" and that the company had reached a tentative accord with the union.

In light of this, TWA is now able to move ahead toward the completion of a pre-planned Chapter 11 reorganization, which would result in the elimination of approximately \$1 billion in debt from the airline and approximately \$150 million in annual interest charges, Icahn said.

Management claims that the airline now has \$500 million in cash. The sale of several more international routes and its Travel Channel will boost its reserves to \$800 million.

In addition, the carrier is negotiating to purchase 40 used DC-9's to improve service at Kennedy International Airport.

Today, almost one-fifth of the U.S. airline industry is flying under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Among the airlines involved are Continental and America West which continue operations; Midway, which folded; and Eastern, which filed for bankruptcy during a long strike and ceased operations early last year.

Icahn claims that TWA is losing \$750,000 a day. In the U.S. market, TWA has slipped from number four in 1985 to number seven today. Its heavy debt load — \$1.6 billion — was largely accrued when Icahn bought the airline four years ago.

Speculation is rife among government

and big-business analysts over the airline's prospects. "With Icahn, I'm really nervous about TWA's future," said Elizabeth Bailey, former chairwoman of the Civil Aeronautics Board. "It's a candidate for death."

Kevin Murphy, of Morgan Stanley & Company, said that the airline's long term prospects remain in doubt.

Icahn claims TWA will emerge from bankruptcy "within six months." David Kurtz, TWA's bankruptcy counsel at the law firm of Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue, claims that TWA's prospects are better than its failed predecessors. "There's no airline that's gone in with \$500 million in cash, agreements with its creditors, and agreements with its unions," he said.

Union contract

Four hours before Icahn held his January 31 press conference a tentative agreement was reached with the IAM, whose members have been working under the terms of an

expired contract for three years.

The agreement will cover employees until 1994. Having seen no wage increase for six years, workers will now receive modest wage increases the first two years and a more substantial wage increase the last year of the contract. The wage increases are in exchange for work rule changes. These increases will not keep up with inflation.

For the first time, part-time workers will be hired on the ramp at TWA. These workers will start at a lower pay rate than full-time workers.

The deductible for medical care each family pays will increase a full 100 percent, from \$200 to \$400.

The contract was ratified by the IAM at a series of meetings held throughout the TWA system the week of February 17. However, it will go into effect only if approved by the bankruptcy court March 19.

Reaction at JFK International Airport to the contract and the bankruptcy was varied.

Many, feeling boxed in, reluctantly accepted the concessionary pact. "There is a gun to our head, we have no choice," one worker said.

Knowing the state of the economy led one worker to express a common view. "You have to be crazy not to accept this contract, it's the best you will get," this worker said. "Do you want to go on the unemployment line?"

Others were unhappy about the union agreement. "I waited for six years with no raise, and now I get a few crumbs," said one union member.

Tony, a young ramp worker who used to work at Eastern Airlines and went through the strike there, said, "You know, one thing I learned in the Eastern strike is you have to maintain your self-respect. I am not going to accept a contract where I have to go back crawling on my knees."

The issue of part-time workers has generated a big discussion. Most unionists say that little can be done to stop it, since all other major airlines have part-time workers. "After all, we have to be realistic. We need to worry about ourselves first," one worker said. But another stated, "What kind of world are we making for our children — we'll all be working part-time if we vote this in."

Nancy Rosenstock works on the ramp at JFK International Airport for TWA. She is a member of the International Association of Machinists Local 1056.

Trial of cops in King beating opens

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Jury selection was completed for the trial of the four Los Angeles cops who beat Rodney King. The trial began March 5.

In the widely viewed video of the incident, the four are seen clubbing and stomping their Black victim.

They are charged with assault with a deadly weapon and excessive force by an officer under color of authority. Two are also charged with filing false police reports.

Opening arguments in the trial were highlighted by a break in the ranks of the defendants. The lawyer for Theodore Briseno claimed that his client was trying to stop the other cops from beating King, but that they were "out of control."

In the video of the beating Briseno is seen kicking King in the head. His lawyer said the cops was trying to hold King down with his foot so the beating would stop.

The trial is being held in Simi Valley, a small town in Ventura County, just north of here.

The defense won a change of venue on the ground that they could not get a fair trial in Los Angeles. It was the first change of venue out of Los Angeles in a criminal trial in 18 years.

In the Ventura County population, from which the jury is being drawn, Black people constitute 2 percent of the population.

According to police estimates, some 4,000 cops and their families live in Simi Valley and neighboring Thousand Oaks.

Not surprisingly, a number of the potential jurors indicated blatant procop prejudice.

Perhaps more surprisingly, a number of the prospective jurors blasted the police for their brutality and racism.

It was not until the fourth day of courtroom questioning of mainly white potential jurors that procop sentiment was voiced.

One person was dismissed by the judge for his suggestion that the cops may have reacted so violently because King "had a history of antisocial behavior." He didn't say how the cops, who had just stopped King on a traffic violation, would know of this alleged history.

Another four, including two relatives of cops, were told to return for further questioning. That included the mother of a Los Angeles cop who said she was upset by what she saw the cops doing on the videotape but added, "I know they have a job to do."

The opening day of jury selection was a jolt for the defense.

The first person on the stand said his father had been beaten by the cops in the 1930s. The second said she believed the King beating was the product of the racism structured into the police department. The third said the video showed the beating was "obviously unnecessary" and "unexcusable."

An elderly white school teacher told the court that the video reminded him of the Vietnam War footage of a South Vietnamese police general shooting a man in the side of the head.

Pickets protest rehiring of Florida killer cop

BY ANDY TOWBIN

DELRAY BEACH, Florida — Seventy people picketed outside the police department here to protest the rehiring of a cop who shot an unarmed man. Motorists honked their horns and waved to show their support. Pickets said they were buoyed by the recent firing, after 14 months of protests, of two West Palm Beach cops who beat a man to death.

Police Sgt. Don West killed mechanic Ricky Guarine after a car chase Nov. 16, 1990, saying later he thought the man had lunged at him with a gun. Guarine died with his car keys in his hand. Witnesses, including another cop, said the shooting was unnecessary.

Two grand juries cleared West of blame but after community protests, interim police chief Rick Lincoln fired West for violating departmental policies. An arbitrator ruled February 3 that West should instead have been suspended for five months, and ordered his reinstatement.

"The chief has not decided when to bring him back or where to put him," said police spokesman Mike Wright February 8.

Signs carried by protesters included "Don't shoot, I left my car keys at home," "Fire bad cops," and, referring to the West Palm Beach cops fired last week in the 1990 beating death of Bobby Jewett, "Reinstate West? Rollins and Thurlow next?"

A spokesman for the West Palm Beach Police Benevolent Association has said it will file for binding arbitration to overturn the firings of Stephen Lee Rollins and Glen Thurlow.

Members of the Remember Bobby Jewett

group, which had led the successful protests calling for the firing of the West Palm Beach cops, attended the picket. Ricky Guarine's brother-in-law Ray Smoot said he hoped a similar amount of public pressure would keep West off the force.

New Zealand: only increase in gov't spending is for prisons and police

BY MIKE TREEN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — The only increase in government spending in recent years here has been for police and prisons. Police funding in the years 1984-91 went up by more than 50% in real terms, that is, even after taking inflation into account.

The policies being outlined by the current National Party government build on similar programs implemented by the 1984-90 Labour Party government. These included longer jail sentences, tougher parole and bail conditions, and broader police powers for electronic surveillance.

As a result of such policies, average prison sentences increased from 14 to almost 21 months. A Statistics Department report in October 1991 noted that the average prison population had increased by 50 percent since 1986 and that the imprisonment rate had gone from 107 to 150 per 100,000 people over the age of 15. This rate is second only to the United States in the advanced capitalist countries.

In the corrections system as a whole, in-

"If enough people let them know we don't want him here and they give him bad enough assignments, he'll move on," he said.

"I want his right to carry a gun taken away from him," said Chloe Guarine, the victim's mother.

cluding those serving periodic detention and community service sentences, New Zealand had 624 per 100,000. Periodic detention, a sentence used often against young people, requires a person to spend weekends or a few days in jail every week.

The total number in prison at the end of 1991 surpassed 4,300 — almost double the number in 1986 — and the Justice Department was predicting an increase to 5,300 within three years.

Currently Maoris, the indigenous people of New Zealand, make up half the prisoners despite being only 12 percent of New Zealand's population.

For young Maoris the figures are much worse. Five percent of Maori youth between the ages of 15 and 24 are jailed — ten times as many as non-Maoris. When those on periodic detention or other forms of "social control" by the Justice Department are included, this would mean almost one out of three Maori youths face the prospect of ending up in prison or some other form of state restriction or detention.



Militant/Lisa Ahlberg

Protest at Los Angeles police headquarters shortly after March 1991 cop beating of Rodney King.

Stepped-up threats signal U.S. war plans

Continued from front page
ercises, which amount to a practice invasion of North Korea.

Escalating tensions with Iraq

The U.S. government is escalating tensions with Iraq over the terms of the UN Security Council resolutions that ended last year's war. Another confrontation arose on the weekend of February 29, when UN specialists accused Iraq of refusing to allow them to destroy missile-making equipment.

U.S. officials said that a series of UN missions to inspect and destroy military-related equipment planned for March would cause more friction with Iraq. "I think we're going to turn up the heat on inspections regardless of their reaction," one said.

Another U.S. official said military pressure might be considered to pressure Iraq into accepting Washington's demands. The UN Security Council warned of "serious consequences" if Iraq doesn't cooperate.

Pentagon officials have begun discussing military options in different parts of the world. Leaked documents outlining seven "scenarios" for conflicts in different parts of the world were publicized in the *New York Times* in mid-February.

The seven imaginary situations — for which the Pentagon has planned out its military response — include an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, a North Korean attack on South Korea, simultaneous assaults by Iraq and North Korea, coups in Panama or the Philippines, an attack by Russia on Lithuania, and the emergence of an unnamed "new and aggressive superpower," the *Times* reported.

Former Steelworker joins 'Militant' staff

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

The *Militant* staff has gained a new member with the addition of Paul Mailhot.

Prior to coming on the staff, Mailhot worked for several weeks on the volunteer crew that is reconstructing the Pathfinder Building in New York, which houses the editorial offices of the *Militant* along with Pathfinder Press and the national office of the Socialist Workers Party.

Mailhot brings a range of experiences as an industrial worker and socialist activist to the newspaper staff. Before coming to New York Mailhot worked for Kennecott Copper in Salt Lake City, where he was a member of the United Steelworkers of America.

In Salt Lake City Mailhot was the organizer of the executive committee of the Socialist Workers Party branch there. He is a member of the SWP National Committee.

Earlier, Mailhot worked on the project to create a computer-based index of the articles contained in the internal bulletins of the Socialist Workers Party — a wealth of documents that have been produced over more than five decades. The skills Mailhot developed in this work will be an aid to the effort to produce timely indexes for the *Militant*.

Mailhot's first major writing assignment will be to visit the United Auto Workers locals on strike against Caterpillar Inc. in Illinois and to cover strike developments as the union heads toward the March 22 solidarity rally in East Peoria, Illinois.



Paul Mailhot

Militant/Dave Wulp

This is part of a discussion between the Bush administration and Congress on what levels of military force to sustain. The discussion reflects the fact that they have not yet settled on where the next war will begin. "The real threat we now face," Gen. Colin Powell stated in a document submitted in January together with the Pentagon's annual budget request to Congress, "is the threat of the unknown, the uncertain."

Defense secretary Richard Cheney is seeking approval of a "base force" military of 1.6 million members. Several military aides in Congress said the major issue was whether to accept the Pentagon view that the military ought to be large enough to fight wars simultaneously in the Persian Gulf and Korea.

These discussions, along with Washington's continually increasing threats against Libya, North Korea, and Iraq, are part of preparations for a military assault by U.S. troops. Pressure is increasing on Bush to launch a war within the next few months.

U.S. goals not achieved in Iraq war

Important forces among the U.S. rulers clearly believe a successful war would allow them to strengthen their hand in their drive to reverse the rights and social and economic gains working people in the United States have won in the period from the 1950s through the 1980s. At the same time they believe a war can advance their interests internationally against intensifying competition from their imperialist rivals — in particular Japan and Germany.

These were among the main goals of the war against Iraq. The U.S. imperialist rulers sought not only to directly strengthen their control in the Middle East but to push back the forces that stand in their way at home and abroad. The Bush administration failed in accomplishing these goals in the Iraq war.

Within days of the end of Washington's ground offensive against Iraq, and despite the massacre of defenseless Iraqi soldiers by U.S.-led forces, it became clear that the U.S.



U.S. military forces in Persian Gulf region. U.S. officials say naval forces blockading Iraq may board North Korean cargo ships allegedly carrying missiles to Syria or Iran.

rulers had won nothing significant. Hussein remained in power and any gains made over Washington's imperialist rivals were minimal. A key obstacle to Washington's ability to indiscriminately carry out wars abroad, the "Vietnam syndrome" that exists among U.S. working people, remained intact.

The strains on the capitalist economic system are still greater today as depression conditions have clearly emerged in much of the world.

William Safire, a columnist with well-known connections in U.S. government circles, clearly laid out what Washington is considering in a column in the February 27 *New York Times*. Safire noted that the primary elections showed Bush was "weaker than any sitting Republican president since [Herbert] Hoover." He said of Bush's results in South Dakota, where one third of Republican voters refused to endorse Bush in a contest where he was unopposed, "That's not weakness, that's decrepitude."

Safire proceeded to outline his "comeback scenario," which includes "the Springtime Surprise." Pointing to Hussein, Kim Il Sung of North Korea, and Muammar Qaddafi of Libya, Safire writes, "Does it strain credulity to suggest that at least one of these three dictators is going to get zapped? I think not."

Certainly the ground is being prepared by the White House for decisive action to end threats of mass destruction."

The goal of a new strike against Iraq would have precisely the same aims as the previous war — to set up a new servile government in Iraq, as part of an attempt to impose imperialist stability on the whole region.

The effects of the Palestinian struggle, coupled with Washington's desire to cement closer relations with Arab regimes, continue to widen the divisions between Washington and Tel Aviv.

New York Times columnist A.M. Rosenthal complained of this situation in a February 28 column. "Now we are paying for last year's what-then — if we leave Saddam Hussein in full political power after defeating him militarily, what will we do about him later? That failure brings Washington to the much-leaked decision point on whether to go after him again." Rosenthal added, "The military and political logic is that one day the U.S. will try to separate his head from his shoulders."

Pressures are mounting for Washington to move to fulfill Rosenthal's hopeful anticipation, either against Iraq or against other countries on the Pentagon's hit list.

Caterpillar strike coverage spurs 'Militant' sales

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The *Militant's* appeal for solidarity with the Caterpillar strikers has helped spur sales of the paper to auto workers and other unionists around the country.

A *Militant* sales team from Chicago sold 10 papers to Caterpillar strikers in Peoria, Illinois, as they lined up to cash their strike benefit checks. At a Ford automobile plant in Atlanta, Georgia, 12 workers bought the paper — 3 inside the plant and 9 others at the plant gate.

In response to the announced closing of 12 General Motors automobile plants, *Militant* supporters visited Ypsilanti, Michigan, to speak with auto workers at the Willow Run assembly plant, which is on the list of sites to be closed.

United Auto Workers (UAW) member John Sarge reports, "Because GM management and security have made it extremely difficult to talk to workers during shift changes, the team went to a shopping center near the plant. Fourteen papers were sold in under an hour, all to people who either work at Willow Run or who have family or friends in the work force."

"Most people expressed anger and frustration," writes Sarge. "One woman who bought the paper said, 'I'm tired of all the attacks on Japan. It doesn't matter where the car is made. The problem is the corporation and their creed — not the workers.'"

Another team in Madison Heights, Michigan, sold 13 papers to store clerks, members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, who were holding a strike authorization vote.

Militant distributors sold three papers in Ravenswood, West Virginia, at a picnic sponsored by United Steelworkers of America Local 5668 who have been fighting against a lockout by the Ravenswood Aluminum Corporation since November 1990. In addition, 18 papers and one subscription were sold through door-to-door sales to workers living near the plant.

Dechor Hien reports on one of the best days of sales by *Militant* supporters in Stockholm, Sweden. A team set up a table in the downtown area and sold 14 *Militants* as well as a copy each of the books *Socialism and Man* by Che Guevara and *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. High school students stopped by the table and invited the *Militant* supporters to come to their school to show a video on Malcolm X and participate in a panel discussion on racism.

Reports keep coming in from New Jersey on successful sales in several plants of the book *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* by Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela. In Rahway, New Jersey, a member of the Oil,

Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-575 at Merck has sold 12 books. Workers from Haiti, the Virgin Islands, Grenada, and India were among those who bought the book. Susan Anmuth, a member of UAW Local 980, has sold 26 books at the Ford plant in Edison, New Jersey. She reports: "Many people are instantly attracted to anything by Nelson Mandela. A few already like Castro as well. I explain Cuba's role in southern Africa when I show people the book."

Last week, *Militant* distributors in Canada reached 100 percent of their "Sales to industrial unionists" goal. In the United States the figures listed on the scoreboard reflect reports received from 15 cities.

Sales to industrial unionists, Jan. 18–March 19

Union	Weekly sales goal	No. sold Militant #9*	Percentage sold of weekly goal	Subscription renewal goal	No. of renewals sold	'How Far We Slaves Have Come!' book goal	No. of books sold
U.S.							
ACTWU	20	10	50	12	7	25	9
IAM	60	13	22	30	15	55	19
ILGWU	14	1	7	3	4	15	2
OCAW	40	17	43	19	13	50	37
UAW	40	37	93	20	18	40	44
UFCW	40	19	48	20	10	25	13
UMWA	8	8	100	7	5	17	14
USWA	45	19	42	30	7	30	18
UTU	45	17	38	35	9	30	8
U.S. Totals	312	141	45	176	88	287	164
Canada							
ACTWU	3	2	66				
CAW	4	6	150				
IAM	5	5	100				
ILGWU	5	5	100				
USWA	4	3	75				
Canada Totals	21	21	100				

* Includes copies of *Perspectiva Mundial* and *L'Internationale* sold this week.



UN Security Council sends 22,000-strong force to Cambodia

The United Nations Security Council voted February 28 to send 22,000 soldiers, police officers, and civilian administrators to Cambodia. The troops will be sent there to enforce an agreement signed by the former government of Cambodia with three opposition groups October 23. The agreement gives the United Nations power to administer the country until elections are held in 1993.

A state council, led by Cambodia's former monarch Prince Sihanouk with representatives of the former government and opposition groups, assumed power at the end of last year under the UN agreement.

Oil workers strike shuts down several refineries in Iran

According to a February 27 report in the *British Morning Star* hundreds of thousands of oil workers in Iran have waged protest actions against the government in the past few weeks. At the end of January workers at the Tehran oil refinery stopped work. From there the strike spread to installations in Abadan, Shiraz, Tabriz, Isfahan, and Kermanshah.

Workers are demanding higher wages and better working conditions. A central demand is for the right of workers to form their own unions. While the government has offered some concessions, armed guards have been sent to surround struck refineries. Iran's oil minister has stated that provisions of labor law prohibiting independent organizations of workers in the oil industry must be upheld.

Army killed thousands in 1947 massacre, Taiwan gov't admits

At the end of February the government of Taiwan, headed by the Nationalist Party, admitted its army killed 18,000 to 28,000 native-born Taiwanese in a 1947 massacre.

Mainland Chinese, who fled to the island along with the deposed Nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek following the successful Chinese revolution in 1949, make up about 15 percent of Taiwan's population. Native Taiwanese are descendants of immigrants from the Chinese coast who came in previous centuries. Until martial law was lifted five years ago it was dangerous for Taiwanese to even discuss the massacre.

Health workers shut down Israeli hospitals in 24-hour strike

Some 35,000 health workers conducted a 24-hour strike in Israel in February, closing most of the public health system. The strike was a protest against a bill proposed by the government that will result in cutbacks in the national health-care system.

Hospital workers rejected a plea by the Histadrut, the Israeli trade union federation, to choose measures other than a strike to pressure the government.

Pentagon study details U.S. bombing of Iraqi power plants

A new U.S. Defense Department report says that the Washington-led massive bombing of Iraq's power plants and other installations during the gulf war led to much heavier damage of the country's civilian infrastructure than the war planners had intended.

Senior U.S. commanders deliberately ordered the bombing of electrical generators, despite Pentagon guidelines that transformers and switching stations were to be destroyed, but not the generators themselves. The report shows that 215 combat sorties were directed against 25 power plants, causing massive damage at many. This resulted in the long-term shutdown of sewage treatment and water purification plants hampering medical services and jeopardizing the lives of millions of Iraqi people.

Shortages of vaccines plague children in Russia

Russia has virtually no vaccines for major childhood diseases such as measles, polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, diphtheria rose by 54 percent last year and measles by 12 percent. Polluted drinking water has caused a sharp rise in gastroenteritis and dysentery in parts of Siberia.

Can states require admission of guilt as parole condition?

Supreme Court to hear appeal of Montana decision

BY GREG McCARTAN

A state's right to require a person convicted of a sex-related crime to admit guilt as part of a sexual offender program is the issue in a case now before the Supreme Court.

In a number of states such a program of "therapy" is put forward either as an alternative to a prison sentence or as a condition of parole. A "confession" to the crime is often a prerequisite for completing the treatment.

The high court agreed to decide the issue after the state of Montana appealed a state Supreme Court ruling in favor of Donald Imlay. Imlay, who maintains his innocence, was convicted of sexually assaulting a seven-year-old girl. His prison sentence of five years was suspended on the condition he participate in a sexual offender program.

After four months Imlay was dismissed from the program because he maintained that he never had sexual contact with the girl. He was then ordered to serve the rest of his sentence in prison.

Montana's appeal, which was joined by 20 other states, argues that a decision lifting the forced admission of guilt "effectively eviscerates sex offender programs and other similar therapy programs" now in use.

The Montana Supreme Court based its decision on the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits increasing a defendant's sentence as a penalty for refusing to confess to a crime.

Imlay's lawyer added in court hearings that his client could face perjury charges if he said he actually did things denied during the trial, thus forcing Imlay to "provide the rope for his own hanging."

Requiring admission of guilt as a determining factor in jail sentences or release on

parole, as the state of Montana demands, is an undemocratic measure used against working people. Another fight currently under way over the same issue is that of Mark Curtis, a union and political activist serving a 25-year sentence on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

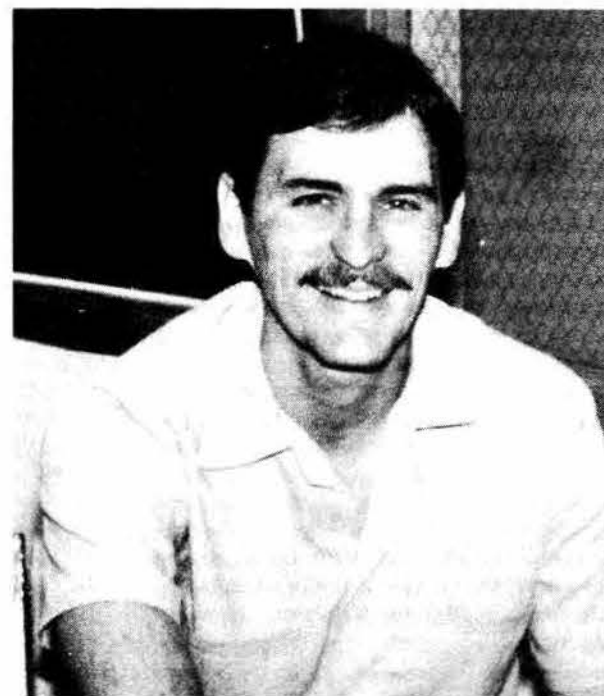
At his third annual parole hearing last fall the Iowa State Board of Parole told Curtis it was setting aside the usual criteria for release in his case, conditions which the jailed activist meets in every aspect. Chairman Walter Saur and Barbara Binnie told Curtis he would have to enter and complete a state-sponsored Sex Offenders Treatment Program before he would be considered for parole.

Curtis had not yet entered the program because he had been verbally told he would have to drop his insistence that he is not guilty and admit to a crime he did not commit. This suggestion was repeated by board members at the hearing. When asked directly by Curtis whether or not he must admit guilt to successfully complete the program, the board members backed down.

Curtis's case is fraught with even more antidemocratic obstacles than that of Imlay's. The unionist's attorney is now preparing a federal appeal of his conviction. But any admission of guilt that might be assumed if Curtis fulfills the stipulated requirement for parole by participating in the Sex Offenders Treatment Program would also

jeopardize this appeal.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee, based in Des Moines, Iowa, is working to get the answers from state authorities as to whether the sexual offender program required by the parole board stipulates that a person must admit guilt to successfully complete it. Based on its findings it can press ahead with a legal challenge to undemocratic restrictions on Curtis's parole rights as well.



Militant/Margaret Jayko

Mark Curtis, framed-up unionist, faces same undemocratic measure as prisoner who filed suit in Montana.

Filmmaker hosts Curtis defense fund event

NELSON BLACKSTOCK

LOS ANGELES — The fight for justice for Mark Curtis gained new support during a visit here by Kate Kaku, Curtis's wife.

Kaku addressed a meeting celebrating the recent victory won by Curtis in his lawsuit against the police in Des Moines, Iowa. It was held at the home of Hollywood movie director Nick Castle February 28. The Saturday afternoon gathering of 70 raised nearly \$3,000 in donations or pledges.

The previous evening Nick and Charlene Castle hosted a dinner for a dozen people, including actors and directors, who discussed ways to expand the Curtis defense effort locally. Some \$1,500 was pledged or donated to the defense effort.

In her comments at the celebration, Kaku explained what lay behind the frame-up of her husband. She told of the struggle of Midwestern meatpackers during the 1980s that "inspired thousands of workers who wanted to see a victory." Curtis moved to Iowa to be part of this fight.

The packing companies were successful in driving down workers's wages, she ex-

plained. Meanwhile, the character of the work force changed as immigrants came in search of a decent living.

Three days before Curtis was framed up, said Kaku, immigration cops "conducted an illegal military-like operation in which 17 workers were arrested" where Curtis worked. In the ensuing struggle, Curtis sought to break down the divisions among workers that are fostered by employers. As a Spanish speaker he was able to help promote unity.

"Mark spoke up. He fought for unity and he was a danger," she said. "This is why he was framed up."

"The political issues involved are even more relevant today than they were then," Kaku noted, pointing to the anti-immigrant character of Patrick Buchanan's presidential campaign.

Only hours after a meeting to protest the raid, Curtis was framed on charges of raping a young Black woman.

Kaku detailed how the elements of the frame-up fall apart under scrutiny. The conviction rests primarily on false testimony by a cop.

The fact that a court has now found the cops guilty of beating Curtis strengthens his case, Kaku said. "It was mainly on the word of a cop that Mark was convicted. And the jury was not allowed to hear about this cop's record, a record that would discredit his testimony."

"Mark's victory is not only his victory. It can be used by Rodney King, by Henry Peco, and by Larry Milton," Kaku added, referring to other victims of police brutality.

"Understanding the political issues in Mark's case lets us understand the countercampaign that has developed against his defense," Kaku said.

Led by cops and the ruling powers in Des Moines, this frame-up campaign has won support from some "union officials who hate immigrants and hate what Mark stands for, and from some feminists who think any man accused of rape should be found guilty, regardless of the facts, in order to 'send a message.' The same kind of argument was raised by some around recent highly publicized cases," she pointed out.

The countercampaign against Curtis has

also found a hearing among some Blacks who find it difficult to defend a white man accused of raping a Black woman.

In introducing a half-hour video he filmed at a recent rally in Des Moines celebrating the Curtis victory, Nick Castle explained how the fight on behalf of Curtis has become part of the larger battle in Des Moines against police brutality that was sparked by the police beating of Larry Milton in that city.

Castle's video, which captured the enthusiasm at the Des Moines rally, featured highlights from speeches, along with 11-year-old artist M.C. Little performing "No Excuse," his rap song against cop brutality.

At the close of the meeting, Theresa Allison, cochair of the Henry Peco Justice Committee, said Peco, her nephew, became a victim of "premeditated murder by the Los Angeles police."

Looking at Kaku, Allison said, "Kate, I understand just what you're saying." She told how powerful forces had opened a countercampaign of their own to sabotage the Henry Peco Justice Committee's efforts and posthumously frame her nephew.

"They got Blacks to say Tiny [Peco's nickname] had a gun. They took them to jail and lost them in the system," Allison said. Two Black youths who were present the night of the shooting recently testified that Peco was armed with a rifle when he was killed. The testimony was given under threat of extended jail terms, and charges against the two were then reduced to less serious offenses.

"We called for an independent investigation," Allison said. "The FBI came in. We thought they were going to investigate the police, but they investigated us." After the FBI joined with police and elected officials to frame Peco, Allison said, the lawyer secured by the Peco family withdrew from the case.

Allison announced a mass rally to be held March 31 at the Parker Center police headquarters. She said the rally would link the fight for justice for Henry Peco with the defense of Mark Curtis, Larry Milton, and others.

JUSTICE FOR LA



Militant/Della Rossa

Kate Kaku at Los Angeles event

Communist League in Britain launches election campaign

BY ROBERT HIGLEY
AND TONY HUNT

LONDON — At a Militant Labor Forum here March 7 Brian Grogan explained why he will be standing as the Communist League candidate in the forthcoming general election to the British parliament. Grogan, a member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union (AEU), will be contesting the parliamentary seat for Southwark and Bermondsey, a working-class district in London.

Also standing for the Communist League are AEU member Andrew Buchanan in Manchester Central and Josephine O'Brien in Sheffield Central. O'Brien is a member of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union.

At the forum Grogan explained that unlike other candidates, communists would make no promises in this election except to say, "If you're in struggle we will fight alongside you."

"Few of the other parties," he said, "identify the real problem facing working people today, which is the capitalist system."

Britain is in the grips of the longest recession since the 1930s — part of a worldwide depression. Over the past several years Britain's capitalist rulers have attacked the living standards and the social wage of working people, Grogan said, as they "try to get us to pay for their crisis of profit." Unemployment is now at 2.7 million — more than 9 percent — and those who have jobs are working more overtime. The average work-

week now is 44.5 hours.

Grogan pointed out that "1 in 5 male workers and 1 in 20 women work more than the European Community's 'pain barrier' of 48 hours per week." Many families face escalating debt and, unable to meet mortgage payments, face the threat of homelessness. Meanwhile the state-run health care system, the National Health Service, continues to deteriorate.

"The ruling rich seek to scapegoat Black and immigrant workers for this crisis," Grogan explained. "The Conservative government's proposed Asylum Bill, which targets so-called 'bogus refugees,' is an example of this. Alongside this, police brutality and racist attacks are on the rise."

With capitalist politics shifting to the right the three main parties in Britain all advocate increased police powers to combat what they call an increased level of crime and "immigration rackets." At the same time, new reports appear every week about police violence. Grogan reported how at the Stoke Newington police station in north London, some £67,000 (US\$114,000) were paid in damages for beatings and wrongful arrests in the first seven weeks of 1992 alone. "This is the price the police are prepared to pay to terrorize working people, starting with Blacks," Grogan explained. He called for the jailing of police guilty of brutality, like those who beat members of the Deane family in



Militant/Marc Lichtman

Brian Grogan, Communist League candidate in upcoming election to British parliament. Britain is in the grips of the longest recession since 1930s.

east London. The communist candidate called for the widest support for a March 28 demonstration organized by the Deane Family Campaign.

Grogan pointed to the fact that many class-conscious workers support the Labour Party because of its links to the unions. "The Communist League calls for a vote for Labour where we are not standing," he said. "However, the main issue facing us, whichever party is elected, is the need to unify in order to fight the bosses' attacks. We need to champion an action program of immediate demands to build this unity of working people around the world."

So far the Communist League candidate

has issued three campaign statements. The first of these condemns police raids on immigrant workers; a second calls for mobilizations against rightist groups involved in racist murders; and another one demands that the British government negotiate unconditionally with Sinn Fein, a political party in Ireland that opposes the British occupation of the north of Ireland.

Earlier in the day on March 7, campaign supporters took to the streets selling the *Militant* and Pathfinder books and distributing the election statements.

Robert Higley is a member of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union.

Growing solidarity with Caterpillar strikers

Continued from front page

We're ready any time. . . . But if they don't start bargaining to that end, we hope you'll join us on March 22 at the Civic Center Arena in downtown Peoria for a 'Real Life' rally."

The UAW advertisement also calls attention to the fact that Caterpillar has recently hired the notorious union-busting security agency Vance International, even though there have been no acts of violence or vandalism.

Vance is well known to unionists who have waged strikes in the past years, like the Pittston coal miners, Greyhound bus drivers, and New York *Daily News* workers.

Terry Thorstenson, Caterpillar director of public affairs, said the company hired Vance after the UAW announced plans to hold the March 22 rally. "In a situation as we currently find ourselves in with strong feelings," said Thorstenson, "it seems to us to make prudent business sense to protect people and assets."

As Caterpillar escalates its attacks, many unions are stepping up their solidarity efforts. The *Militant* has received reports from unionists describing some of the activities taking place to back the Caterpillar workers.

UAW locals around the country are responding to a February 7 letter sent by UAW international president Owen Bieber that

states, "Now the time has come to show solidarity across this great Union in support of our striking and locked-out brothers and sisters at Caterpillar."

The UAW in the St. Louis area is gearing up for March 22. Buses and car caravans are being organized. In addition, Local 2250 at the General Motors plant in Wentzville, Missouri, is planning a plant-gate collection and voted to send a \$1,500 donation. Local 110 sent \$1,000 and also plans a collection. Local 325 is conducting a food drive.

Six locals of the UAW in Iowa have chartered two buses to attend the March 22 action. Local 1672 in Des Moines voted to send a \$100 donation and is collecting food and other items to deliver to the strikers. Local 270 vice-president Harold Ruggless reported a good response in signing up members for the bus, and said the local will deliver a financial contribution.

The Women's Committee of UAW Local 980 in Edison, New Jersey, took in \$670 at a recent plant-gate collection at which hundreds of workers stopped to learn more about the strike. According to Bill Terrell, the local's representative in UAW Region 9, such activities have taken place throughout the region. He added that regional director Tom Fricano planned to attend the March 22 rally and present the strikers with a \$25,000 check.

Other unions have also supported the Caterpillar strikers. United Steelworkers of America (USWA), District 31 director Jack Parton sent a letter to all of the locals in the Chicago and northwest Indiana areas calling for support to the strikers. Some steelworkers in the area have gone to Caterpillar picket lines to show solidarity.

USWA locals 16, 30, 67, and 68 at National Steel in Granite City, Illinois, have collected nearly \$1,500 and sent delegations to visit strikers in Decatur March 3 and 7.

Over the past few months United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) members from the Peabody, Freeman United, and Monterey mines in southern Illinois have joined the picket lines in East Peoria and Decatur.

David Yard, a member of UMWA Local 1969 at the Freeman United Crown II mine in Virden, Illinois, said six carloads of miners and their spouses participated in a February 1 delegation to East Peoria, including the president and the safety committee chair from Local 1969 and the president of Local 2295.

"I helped organize the delegation because we are going to need them in about a year," said Yard, referring to the expiration of the national coal contract. He added that "in 1979

there were 24,000 Caterpillar workers in Illinois; now there's only around 10,000. In 1979 we had 18,000 working UMWA members in the state; today only 6,000 are working. The bosses are squeezing more productivity out of fewer workers in both cases. We're all going back for the March 22 rally, and we want to bring a lot more people this time."

The March 22 solidarity rally event starts at 2:00 p.m. at the Civic Center in downtown Peoria, at 201 S.W. Jefferson St.

Pathfinder Building reconstruction gets big boost in fund contributions

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

NEW YORK — During the first weekend of March the Pathfinder Building reconstruction project got a major boost in its efforts to raise funds to begin rebuilding and transforming Pathfinder's printshop.

Eighteen contributors pledged about \$200,000 toward the \$1 million to \$1.5 million that is still needed for the International Expansion Fund that finances the project. The Expansion Fund was launched in August 1990 to respond to increased opportunities for the distribution of Pathfinder books and socialist periodicals.

The new contributions bring the total amount pledged to the fund to just over \$1,750,000 of which \$1,327,000 has already been collected. The reconstruction of Pathfinder's printshop on the first floor of the building is scheduled to begin in early April. The printshop is being planned to match the modern and attractive standards of the fifth and sixth floors of the Pathfinder building, which house the offices of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* and the national office of the Socialist Workers Party.

An international team of volunteers finished remodeling these floors in December. The offices of the Pathfinder publishing house and a library for all the editorial staffs in the building will be located on the soon-to-be-completed fourth floor.

The goal of the International Expansion Fund is to raise a further \$1 million to \$1.5 million beyond what has been already pledged. This is a substantial increase over the original goal of \$1.6 million. The biggest piece of work involved will be adding a second story to the one-story warehouse adjacent to the building in order to increase the

The following people contributed to this article: Andrea González, member of United Auto Workers Local 325 in St. Louis, Missouri; Ellen Haywood, member of United Steelworkers of America Local 16 in St. Louis, Missouri; Vivian Sahner, member of United Auto Workers Local 980 in Edison, New Jersey; Priscilla Schenk, member of United Auto Workers Local 1672 in Des Moines, Iowa; and Mary Zins, laid-off coal miner, member of United Mine Workers of America Local 2295.

space available to the printshop.

Among the 18 recent contributors were 12 rail workers who pledged more than \$150,000 from buyouts and contract signing bonuses. Another \$210,000 was contributed earlier from similar donations by rail workers.

A slide presentation explaining the accomplishments of the project and its future plans was shown during regional socialist educational conferences in Boston and Cleveland the weekend of February 29, where \$35,000 was pledged. The slides have also helped raise funds in Washington, D.C.; Greensboro, North Carolina; and Birmingham, Alabama.

Contributions to the Expansion Fund, used exclusively for the capital expansion projects outlined, have come from trust funds, estate and accident settlements, savings, and special bonuses to workers. The pace and timing of the reconstruction project will be determined by when funds come in.

Anyone interested in making a contribution to the fund or seeking more information can send in the coupon below.

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For more information on how to make a contribution write to International Expansion Fund, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Socialist unionists urge strike support

BY PAUL MAILHOT

ST. LOUIS, Missouri — Socialist workers in the United Auto Workers (UAW) union met here March 7-8 and decided to place solidarity with the strike against Caterpillar Inc., at the center of their activities.

"This is the most significant labor battle taking place today," reported James Harris, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and member of UAW Local 155 in Detroit. "We want to bring auto workers, other working people, and everyone who fights for social justice into solidarity activities. We want to build the March 22 UAW-organized strike support rally in Peoria, Illinois, in a big way."

As part of their activities, socialist auto workers decided to take a goal of selling 50 copies of the *Militant* each week, as well as 30 subscriptions by April 4.

ANC leader reports on S. Africa events

Codesa meeting shows that power is 'passing from hands' of regime

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A celebration here of the 80th anniversary of the African National Congress (ANC) drew 250 people. The featured speaker at the February 8 event was Neo Mnumzana, head of the Foreign Policy Research office for the ANC and director of work in Europe and the Americas for its International Relations Department.

Mnumzana's talk focused on the political importance of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa). The meeting of 19 major political organizations, including representatives of the apartheid government, was held December 20-21.

"Today social commentators in South Africa are saying the only game in town is Codesa," Mnumzana stated. "Codesa signals that our struggle has advanced to the point that we are confident enough to run the risk of engaging the enemy on his own territory. We are confident enough because we think we can change the topography of this terrain, confident enough because we think we can change the very rules of engaging the enemy."

Mnumzana reported on two recent protest marches that illustrate the broad support for Codesa. When President F.W. de Klerk opened Parliament in late January, 30,000 people rallied outside demanding its dissolution and the establishment of an interim government. A demonstration led by the Pan Africanist Congress opposing Codesa drew only 1,000 participants.

A sharp exchange at the Codesa meeting between ANC president Nelson Mandela and de Klerk, after the apartheid leader accused the ANC of fomenting violence, increased people's confidence in Codesa, Mnumzana said.

"Nelson Mandela took the floor and spoke to de Klerk, literally scolding him. White South Africans of course couldn't take it. Black South Africans poured into the streets chanting," he reported to the applause of the

audience.

"More observant commentators said that moment marked a turning point in South Africa insofar as it showed definitively in which direction power was passing from the hands of an apartheid leader into the hands of the most popular leader of the South African people — Nelson Mandela," Mnumzana pointed out.

"There had been rumors circulating all over South Africa that secret deals were being worked out between the ANC and the government behind the scenes," noted Mnumzana. "Following that exchange people could with confidence dismiss those rumors."

Mnumzana said some people doubt Codesa can succeed. This doubt arises from a tendency to draw parallels between struggles in Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, and other parts of Africa, and the situation in South Africa today, he explained.

"There are many similarities in our struggles. But there are also important differences. Failure to appreciate the significance of these differences leads to an inability to assess the true meaning of what is going on in South Africa, and particularly the meaning of Codesa."

"We know that in Angola, Mozambique, and even Namibia, armed struggle unfolded up to the very eve of victory. But one cannot therefore draw the inference that it must be so in South Africa. If you do, you fail to build upon the victories these struggles have won," he stated.

Irreversible crisis

Mnumzana explained that the victories in the region had left the apartheid regime in an irreversible and terminal crisis. These victories, he said, had "altered the terrain in the theater of war" and had "rewritten the rules for engaging the enemy."

The ANC had the "responsibility to take advantage of this opening and to strive for its aims while minimizing unnecessary



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Neo Mnumzana speaks at ANC 80th anniversary celebration

loss of life and senseless destruction of property as a necessary price for the liberation of the South African people," Mnumzana stressed.

"Up to less than a year ago the regime was saying there was no question of majority rule: no question of it acceding to a democratic, united, nonsexist, and democratic South Africa," Mnumzana explained. "One of the surprises of Codesa was that in its remarks at the convention the regime conceded the need for some kind of interim government."

The ANC has proposed that an interim government, to oversee the transition from apartheid to a democratic republic, be put in place within 6 months and that it last no longer than 18 months.

Mnumzana reported that, shortly after Mandela spoke in Bloemfontein commemorating the 80th anniversary of the ANC, the government announced it would agree to an interim government to exist for five years. The government has previously demanded that such a government last 10 years.

"I don't want to leave you with the impression that it's going to be smooth sailing from now on," Mnumzana cautioned. He explained that the transition to a democratic South Africa faced challenges from the extreme right and what is "mistakenly called the extreme left."

Armed rightist groups have stepped up attacks in the country. Though all participants in Codesa agree that apartheid must go, the government "as the custodian of the status quo tries to cling to as much of apartheid as

it can," Mnumzana said.

On the challenge to Codesa from sectarian groups on the left, Mnumzana remarked, "These are people who are enslaved to method to such a point that they have been blinded to the possibilities. They are people who as a result are in the process of marginalizing themselves and becoming irrelevant in the South African situation."

Mnumzana ended his remarks focusing on the challenges facing the international solidarity movement for a free South Africa in light of the broad changes that have occurred in the country. "I must confess it was a lot easier for us as the ANC when what we were doing was simply opposing apartheid. Most of the time all you had to do was oppose anything the regime did and you were right," he explained.

Part of the new situation, Mnumzana added, is that people in South Africa are coming to the ANC to complain about the crisis in education, housing, health care, and so on. "They are putting demands on us which are normally made to governments. And we can't say to them, 'we are not yet in government so why don't you go to Pretoria,' because we have always told them that the apartheid regime is illegitimate."

"In other words, it has become a bit more complicated even for the ANC and we can imagine it has become at least as complicated for the international solidarity movement."

Mnumzana pointed out that the ANC has had to explain to its supporters around the world the need to take a new look at the application of sanctions in light of the changes in the country.

The ANC leader explained that, while sanctions remain necessary, they have exacted a price from the South African people and in some instances unnecessarily restricted access by opponents of apartheid to the movements and organizations of the South African people. "So our first step has been to relax the people-to-people sanctions, sanctions which have been voluntarily imposed by our supporters around the world."

Mnumzana called on supporters of the democratic movement in South Africa to take advantage of the situation today to build closer links of support with the struggles and organizations of the people of South Africa.

Family of antiabortion law victim speaks out

The following is an interview with Karen Bell and Bill Bell, Jr., mother and brother of Becky Bell, a 17-year-old Indianapolis woman who died in 1988 from an illegal abortion. Indiana state law requires parental consent for minors seeking abortion.

Since Becky's death her family has traveled to 23 states to testify and campaign against parental consent and notification laws.

The interview for the *Militant* was conducted by Kathy Mickells in Philadelphia.

Militant. Can you tell us about Becky and why you became active in the fight for abortion rights?

Karen Bell. Three years ago my daughter was 17 years old and died from an illegal abortion. We didn't know what happened to Becky until about a year later. It took us awhile to piece together the fact that it was because of the parental consent law. She wanted an abortion and they said she couldn't have one because of her age and that she would have to tell one of her parents.

What frightens me is that I would have voted for that law. What mom or dad wouldn't want to know if their daughter was pregnant, so they could help? I would have voted for it thinking it would have helped her, but what it did was force her to go to a back alley, because she was ashamed and didn't want to hurt us.

Militant. What are the parental consent or notification laws and how many states have them?

Bill Bell. Over the past 18 years 50 percent of the states have established legislation that makes some form of parental involvement

mandatory in a minor's abortion decision. These laws require either parental consent or notification before a pregnancy can be terminated.

Parental consent requires a doctor to obtain written permission of a parent or guardian before a minor can obtain an abortion. Parental notification requires a doctor to notify a parent or guardian of the minor's intention to terminate pregnancy before the abortion can be performed, although in this case the parents do not have any control over the teen's decision.

Some states also enforce a waiting period of 24 or 48 hours after notification before the procedure can take place. They also leave one avenue of escape, which is the judicial bypass. This involves the pregnant teen petitioning a judge for approval instead of following her parent's abortion decision.

Militant. What is the impact of these laws?

Bill. Some people will act just like Becky — she didn't want to tell her parents. It could be out of love. For others it could be a violent situation, where a young woman fears for her life, thinking she would be beaten or abused because of it.

It's just another way to limit an individual's rights and, in a greater sense, to do away with all rights for women.

Of the 18 states that have parental consent, 9 enforce the law, 4 do not, and 5 are confronting court challenges over their laws at this time. Of the 12 states with parental notification, 3 enforce the law, 3 do not, and 6 states are engaged in court actions.

Karen. Most young women will go to Mom and Dad and so you don't need parental consent laws.

The right-to-life people say, "we want this

law because it fosters family communications," but they don't even support abortion. So it's a big farce for them to say they want parental consent or notification. They don't believe in abortion so if their child goes to them, they will say no anyway. Their child will never go to them.

I think I would have voted for that just because I was naive. I didn't know the law. I didn't know it existed until after Becky died. That law is responsible, because if she could have had a clean, safe abortion, she would be alive today. If she had been 18, she would be alive today. My little girl just lived in the wrong state. If she could have gone to Kentucky, where they said it was safe and legal, she would be alive today. And one by one the states are going, and there's going to be more back-alley abortions and girls dying.

Bill. This is something that is pecking away at an individual's rights. Right now, it's young women's rights, tomorrow it could be young men's rights. There is definitely a trend to where this is going and it's not good.

There are people out there who need to be informed. People need to know why this happened because without education and without mobilization, we aren't going to get anywhere. We have to take action now, getting people involved, letting them know what is happening, or it's going to be a big step backward. I think if we don't get the ball rolling again, there will be more Becky Bells.

The fight's a constant uphill battle. You've got to get your foot in, get a good hold, and stay going. If you let up, then somebody will be there to take away what you've done. So I can't stress enough how important it is that people get involved. Because if everybody does a little bit, it adds up to a lot. The more of us the better. Demonstrations like April 5 are important; it shows our numbers.

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Sweden drawn into worldwide depression

Communist League congress discusses government-employer attacks

BY CATHARINA TIRSEN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — The second congress of the Communist League of Sweden took place here February 14–16. The congress was held at a time of increased attacks on workers by the government and employers, as well as increased racist violence and antiracist mobilizations. Twenty-five delegates and guests attended.

"The current recession, which began in the late summer of 1990, has drawn the Swedish economy into the beginning of the worldwide depression," said Carl-Erik Isacsson, a leader of the Communist League. Isacsson presented the main report to the congress, which took up the world political situation and the demise of the "Swedish model," which had been held up as an example of a successful capitalist welfare state.

Isacsson described the background to the so-called Swedish model. "It came out of the defeats of the working class in the world during the 1920s and 30s. Swedish imperialism rose out of the defeats which culminated in the outbreak of the second world war. The Swedish rulers made large profits from the expanding production and trade in the decades after that war." These profits made reforms and high real and social wages possible.

The Swedish model was also used as a propaganda weapon by imperialism as a whole, held up to revolutionaries and leaderships in Third World countries as an example of a supposed third road between capitalism and communism.

In the 1950s and 60s there was a shortage of labor in Sweden, Isacsson explained. Farmers were forced off their farms to become miners and auto workers. Unemployment benefits were given for only a short time, forcing workers and farmers to move into new jobs in the expanding industries. Employers went to Finland, Italy, Spain, Greece, Turkey, and Yugoslavia to recruit workers.

"The recession in 1973–75 marked a turning point," the Communist League leader said. It marked the beginning of the end of the Swedish model. After the recession thousands of jobs were lost through the closing of most of the shipyard industry and layoffs in the major mines and steel mills. The labor movement retreated in the face of these attacks.

Coinciding with the imperialist war drive in the Persian Gulf, the Swedish economy suddenly went into a steep recession. The stock market plunged, financial institutions went bankrupt, real estate prices went down and interest rates went up. Big companies like Volvo and Saab laid off thousands.

While the rulers hoped for an upturn after the war, the economy continued downward. Two of the five main banks, Sparbanken and Nordbanken, suffered gigantic credit losses. Sparbanken was saved from bankruptcy only by government intervention. Nordbanken's assets were taken over by businessman Erik Penser, who subsequently went bankrupt.

Unemployment went up from 1.2 percent in the summer of 1990 to 4 percent in January 1991. An estimated 100,000 people who have not continued applying for jobs are not included in these statistics. Among members of the Construction Workers Union unemployment is already 16.5 percent. The government plans to extend the length of time unemployment benefits can be drawn but lower the payments.

The government has further cut funds for local hospitals, schools, and day-care centers. It has also launched a program of privatization similar to that of former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher.

"If this program is imposed," said Isacsson, "it will lead to the loss of tens of thousands of jobs. Uppsala, a city of 150,000 inhabitants, is laying off 1,500 municipal day-care and school workers. We have already seen how cuts in mental health care in the 1980s led to the creation of so-called bag ladies and multiplied the number of homeless people. This will now increase."

Pressures on working people in Sweden, who are part of a common Nordic labor market, also come from the deteriorating economic situation in other Scandinavian countries. Unemployment in Denmark is at an historic high of 10.9 percent. The biggest group in Sweden consists of Finnish workers. In Finland, the Gross National Product growth fell more than 10 percent, to a negative

growth of 6.2 percent in 1991, and unemployment rose from 4.1 percent to 9.3 percent.

Sweden can not stay out of the growing interimperialist competition that is leading to trade wars and that was reflected in Washington's war in the Persian Gulf. To compensate for its decline in relative military and economic strength, the Swedish rulers are striving for a special relationship with the United States, similar to that of Britain.

"That is why Prime Minister Carl Bildt

1990.

These racist attacks have led to broad protests. Five thousand people demonstrated on November 15 and 8,000 on November 30. A meeting of 10,000 and demonstrations of 3,000 took place February 15.

"These events are big opportunities for the Communist League to participate, to bring coworkers and youth, and sell the *Militant* and books published by Pathfinder," Isacsson concluded. "It is also an opportunity to move forward in the campaign to free Mark Curtis,

dish Kronas to the police to help them find some racist gunmen."

Delegate Catharina Tirsén, who had just returned from a visit to Cuba, described discussions with workers and youth there. "One thing I realized is how much Cuba is part of world politics. There is an enormous political potential among the youth and a great interest in meeting fighters from other parts of the world. The future for the revolution in Cuba will be linked to the developments in the huge class struggles ahead of



At February demonstration near Stockholm, wife and child of Palestinian victim of racist shooting. Thousands have protested increased racist attacks. Social Democratic government launched anti-immigrant campaign in 1989.

is going to Washington to meet with Bush," said Isacsson. "Washington needs Swedish imperialism's special relations with the Baltic countries and Eastern Europe to compete with Germany. But the Swedish rulers will of course continue to try to maneuver in their own interests from their weakened position."

"The 15-year retreat by the labor bureaucracy has increased the differentiation in workers' wages and undermined national union contracts. Special wages for youth have been written into the contracts," Isacsson pointed out in the report.

"The former Social Democratic government used the steep economic downturn to drive down sick leave pay from 90 percent to 65 percent of wages for the first three sick days. Now the new government continues this course. For example, it plans to create special jobs for workers under 24 years of age at 50 percent to 66 percent of the contractual wages."

From within bourgeois politics, right-wing demagogic political currents have emerged. One such example is the New Democratic Party, which got more than 6 percent of the votes in last September's elections, when a bourgeois coalition government headed by the conservative Carl Bildt replaced the Social Democratic government.

"In response to these attacks, workers try to fight when they see an opening," said Isacsson. "On December 11 the Construction Workers Union wrote a letter inviting 3,000 unemployed workers to a demonstration outside parliament. Seven thousand workers showed up, many leaving their construction sites in central Stockholm."

In December 1989, the Social Democratic government launched a campaign against immigrants, instituting emergency laws to restrict the right to asylum. Immigration authorities claimed that Sweden was being flooded with immigrants. In the last months 10 immigrants have been shot, one fatally.

In 1989 in Sweden about 10 violent attacks took place; the following year more than 100. Similar developments have taken place in other European countries. In Germany there were 200 such attacks in 1989 and 2,000 in

who was framed up after having defended his immigrant coworkers in the United States. Mark just won a victory in his civil suit against the police in the middle of a social explosion against police brutality in Des Moines, Iowa.

Discussion by delegates

"It is strange to come back after having been out of the country for the past five months," said one worker during the discussion at the congress. "When I left I had many jobs to choose from. Now the only thing the unemployment agency had to offer me was training courses for the unemployed."

One delegate pointed out how the rulers try to pin the blame for racism on workers and youth. "They are discussing a possible ban on racist organizations. A union representative at my job, echoing this view, wanted workers with racist opinions to be fired. The answer proposed by the labor officialdom is to call for more police, like the union at Volvo, which gave 10,000 Swe-

us in the world."

"The opening of the economic depression affects the whole world, including in the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, China, Vietnam, Korea, and the Third World," said Isacsson in summing up the discussions. "This does not mean that capitalism will collapse or that workers will radicalize automatically to take power from the capitalists. But it means increased tensions within classes and between classes, provoking debate within the ruling class on how to attack. This will lead to social explosions and fights by workers, farmers, and youth."

In adopting these political perspectives the delegates also voted to make every Saturday a day of selling the *Militant* and Pathfinder books as well as building the weekly Militant Labor Forums, in order to win workers and youth to the Communist League. The congress also decided to step up its participation in the international campaign to defend Mark Curtis and to strengthen its work to promote solidarity with the Cuban revolution.

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Cosmetics and the exploitation of women

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

The recent disclosures of the dangers to women's health from silicone breast implants have prompted a range of responses both for and against these devices. Under the heading "A Woman's Right to Choose," the February issue of *Forbes* magazine ran a commentary by Peter Huber, a senior fellow of the Manhattan Institute. Huber argued that defenders of women's rights should fight for women's "right" to have breast implants if they want them.

"The entire debate has revolved around a vision of vain, foolish, helpless women — women at the mercy of manipulative doctors and conspiring chemical companies, women more like children than adults, women incapable of making intelligent, individual choices for themselves," writes Huber.

He then criticizes women's rights advocates for speaking out against the barbaric and life-threatening practice of breast enlargement in order to meet norms of beauty in this society. "When it came down to defending the individual woman's right to choose, or denouncing adolescent male conceptions of female beauty, many feminists preferred to denounce," wrote Huber.

This discussion touches on many serious questions. How are standards of beauty determined in capitalist society? How do corporations play on women's insecurities in their drive to rake in profits? What does all this say about the relationship between the capitalist system and the oppression of women?

Some of the very same questions emerged from a lively debate that broke out in the pages of the *Militant* and in the Socialist Workers Party in 1954. The debate concerned the relation of the marketing of cosmetics and fashions to the exploitation of women.

Key pieces from this debate are contained in the book *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*, by Joseph Hansen and Evelyn Reed. The book has just been reprinted by Pathfinder.

The notion of a woman's "right" to be beautiful was a part of that 1954 discussion. Below are excerpts from "The Woman Question and the Marxist Method," written by Evelyn Reed in response to an article in the SWP's discussion bulletin that advocated women's right to use cosmetics and follow fashions. The author had objected to an article in the *Militant* that exposed how cosmetic companies manipulate women's fears and insecurities to make them buy these products.

These excerpts from the book are © copyright 1986 and reprinted by permission of Pathfinder Press. *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* is available at a 25 percent discount for members of the Pathfinder Readers Club during March, Women's History Month. (See advertisement on opposite page).

* * *

The fashion profiteers

There are three main gangs of profiteers who fatten off the mass of women they dragoon or wheedle into their sex-commodity market in search of beauty:

1. Those who profit by the manipulation of female flesh into the current standardized fashion mold;
2. Those who paint and emulsify this manipulated flesh with cosmetics, dyes, lotions,

emulsions, perfumes, etc.;

3. Those who decorate the manipulated and painted flesh with fashionable clothes, jewelry, etc.

In the first category, a woman to be beautiful must be so tall and no taller or shorter. She must weigh so much and not an ounce more or less. She must have certain arbitrary hip, bust, and waist measurements and no other, and so on. If a woman varies from these arbitrary standards, she is not beautiful.

This causes enormous suffering among women who vary from this standardized, assembly-line mold. Weighed down and frustrated by the real burdens of life under capitalism, which they do not understand, they tend to view their beauty "disfigurements" as the source of all their troubles. They become victims of inferiority complexes.

And so they flock by the thousands and tens of thousands to the manipulators of flesh, who put them through various ordeals in their beauty and slenderizing salons. Accompanying them are the face-lifters, nose-bobbers, and other surgical rescuers of female beauty. And new improvements are being added all the time. I am told, for example, that the padded bra has now been improved in that the sponge rubber is inserted directly into the breast through surgical operation. In this way it becomes invisible under "the skin you love to touch."

Through Hollywood stars and beauty contests of all kinds, these fleshly standards are maintained and ballyhooed. As "beauties" they are paraded before the eyes of the hypnotized mass of women through every available means; in the movies, on television, in the slick and pulp magazines. But the monotonous uniformity of these "beauties" is appalling. Every vestige of variety, the keynote of real beauty, has been erased. They might as well be so many sugar cookies stamped out of the same dough with the same mold.

Next come the cosmetics dealers, perfumers, dyers, and emulsifiers of this manipulated flesh. Perhaps only the workers in the factories of these cosmetics manufacturers know that the same cheap raw materials that go into the ten-dollar jar or bottle of this and that which is sold in the fancy stores, also go into the fifty-cent bottle or jar. To the naive and innocent, however, the ten-dollar jar must contain some special magic that is not present in the fifty-cent jar. The propaganda machine says so, and so it must be true. These



Cosmetics advertisement from the 1950s. Now, as then, wealthy corporations play on women's insecurities to rake in huge profits.

poor women strain their financial resources to get the magic jar, hoping this will transform them from miners' daughters into Rockefeller heiresses.

Finally come the profiteers who decorate and clothe this manipulated and painted flesh. An agonizing choice is placed before the women. Shall they buy for quality or for quantity? The rich, who can do both, have ordained a round-the-clock fashion circus; fashions for mornings, afternoons, cocktails, evening, night, and bedtime. They have ordained a different fashion for "every occasion," but there are endless "occasions." And each hour of the clock and each occasion requires, in addition, a vast collateral assembly of "accessories," to "go with" whatever they are supposed to go with.

And all this mountain of commodities sold one week, can the next week be declared obsolete through a new fashion decree. Here we get a good example of whether the women get what they need and want, or whether they are compelled to need and want what they get. The *New York Times* recently pointed out that Christian Dior, the famous couturier of the rich, whose styles are copied for the poor, had the power to raise the skirts of fifty million American women overnight, or lower them, or both.

This difference of three or four inches in a hemline can convulse the female world, socially obliged to abide by the latest fashions. It may be fun for the rich to throw out

their wardrobes and get new ones. But it is disastrous for the poor. Yet it is precisely through such fashion decrees that the profiteers grow fat.

Thus, when the comrades defend the right of women to use cosmetics, fashions, etc., without clearly distinguishing between such a right and the capitalist social compulsion to use them, they have fallen into the trap of bourgeois propaganda. Even worse, as the vanguard of women, they are leading the mass of women into this fashion rat race and into upholding and perpetuating these profiteers, exploiters, and scoundrels.

It is contended that so long as capitalism prevails, we must abide by these cosmetic and fashion decrees. Otherwise, we will be left behind in the economic and social rear. This is true. We must give at least a token recognition of the harsh reality.

But this does not mean that we must accept these edicts and compulsions complacently, or without protest. The workers in the plants are often obliged to accept speedups, pay cuts, and attacks on their unions. But they always and invariably accept them under protest, under continuing struggle against them, and in a constant movement to oppose their needs and will against their exploiters.

The class struggle is a movement of opposition, not adaptation, and this holds true not only of the workers in the plants, but of the women as well, both workers and housewives.

Australian Aborigines protest cop brutality

BY PAUL ROBERTS

SYDNEY, Australia — A crowd packed into Glebe Town Hall February 17 to hear a range of speakers describe police brutality and outline the conditions facing Aboriginal people today. The meeting of 250 was part of a campaign against the frame-up of 17 Aborigines that followed a police riot in Brewarrina in 1987.

Two of those framed, Arthur Murray and Sonny Bates, were to have their appeals against charges of riotous assembly heard in the Supreme Court February 26.

Brewarrina, a small town in northwest New South Wales, is segregated, with 800 whites living in the town and 500 Aborigines living on the outskirts, mostly in

shacks and tin sheds.

On August 15, 1987, several hundred Aborigines had gathered for the funeral of Lloyd Boney. Nine days earlier Boney had been found hanged in the local police cells, just 90 minutes after being taken into police custody. Witnesses said he was so drunk that he could not stand up.

Following the funeral the Aborigines marched peacefully on the police station and then gathered for a wake at the town park. A group of whites shouted racist remarks from a nearby hotel and brandished shotguns and rifles at the crowd. When rocks were thrown at the hotel the Police Tactical Response Group (TRG), in town from Sydney "to observe" the funeral, staged an attack on the wake.

The TRG has also been responsible for the 1989 fatal shooting of David Gundy, an Aboriginal man, in Sydney, and military-style raids on Aboriginal communities since then.

An all-white jury found Murray and Bates guilty of riot and assaulting the police. In his summary the judge instructed the jury to consider the evidence of five policemen, but implied that the evidence of a journalist who saw Murray and Bates "quite a distance away" when the police were injured was unreliable.

At the town hall meeting Eva Boney, the sister of Lloyd Boney, explained that the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody had found that two of the policemen testifying against Murray and Bates had lied about Lloyd Boney's death. The trial judge directed the jury to discount this fact.

Many Aboriginal people were wounded in the assault. Neither the police nor those who threatened the mourners with violence have been charged.

Another ground for the appeal, cited by the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Watch Committee, is the racial bias in the judge's remarks when he sentenced Murray and Bates. The judge claimed there was never any racism against Aborigines in his day, and he suggested that Aborigines now "enjoy" themselves in jail.

Also speaking at the meeting was Tim Anderson, who was released from prison in June 1991 after a hard-fought campaign in his defense. He had been convicted in 1990 on frame-up charges of being involved in the 1978 bombing of the Sydney Hilton Hotel.

Anderson explained that he first met Arthur Murray while they were both in jail. Murray, he explained, had helped lead a successful drive to unionize superexploited cotton chippers in the 1960s and campaigned for a royal commission after his own son was found hanged in a police cell in Wee Waa, New South Wales. Murray was rendered unconscious and bled severely after the 1987 police attack at Brewarrina.

Anderson told the meeting that Aborigines are jailed 20 times more than non-Aborigines.

"The Murray family's determination is an example to all of us," explained Aboriginal activist Lyall Munro, Jr. "There is still a war raging against us, but we haven't capitulated yet," he said. "The police have played a central role in the genocide practiced against us, but we still retain the spirit of sovereignty. The recognition of our prior ownership of the land is not restricted to this country; there is a movement of indigenous people around the world that is escalating."

For more information contact the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Watch Committee at P.O. Box 65, Broadway Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

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Are Seattle railworkers stealing Canadian jobs?

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

SEATTLE—At first sight they appeared quite innocuous and hardly something to cause sharp controversy within the labor movement: hundreds of brightly-painted Canadian grain cars that began arriving in Seattle rail yards late last year. They carried barley, 55,000 tons of it, and we who work Burlington Northern (BN) switch crews spotted them at the big Cargill terminal where the grain was loaded into waiting ships.

These shipments, however, provoked immediate protests from fellow unionists in Canada. Picket lines appeared, organized by the United Transportation Union, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and other unions. They

AS I SEE IT

blocked BN trains trying to leave Vancouver, British Columbia, with the barley. This was the first time the Canadian Wheat Board had sent a shipment through a U.S. port.

Canadian union officials protested this move as a threat to the jobs of Canadian workers. "Tens of thousands of Canadian jobs will be lost if this practice continues," Longshore Foremen's Union vice-president Bob Pickering told the press.

A Canadian National locomotive engineer picketing a BN train in Vancouver echoed this fear. "Grain represents about 40 percent of the goods shipped by train through the port of Vancouver," he told reporters.

What stance should workers take in this dispute? Are Seattle rail workers taking jobs from our Canadian brothers and sisters? Should we fight workers in Vancouver over who gets to carry the barley?

These questions are forced on us as the capitalist economic crisis drives employers into ever-sharper competition. The billionaire owners of the land, banks, railroads, and factories are throwing millions of workers worldwide out of work as they cut costs and defend their position in the market.

Railroad workers have suffered big blows from the employer offensive. The Burlington Northern, for instance, has already slashed its work force from 59,000 in 1980 to 32,000 in 1991.

Our response must begin with the fact that we as workers have no interests in common with the wealthy employers. In fact, their ownership and control of society's wealth is a giant obstacle to our ability to work, produce the goods humanity needs, and maintain our standard of living.

We should not get suckered into taking sides in the employers' destructive competitive battles, but instead fight for demands that advance the interests of all working people. We should tell the rail bosses on both sides of the border that we don't care who hauls the grain. We demand that they allow all workers to work, regardless of the bosses' profit interests.

"As long as you control the land and factories, we demand that you put everyone to work," we should say. "If you claim there is no more work to be done, we demand you divide it up among all available workers without reducing anyone's weekly pay. It is outrageous that you force some of us to work long hours of overtime, while denying others the right to work. We won't tolerate this division you seek to impose between employed and unemployed workers."

Is this perspective realistic? Can we forge a fighting labor movement based on acting in solidarity with each other?

Many workers at the BN are angry about the job cuts, but say they have little hope that we can unite and stand up to the employers and their government. This is especially true after the demoralizing defeat we suffered last April, when union officials called off a national rail strike at the government's insistence without even trying to wage a serious fight.

The problem is that the framework accepted by union officials today is all wrong. We're told to help keep "our" company profitable in hopes we will benefit with so-called job security. But this only promotes the illusion that we and the bosses have something in common. It leads us to accept wage cuts, speedup, and layoffs without a fight.

BN management tells us that "we" have to compete for freight with the Union Pacific Railroad. And since the owners of the UP have imposed big cuts in train crew sizes, "we" have to follow suit to stay competitive.

This logic simply leads the workers at both railroads into a headlong competition to see how much we will give up to keep "our" company profitable. Meanwhile, the billionaire families who own and live off dividends from both companies happily watch the spectacle of

workers fighting each other.

The danger is even greater when they try to get us to support "American" companies in competition with those owned by billionaires in Japan, Europe, or elsewhere. These trade wars will eventually turn into shooting wars where millions of workers and farmers will fight and die so "our" capitalists can dominate the world's markets.

The January issue of the *UTU NEWS* continues to promote this divisive protectionist perspective. A front-page article on the current U.S.-Mexico trade talks says that "UTU representatives at the talks want assurances that Mexican rail workers will not take American rail jobs. . . . Rail labor representatives said they fear that negotiators will work out a special arrangement that bypasses current prohibitions against Mexican workers on U.S. tracks."

This is an outrage: blaming Mexican workers, who suffer even more than we do from the capitalist crisis, instead of the bosses that exploit all of us.

A fighting labor movement can be built only if we reach out to Mexican, Canadian, and other workers in a common fight. Regular readers of the *Militant* will recall recent big strikes by auto workers and copper miners in Mexico, militant protests by tens of thousands of Canadian grain farmers, and last fall's nationwide strike by Canadian government workers, including grain inspectors in Vancouver. These brothers and sisters, and hundreds of millions like them around the world, will strengthen our fight if we find the way to stand up together.

Meeting this challenge requires us to break from another dead-end strategy promoted in the labor movement today: the idea that we must rely on "friends of labor" in the U.S. government. After the virtually unanimous vote in Congress against the railworkers' strike last April, it should be even clearer that we have no "friends" there today.

Instead, we should look at where our real strength lies: in our numbers and our capacity to act together. We should advance demands that aid all workers, such as the fight for a shorter workweek. Ultimately we have to take political and economic power out of the hands of those rapacious billionaires so we can organize the economy in a rational, humane way.

Harvey McArthur is a switchman on the Burlington Northern Railroad in Seattle and member of UTU Local 845.

Drug company covered up sleeping pill hazards

BY RON RICHARDS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The pharmaceutical giant Upjohn has been accused of falsifying information about side effects of the drug Halcion. This controversy has erupted at the same time that similar evidence has come to light concerning Dow Corning and the silicone breast implants that it manufactures.

Halcion, which is produced here in Puerto Rico, is the most widely prescribed sleeping pill in the world. Critics have charged that its use can lead to hallucinations, paranoia, and mental disorders. The stakes in this battle are high: Halcion sales were \$200 million in the first nine months of 1991. This is 8 percent of total Upjohn sales.

Upjohn was successful in keeping information about the dangerous side effects of the drug secret until Utah resident Ilo

Grundberg used the drug and then shot her mother eight times. Gundberg was not convicted. In order to keep documents about the drug from being introduced into the public court record, Upjohn settled out of court.

Despite the settlement, some of the documents from the case were made available to Ian Oswald, a British psychiatrist, who spent two years studying them. Oswald has charged that Upjohn distorted data from a 1972 study to make Halcion appear safer. Upjohn responded by filing a libel suit in Britain against Oswald and the British Broadcasting Corporation. The drug has been banned in Britain.

Halcion has been receiving increased scrutiny since it was revealed that George Bush, the president of the United States, used it the night before he got sick on his recent trip to Japan. The U.S. Food and Drug Administra-

tion is investigating the drug. In October the company agreed to change its labeling and packaging of the drug to emphasize its side effects.

In Puerto Rico, the Consumer Affairs Department has ordered Upjohn to provide extensive information about the drug. This would be the first step toward banning it in this U.S. colony. The move by the colonial government is significant because the drug is produced in Barceloneta, Puerto Rico. This action by the administration of governor Rafael Hernández Colón is unusual because the colonial government has a long track record of bending health, safety, environmental, and minimum wage laws to maintain the profitability of corporations with factories in Puerto Rico. Recent examples of this record are the fact that the latest increase in the minimum wage is being phased in over six

years in Puerto Rico and the attempt by Hernández Colón to get Puerto Rico exempted from U.S. laws that would restrict development in flood-prone coastal areas.

The Upjohn plant in Barceloneta employs 700 people. The plant is not unionized. Besides Halcion, the plant produces two other drugs and some bulk chemicals. All the Halcion sold in the United States and Asia is produced at the Barceloneta plant.

Today plants in Puerto Rico produce most of the prescription drugs sold in the United States. Upjohn, Pfizer, Abbott, and Merck all have plants in the Barceloneta area. None are unionized.

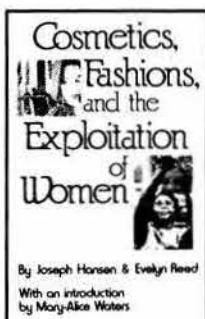
Puerto Rico has lower wages and taxes than the United States. Products made here have complete access to the U.S. market. Barceloneta is a rural area where land is so cheap that companies can buy large tracts and set some aside for future expansion.

The rapid industrialization of Barceloneta has led to increased production of solid wastes. The municipal landfill was until recently a deep sinkhole in the limestone that underlies the town. Today the site is a candidate for inclusion in the Superfund list, which is a program to identify the most toxic waste sites in the United States and its colonies.

The pharmaceutical industry is a good example of capitalism in the world today. Production is shifted from one place to another in order to break unions and to lower wages, taxes, and working conditions. This goes hand in hand with environmental destruction and unsafe products. It also makes for handsome profits for a handful of businessmen.

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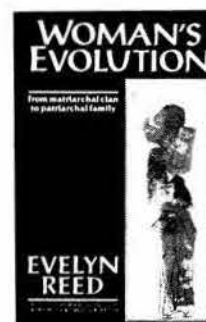
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Abortion: A Woman's Right to Choose. Sat., March 21, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Building Bombs: The Savannah River Nuclear Plant. A video. Sat., March 14, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

The Fight for Women's Rights: A Crucial Struggle for Working People. Speaker: Margaret Jayko, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers. Sat., March 21, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

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Support the Caterpillar Strike! Sat., March 14, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave (near 21st St.). Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

Puerto Rico: A U.S. Colony. Speakers: Elías Castro, former defendant in Hartford 15 case; Yvonne Meléndez, defendant in Hartford 15

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NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Open U.S. Borders to Haitian Refugees. Sat., March 14, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

The Collapse of the USSR and the Crisis of Capitalism. Sat., March 21, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

We Won't Go Back: Young Women Fight for Abortion Rights. Speakers: Debra Stafford, Princeton Pro-Choice; Deborah Liatos, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., March 21, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

Pittsburgh

How Abortion Rights Were Won—How They Can Be Defended. Panel discussion. Sat., March 14, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

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A Working-Class Alternative to Buchanan and Duke. Speaker: Steve Warren, member International Association of Machinists, member Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 14, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

Open the U.S. Borders to Haitian Refugees! Stop the Deportations! Speaker: Jackie Floyd, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 21, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Defend Abortion Rights! Speakers: Marcy Bloom, executive director, Aradia Women's Clinic; Hilda Cuzco, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., March 15, 6 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

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Students protest whites-only group

Continued from front page

nition of the White Student Union and no access to funding for the group. Garnez Parks, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance, said, "The university doesn't exist in a vacuum. The offensive by the White Student union is part of the current economic and social crisis. Tom David, like other rightists, is putting forward radical solutions designed to appeal to fears, frustration, and resentments." Parks cited violent attacks on students by people associated with the group. He referred to its stated program to underline the whites-only character of the organization.

Erica Martin of the Africana Student Cultural Center told the press that "promoting white rights is promoting white supremacy." Martin asked, "Does someone need to be beaten to death? What has to happen to get the university to take action on this?"

Other participants in the press conference included Neza Shuster of the Minnesota International Student Association, Phuong Phan of the Asian-American Student Cultural Center, and Latika Russell of the Africana Student Cultural Center.

Joining the protest, the Minnesota Student Association, the student government here, came out against the group. A March 4 forum on the proposed White Student Union was attended by 40 people.

Tom David wrote a letter to the Minnesota *Daily* February 27. He claimed the "White Student Cultural Center, unlike other centers on campus, will benefit the majority of students."

Up until March 5, the university administration had said the White Student Union would be recognized because its constitution stated that it would conform to the university's equal opportunity policy.

Protests lead to administration shift

Following the March 4 press conference, the administration abruptly changed its tune. A March 5 rally against the White Student Union was attended by about 125 students, despite the rain.

Following the scheduled speakers, Marvalene Hughes, vice-president for student affairs, told the rally, "The administration has evaluated the literature and actions of Tom David and his small following. I'm here to say that the U of M will not endorse racist behavior. This racist organization will not become an official organization at the University of Minnesota. None of the University's resources under any circumstances will be allowed for racist groups such as the White Student union."

Tom David immediately announced he was considering a legal challenge on constitutional grounds. "The enemy has once again played into my hands by drawing more attention for the White Student Union," he said.

The university's announcement provoked a firestorm of controversy. "U bars white union," blared the banner headline from the campus *Daily*, which editorialized against the university's position. Another front-page article consisted of interviews with "First

Amendment experts," who called the decision "appalling."

Nat Hentoff, who writes for the New York *Village Voice*, likened the action to that of an "obnoxious and ignorant high school principal." "It's sad that they're so ignorant of the Bill of Rights," said Hentoff.

On March 6, Hughes issued a new statement "to clarify" the administration's position. The statement implies that the White Student Union will be allowed to register as a student group. "Registration is not the equivalent of University recognition," Hughes said.

A statement issued in October by the Young Socialist Alliance, part of the leadership of the fight against David, stated, "While its leaders refuse to state whether it is a 'whites-only' organization their actions and statements preclude participation in the group by anybody but whites. For this reason the YSA is opposed to the White Student Union — or other groups like it around the country — being recognized as a student organization on campus or having any access to funds if the group chooses to apply."

"Young people who want to fight today against the White Student Union should recognize that when the University administration grants all the privileges that go with official recognition to this outfit, it will not culminate but begin another stage in the battle against the ultrarightist offensive," the YSA members concluded. "The battle that is opening today at the U is part of a broader national fight in which there are high stakes for working people and youth throughout the world."

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Sydney: 19 Terry St., Surry Hills, Sydney NSW 2010. Tel: 02-281-3297.

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A Woman's Right to Choose: The Advance For Abortion Rights in Ireland. Speaker: Anne Howie, Communist League. Sat., March 14, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £2. Tel: 71-928-7993.

ICELAND

Reykjavik

Video: Malcolm X. Sat., March 21, 12 noon. Klapparstíg 26. Tel: (91) 17513.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Offensive Against Women's Equality. Sat., March 21, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$2. Tel: (9) 793-075.

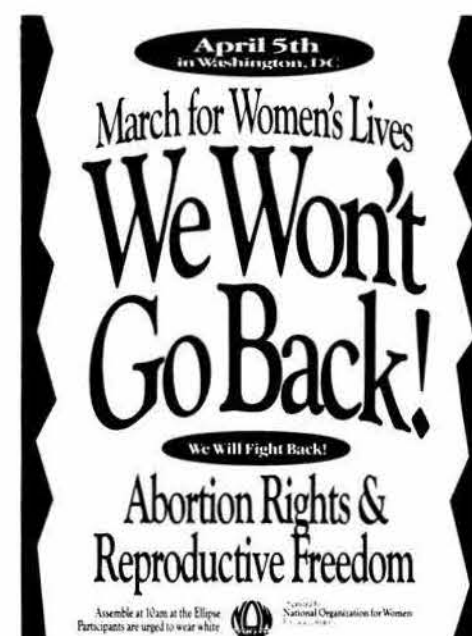
Wellington

In New Zealand and Around the World, Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s. Speaker: Felicity Coggan, Communist League, member New Zealand Metalworkers' Union. Sat., March 21, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., near Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Challenge Today for the Cuban Revolution. Speaker: Catharina Tirsén, Pathfinder representative at the Havana Book Fair and member Central Committee of Communist League. Sat., March 14, 3 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.



Poster issued by National Organization for Women for April 5 demonstration in Washington, D.C. An action has also been called for San Francisco March 29. Assemble 11:00 a.m. at the Embarcadero, march at 12:00 noon, rally 1:00 p.m. at Civic Center Plaza. For more information on the San Francisco action call: (415) 861-8936.

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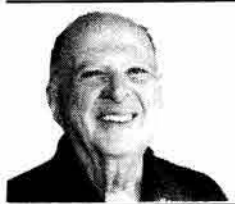
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SWEDEN

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

Take a good look — According to Associated Press, Russia's economic crisis and its "opening to the



Harry Ring

West" have increased the number of prostitutes catering to foreign visitors. This not only affords the opportunity for "fast dollars," the wire service reports, but also "a glimpse into the lives of Westerners."

And ate a robin? — Treasury

secretary Nicholas ("I see robins on the lawn of the economy") Brady told business economists that an upturn is likely in part because folks are running out of replacement light bulbs and "the nation's tires are bald." Brady testified that he himself recently bought two new tires.

He's a sly one — You thought revenue would be lost with Bush's proposal to drop the 10 percent tax on that portion of the price of a yacht over \$100,000 or of an airplane over \$250,000? No way. To compensate motor boat owners would have to pay the diesel fuel tax from which they're now exempt.

With a choice of accommodations? — According to the *Chieftain* in Pueblo, Colorado, Bush's tax package includes a proviso that federal prisoners pay a fee equal to the cost of their first year's maintenance. However, they assure, those too poor to pay would be excluded.

Not civilized like us — Washington is standing tough on blocking a shipment of donated teddy bears to Iraqi hospitals, rejecting the contention that they fall under the medical exception to the U.S. embargo. The stuffed toys may have therapeutic value in Western nations, an official speculated, but would have no such value in Iraq because of cultural differences.

Consistent — North Carolina labor commissioner John Brooks filed for his fifth term. Apparently referring to the chicken plant fire that claimed the lives of 25 workers last year, Brooks's campaign manager said, "The record for the past year is not different from the previous 15 years." For sure. In the 11 years it was open, the death-trap chicken plant was not once inspected.

They have a dream — By proclamation of the governor, March 4 was Confederate Flag Day in North Carolina.

Poison in your futures — Several commodity exchanges are competing for the right to peddle "smog

futures." (Companies that produce less than their quota of pollution can sell the unused balance to those that exceed their quota.) The Mercantile Exchange argues it should have the franchise because it offers futures in such smog-creating products as crude oil, natural gas, and gasoline.

Thought for the week — "The moral algebra is very difficult. Do you assume that every dollar [Michael] Milken amassed was ill-gotten? How do you assess the value of a 10-year prison sentence?" — Financial historian Ron Chernow on the court-ordered settlement of damage suits that will permit the Wall Street swindler and his family to retain some \$500 million of his take.

Socialist campaign to answer ultraright offensive

Continued from front page

centrally involved in struggles against police brutality in the city and became a leader of the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East during Washington's war against Iraq. He is currently a member of Steelworkers Local 15199 and is a production worker at the IMI Cornelius factory in nearby Anoka.

"White Student Union leader Tom David says his organization represents the majority of people in this state, meaning 'white' people," Nisan said. "But the vast majority of people in this state — as across the country and the world — are working people. We have common interests that are the exact opposite of those of the Tom Davids, the Democrats and Republicans, and the super-rich employers."

Nisan noted that there are four front-runners in the presidential elections this year: George Bush, Paul Tsongas, William Clinton, and Patrick Buchanan. "Many young people see little difference between the first three. Both big-business parties have a common policy against working people — at home and abroad — and it has continually moved to the right over the past 15 years. Buchanan, like Tom David, represents an ultrarightist vanguard. But rather than exposing and answering him, the politicians simply adapt to his course."

Young Socialists will join campaign

Young Socialists in Minnesota, and others across the country who want to politically answer and oppose the big-business candidates and incipient fascist forces, will be participating in the Socialist Workers election campaigns. "The young Democrats, young Republicans, and young conservatives will be answered by Young Socialists who point to capitalism as the root cause of the crisis facing all working people," the Steelworker said. He encouraged all young people who back this effort to get involved in the campaign.

Sharp political disputes break out across the country and class tensions rise because of the world depression of the capitalist economy. Unlike a normal recession, this crisis cannot be resolved by the normal workings of the business cycle. The super-rich ruling



Chris Nisan, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, speaking at protest against the White Student Union.

families must head toward world war and carry out devastating assaults on working people to save their system, using increasingly brutal methods in doing so. In response workers and farmers will conduct revolutionary struggles and fight to take political power into their own hands, the socialist candidate said.

These are the rising stakes in front of working people around the world, and these facts explain why incipient fascist forces begin to get a hearing both inside and outside of capitalist politics.

"What are the early flash points of this today?" he asked. "Washington is preparing to go to war within months either against the Iraqi people, the Korean people — through an assault on North Korea — or against Libya. Competition and trade disputes are growing between capitalists in Japan and the United States, within Europe, and between the European Community and the United States."

No problems resolved

Far from resolving any fundamental problems or opening a new wave of capitalist development, the war against Iraq and the disintegration of the former Soviet Union greatly accelerated already-existing trends and brought on the world depression, he said.

"Cop violence is on the rise and attempts to take back hard won rights coupled with assaults on the unions such as at Caterpillar continue," Nisan said. "Politicians and government officials are trying to turn the true victims of capitalism — the impoverished, homeless, sick, and others — into criminals. New laws and restrictions are being enacted that victimize those worst hit by the economic crisis."

Buchanan and White Student Union leader Tom David address real concerns of millions, but "place the blame on and make scapegoats out of immigrant workers, Jews, gay people, 'welfare cheats,' and others," he said. "They use demagoguery in pretending to stand in the interests of common people and rail against big government, the banks, and corruption.

They attempt to divide working people and make us believe that something other than crisis-ridden capitalism is the reason for the hardship, uncertainty, decline in standard of living, and the unstable world situation."

Noting the decision of the University of Minnesota administration to recognize the White Student Union as a campus organiza-

tion, Nisan pledged his campaign would be an "organizing center for all who want to join in answering and defeating this ultrarightist drive, and charting a road forward for working people."

He encouraged supporters and interested individuals to stop by the campaign headquarters at 508 N. Snelling in St. Paul.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

Published in the interest of the Working People

March 20, 1967

Price 10c

Walter Reuther has ganged up with General Motors to break a second walkout by UAW Local 549 in Mansfield, Ohio. The latest strike followed a February tieup over the issue of GM farming out work to other plants, in which 17 workers were suspended from their jobs.

When Reuther threatened to take over the local, the membership voted to end the earlier strike. Only 12 of the workers given disciplinary layoffs were put back to work and it soon became apparent that the other five were to be fired. This led to the second walkout. When Reuther again issued a back-to-work order, a majority of the local union members voted to defy his order and continue their protest action.

Reuther followed up with a blast against "illegal work stoppages" caused by "the small minority inside the local union or by persons from outside our union." One of Reuther's regional directors was then imposed upon the Mansfield local as administrator in a dictatorial action designed to strip the membership of all power of decision.

Frank Petty, chairman of the shop committee [and] one of the workers scheduled to be fired after the February strike, has spoken for a militant group of skilled and production

workers in the local. "I don't feel our leadership realizes," Petty told reporters, "that the people in the labor movement are younger and they can't be led around by the nose or dictated to."

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

March 21, 1942

When Singapore fell [to Japan] last month, the terms of the British capitulation called for 1,000 armed British soldiers to remain in Singapore City to "maintain order" until the Japanese army completed occupation. A day or two later the Japanese troops entered Singapore, relieved the British of their obligation to "maintain order" and immediately began "cleaning up seditious elements."

But it must not be supposed that the British have a monopoly on such imperialistic etiquette. War Commentary, the British semi-monthly periodical, presents evidence to show that the Axis forces, too, know how to act like slave-holding gentlemen:

"There appeared in the evening papers towards the end of January, a photograph taken in a town in Libya, which had been captured by the British. It showed Italian policemen, with loaded rifles, searching a car, and the explanation underneath said that 'these Italian police are cooperating with the British forces in helping to keep the local population under control.'"

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No to Washington's war plans

Working people and all opponents of imperialist war need urgently to begin discussing how to respond to the war threats being made by Washington. U.S. demands and threats against both Iraq and North Korea are increasing with each passing day.

The U.S. government is planning for a war in the coming months. The rulers are openly debating how rapidly to proceed along this course.

To see what the impact of a war waged by Washington today will mean, one only has to look at Iraq, which was subjected to the onslaught by Washington and its allies one year ago. Massive destructive power was unleashed against the people of that country. Factories, bridges, electrical generation plants, irrigation works, and water purification facilities were systematically bombed, destroying most of the country's modern means of life support.

Widespread human suffering continues as a result of the war and the blockade that has been imposed on Iraq for well over a year. Thousands are malnourished, health care is nonexistent for many, and infant mortality has skyrocketed.

The war itself was a massive slaughter, with untold tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers and civilians dying under U.S. bombardment. The planes of the U.S. military and its allies dropped 88,000 tons of bombs in more than 100,000 attacks.

Allied commander Norman Schwarzkopf made much of his claim that, unlike the Vietnam war, when officials lied about the war, the truth was told during the war against Iraq. But within months of the war's end a different picture emerged. Information that was hidden and lied about during the war continues to come out. The fact that several thousand

Iraqi soldiers were buried alive in their trenches was just one of the incidents not reported until months after the war ended. Even then the details were not given emphasis by most news media.

Also typical of the war propaganda was the great publicity given to the claims of a young Kuwaiti woman that Iraqi soldiers tossed Kuwaiti babies from their incubators.

This story has since been disputed by Amnesty International and other organizations that accepted it at the time.

The bosses always accompany their war maneuvers with attacks not just on the right to know the truth but on other democratic rights of working people at home. In the name of "supporting our troops," great pressure is placed on workers not to debate or oppose military action.

As their drive to war continues, the capitalist rulers make it clear that all demands by workers in defense of their rights and for better working conditions interfere with the war effort. A clear instance of this was seen in the midst of the war against Iraq when, echoing the government's prowar line, Dick Kilroy, a top union official and spokesperson for rail workers fighting for a just contract, announced in January 1991 that a strike was out of the question because it would "disrupt the war effort."

Such pressures will be a feature of all the wars imperialism has in store. Any attempt by workers to defend themselves from attacks by the employers or to advance their rights will be attacked as disruptive and unpatriotic.

The stakes for workers in this fight will be very high. It is important that all who see the implications of the course Washington is on begin speaking out against these war moves.

Japan-bashing fuels drive to war

U.S. senator Ernest Holling's remark about how the atomic bomb was "made in America" and "tested in Japan" was no joke. Nor was it an isolated incident. It comes in the middle of a systematic campaign by the U.S. rulers to blame Japan for the depression conditions that exist, divert working people's attention from the real causes of the depression and from seeing who their real enemies are, and prepare the road toward war with Japan.

President George Bush and other Republican Party politicians say Japanese exports are the cause of the current economic recession. Lee Iaccoca, the chairman of Chrysler, raises the absurd notion that the United States — the mightiest industrial power on earth — is being transformed into an exploited colony, exporting raw materials to Japan and buying back expensive manufactured goods.

Patrick Buchanan, the ultrarightist contender for the Republican presidential nomination, accuses the Bush campaign of looking "like a wholly-owned subsidiary of Japan Inc." Buchanan refers to the Japanese people as "Japs."

The Democratic candidates, along with their backers among the AFL-CIO union officialdom, play a big part in promoting the anti-Japan campaign. "When the Japanese prime minister said that he felt sympathy for the U.S.," said Democratic front-runner William Clinton, referring to earlier comments by Kiichi Miyazawa, "it made me sick. If I'd been there with him I'd have thrown up too."

Liberal Democrat Thomas Harkin warned Tokyo, "We're going to reduce our trade deficit with you, Japan, down to zero in five years. Two ways you can do it: buy more or sell us less."

The anti-Japan tirades have helped to fuel a wave of attacks against Asian-Americans, as a report just published by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights clearly documents.

"There has been a widespread failure of government at all levels and of the nation's public schools to provide for the needs of immigrant Asian-Americans," the report added.

"The report compiles evidence confirming that Asian-Americans do face widespread prejudice, discrimination, and barriers to equal opportunity," the commission noted. The report also calls on presidential candidates to refrain from Japan-bashing which, it says, encourages anti-Asian violence.

The recent murder of a real estate consultant of Japanese origin in California after overt anti-Japanese threats to his life is one example of this.

Japanese-American Girl Scouts were harassed late last year while selling cookies at a supermarket in the Los Angeles area. Some called them "Japs" while others said, "I only buy from American girls." One of the girls replied in astonishment, "But we are Americans."

These racist attacks should be denounced by the labor movement, which needs to fight the Japan-bashing campaign rather than being caught up in it.

As the competition between Tokyo and Washington sharpens in the middle of a capitalist depression these attacks will continue.

Japan-bashing in the United States, like its counterpart among the rulers in Japan, aims to divide Japanese workers from working people in the United States. It pits immigrant workers in the United States who are of Asian origin against other workers.

But U.S. workers of whatever origin and Japanese workers are not enemies. They have everything in common — from the fight against the bosses' concession demands to the struggle against the war drive of the capitalist rulers in each country.

Build Caterpillar solidarity rally

The labor movement and all fighters for social justice should join the fight being waged by members of the United Auto Workers union on strike against Caterpillar, Inc. Strong participation in the March 22 solidarity rally in Peoria, Illinois, will show Caterpillar, as well as other companies that are looking to follow this same course, that their efforts to destroy the unions will be met by resistance.

Caterpillar is the world's largest manufacturer of earth-moving and construction equipment. It is demanding deep concessions from the 16,000 United Auto Workers (UAW) members it employs, including a two-tier wage system, elimination or reduction of the cost-of-living allowance, differential wages based on job classification, and big increases in health insurance payments from workers.

Since the UAW strengthened its fight, with nearly 11,000 members now out on strike, Caterpillar has escalated its efforts to defeat the union. The company obtained a court injunction limiting the number of union pickets at plant gates — an attempt to limit the strength that workers have in their numbers.

Caterpillar has also hired Vance International, a notorious union-busting security outfit, that has worked for Pittston Coal, Greyhound, and the New York Daily News to bust strikes by using replacement workers. Vance agents are

aggressively photographing and videotaping strikers and their supporters. They are also using parabolic antennas to monitor the strikers' conversations.

Violence-baiting the labor movement, company spokesperson Terry Thorstenson claimed Caterpillar hired Vance in response to the March 22 solidarity rally and the need to protect their people and assets. "Cat's normal security force is not sized to deal with the situation that could arise," said Thorstenson. "For that matter neither are the police," he added. The UAW points out that there have been no incidents of violence or vandalism that the company can cite to back up its claims.

Caterpillar declared March 6 that its negotiations with the UAW were at an impasse, claiming the union will not negotiate. UAW Secretary-Treasurer Bill Casstevens, chief negotiator for the union, said Caterpillar's action was aimed at "union-busting" and that the UAW did not believe the two parties were at an impasse.

This is an important fight. If Caterpillar is able to beat the union, employers across the country will drive even more forcefully against workers' rights and standard of living. Providing solidarity and building a broad and successful March 22 rally will be decisive in beating back Caterpillar's offensive.

This column is devoted to a discussion with our readers — printing remarks, questions, suggestions, and other comments sent to the *Militant*. Where possible we will take up issues raised in notes and letters as a way to help clarify and expand on the coverage in the paper.

Albert Fried-Cassola in his letter commenting on the *Militant's* February 28 coverage on farmers' struggles states, "your analysis and demands failed to go far enough. . . . The right path was nowhere even suggested."

The *Militant* had reprinted the preface to the newly published Pathfinder pamphlet *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s* by Doug Jenness. The pamphlet in its entirety provides a perspective around which a fight to defend the rights of working farmers can be conducted.

Jenness explains in the pamphlet, "Protectionism and free trade are part of the increasingly aggressive competition

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

between the capitalist ruling families in different countries to maintain their profit rates."

He adds, "Rather than seeking solutions from this or that wing of the capitalist exploiters and their political parties, working farmers need their own program of action that can unite exploited farmers internationally and build toward an alliance with wageworkers at the same time."

The pamphlet outlines the essential elements of such a program as follows:

"Farmers who face bankruptcy and foreclosure need immediate relief. . . . No farm should be foreclosed because a family cannot make the interest payments on loans and mortgages owed to parasitic bankers. A moratorium should be called on foreclosures.

"As long as farmers want to work their land and produce goods for society, the government should guarantee them use of the land. . . . Working farmers should be provided low-interest credit by the government, with preference given to those with greatest need.

"In order to end the evils of real estate speculation and to prevent the concentration of land ownership in the hands of the exploiters, the only land sales permitted should be transfers to the state. All other buying and selling of land should be abolished.

"Farmers should be guaranteed a market for the products of their labor to meet their production costs and have a decent living."

Jenness goes on to explain how a fight around these concrete measures can unite working farmers and lead toward forming an alliance with wageworkers in the fields and factories.

"The independent mobilization of these united producers around this perspective will pit them against the bankers, food trusts, and employers and pose the need to replace the political rule of these exploiters with a government in which workers and farmers are in command," Jenness concludes. "A workers' and farmers' government would expropriate the ruling families and all their holdings and provide a powerful instrument for working people to defend their interests and advance our economic, cultural, and social well-being."

Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s is available for \$3.00 from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Add \$3.00 for shipping, \$.50 for each additional copy.

* * *

A reader from Lawrence, Massachusetts who recently renewed his subscription wrote suggesting that the \$1.50 cover price of the *Militant* be lowered as a way of attracting new readers.

The prices set for *Militant* single issues and subscriptions are designed to cover the basic costs of producing the paper. The *Militant* does not depend on advertising or rich corporate donors to fund the paper. We count on our readers — workers and farmers throughout the world — to help keep the paper going.

The *Militant's* prices are comparable to those charged for other weekly newspapers. As a way of attracting new readers, we offer a special introductory subscription rate of only \$10 for 12 issues of the paper — a savings of \$8 off the cover price.

* * *

A correction: An article in the February 21 issue, "Canada court to review frame-up case," reported on the case of David Milgaard, who has been in jail for almost 23 years. The article stated that Albert Cadrain, who had been with Milgaard near the time of the murder Milgaard was accused of, did not receive the police reward of \$2,000 for information leading to a conviction. In fact Cadrain did receive the \$2,000.

The article's author, Cheryl Pruitt, notes that this is one of the issues that will be raised in Canada's Supreme Court hearing on Milgaard's case, which is ongoing. The Court is reviewing both new evidence and testimony from Milgaard's earlier trial.

The court has said Milgaard can be freed in four possible ways: if he proves his innocence beyond reasonable doubt; if he demonstrates he is probably innocent — in which case there will be a retrial; if there is new evidence that might have had a bearing on the 1970 jury; or if the court decides to give him a conditional pardon on sympathetic grounds.

Striking textile workers arrested in New Zealand

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

Working people around the world are involved in skirmishes

ON THE PICKET LINE

over speedup, forced overtime, layoffs, and attacks on health and safety benefits. Some unionists faced with sharp takeback demands, lockouts, and union-busting moves have gone on strike to force the bosses to back down.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines to let other *Militant* readers know about what is happening at your workplace or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that too.

Thirteen striking workers were arrested February 28 outside Christchurch Carpet Yarns in Christchurch, New Zealand, after a four-hour confrontation. The pickets had linked arms to prevent a truck from entering the factory site to load bales of wool. Police were again on the site the following day to prevent pickets from blocking the factory entrance.

The 130 members of the Food and Textile Workers Union at Christchurch Carpet Yarns have been on strike since February 17. The workers voted to strike after rejecting the company's proposed new collective contract.

Statements released to the news media by the company claim the new contract preserves existing wages and conditions. However, clause 19 of the new contract gives the employer the right to cancel clauses relating to "employment matters" on one month's notice.

The workers believe the company intends to use this clause to cancel bonus payments — which currently make up 40 percent of workers' wages — as well as make cuts in overtime payments and hire temporary workers.

Strikers maintain a round-the-clock picket line. Some 20 workers have crossed the picket line and are helping managerial staff keep some production going.

Support for the strike is growing. The initial strike vote was 60-40. A

918, or phone head site delegate Darryl Payne (03) 382-0403.

Denver rally backs striking Colorado miners

Members and supporters of United Mine Workers of America Local 1799 rallied in downtown Denver at the offices of Public Service of Colorado (PSC) after a pre-dawn picket by striking union members in front of Cyprus Minerals national headquarters.

The mine workers struck Cyprus's Empire mine in Craig, Colorado, 10 months ago in response to company proposals for drastic cuts in medical coverage for miners and

take on all of us," chanted the 200 demonstrators, representing eight local unions as well as the miners.

Union officials presented a "Corporate Irresponsibility" award to PSC. The award was a bucket of coal mixed with rock and dirt symbolizing the fact that PSC would buy inferior coal in order to help break the strike.

Security cops from several office buildings hassled the demonstrators. Undeterred, the miners led the demonstrators in a march through the PSC lobby where they chanted, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, corporate greed has got to go!"

Many striking miners point out that morale has improved during the course of this fight despite the hardships. Striker Mike Sanchez expressed the sentiment of many when he said the local now has the confidence "to do what we said we were going to do — win a decent contract from Cyprus."

Ohio Steelworkers strike ends after eight months

Picket lines came down February 23 at Clow Water Systems in Coshocton, Ohio, ending an eight-month strike by members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 7014.

Not one of the 328 union members crossed the line during the strike. Green ribbons — symbols of support for the strike — are still on display in stores and homes in this central Ohio town of 13,000.

The unionists made an "unconditional return" to work in a settlement orchestrated by USWA international officials. Only 110 strikers have been taken back by the company, which has replaced another 130 with scabs hired over the past month. Only one member of the local's bargaining committee is back to work.

At a membership meeting February 23, USWA District 27 director Dan Martin informed the strikers that two days earlier international officials had notified the company of the union's intent to return to work without a contract.

A central demand in the strike had been for changes in the medical insurance. Under the existing plan workers had as much as \$240 a month deducted from their paychecks. In addition, the company wanted to end retirees' option to buy into the health plan. Clow had also instituted a "quality and quantity" program and taken broad control over working conditions. Strikers saw this as an attempt to drive older workers out of the plant.

Families of the strikers had formed We Will Survive. The group provided support through a strike kitchen, fundraising, social activities, and helping solve other problems that arose.

On February 22 strikers on the picket line and at the union hall discussed the pressure they faced in deciding how to continue the fight. One striker explained that his wife was urging him to return to work. Other union members were also talking to him about going back. "But I couldn't live with myself if I was to cross a picket line," he said.

At the union hall a worker with more than 20 years in the plant summed up a common sentiment among the strikers. "I'd rather go to jail for stealing a loaf of bread, than go to hell for being a scab," he said.

Striker and Local 7014 negotiating committee member Don Freed pointed out, "We lost about 90 jobs, with maybe more coming, and we don't even know which of our members are being replaced."

The following people contributed to this week's column: Mike Peters, member of the New Zealand Engineers Union at Toyota's Christchurch plant; David Salner, member of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 8319 and Karen Stockert, a railworker and member of United Transportation Union Local 1366, in Salt Lake City; and Michael Italie, member of USWA Local 14919 and Don Mackle, member of USWA Local 1170 in Cleveland.



Militant/David Salner

Striking Colorado coal miners march in Denver February 19

second vote taken at a union meeting February 28 was 85-2, with one abstention.

Strikers are available to speak at worksites. A national financial appeal for the strikers has also been launched.

Messages of support and donations can be sent to: Food and Textile Workers Union, Trade Union Centre, 199 Armagh Street, Christchurch, New Zealand. Call (03) 666-

retirees. PSC, a public utility, had been the main buyer of coal from the Empire mine and now purchases Cyprus's non-union coal.

Mine workers were joined at the February 19 rally by Janitors for Justice, an organization seeking union recognition for janitors working for near-minimum wages in the U.S. West Building and other Denver offices.

"When you take on one of us, you

LETTERS

Recent visit to Cuba

We have just returned from a holiday in Cuba.

In spite of being a third world country which is forced to sell cheap and buy dear by a manipulated world market, with more than 30 years of blockade by the U.S. which is now being intensified and the breakdown of trade with the former USSR, all of which are imposing severe shortages, especially of fuel, the Cuban people continue to pioneer a successful Socialist Revolution.

From the limited viewpoint of tourists, we saw in Cuba a truly participatory and economic democracy, which requires a socially responsible and politically conscious people. Food is shared fairly through a ration system. No one need be unemployed. When a factory has to cut back because of lack of raw materials, workers are asked to transfer to another job as near as possible to their home at the same pay. If a worker cannot or will not do this, she may stay away from work and retain 60% of her pay until work is again available.

We saw a great deal of new construction since we were there 5 years ago, but because of the severe shortages, this has been cut back drastically this year. Thousands of bicycles are used for transportation and some oxen are used in the fields. Government ministries have few cars in their parking lots, but are filled with bicycles, which we were told was the private mode of transportation for officials and workers

alike. We saw 3- or 4-star army officers riding these. There is a campaign to make the island self sufficient in food and every available bit of land is growing vegetables. Needless to say, there are no farmers losing their land (70% of land is farmed cooperatively, 30% privately).

We saw a renewed firmness and resolve to overcome problems and we met very few people who wanted to return to a "free market economy" and to the unemployment, homelessness, malnutrition, lack of medical care and alienation that many workers and farmers in Canada and the U.S. face daily.

Bea and George Bryant
Ontario, Canada

Black bag job

The *Militant* newspaper has been doing a great job of covering the fight against racism and police brutality in Iowa. There were 17 crosses burnt last year in Dubuque from July to November. However, only one of the four convicted crossburners is spending any time in jail.

An NAACP rally commemorating Martin Luther King took place January 12 at the St. Mark Community Center. Before and after the march and commemoration, *Militant* and Pathfinder Literature was sold in the Center for a Just Society (CJS), which is in the basement of St. Mark's. The following is a statement distributed internally to staff of the CJS and others who use the St. Mark Community Center.

"On the morning of January 30, the janitor found the back door of St. Mark's open and discovered that someone had broken through the folding divider wall to enter the Center for a Just Society. The only obvious action beyond the sliced folding door was that all the files and drawers had been searched through and the donation box was torn open.

"There was no sign of breaking into the building. The janitor had checked the doors at 8:30 P.M. the previous evening, the outside doors were locked at that time. Since Rock of Ages [a small African American Baptist Congregation which uses the church] did not meet that night and no one else was scheduled to be there, we are quite perplexed as to how someone gained access."

A policeman called to the scene that morning candidly said "they weren't after money." They have no suspects. Members of the Center for a Just Society feel that it was a black bag job.

Robert Roethig
Dubuque, Iowa

Farmers' demands

Your articles on struggles of farmers in the U.S. and Australia in the February 28, 1992, issue gave good coverage to the events and much good analysis. However, I believe that your analysis and demands failed to go far enough and clarify a possibly confusing situation.

Both in your news articles and in your editorial, you point out that the wrong paths are: 1) protectionism,



and 2) an end to subsidies for small farmers. Doug Jenness' fine article gave important detail on current imperialist brawling over markets. However, the right path was nowhere even suggested.

In his pamphlet, *The Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International: The Transitional Program*, Leon Trotsky wrote: "The advanced workers should learn to give clear and concrete answers to the questions put by their future allies."

"While the farmer remains an 'independent' petty producer, he is in need of cheap credit, of agricultural machines and fertilizer at prices he can afford to pay, favorable conditions of transport, and conscientious organization of the market for his agricultural products."

Trotsky goes on to say that com-

mittees elected by small farmers should work with workers' committees and bank employees' committees to satisfy these needs.

I believe that in each nation, socialists should advance demands for easy credit and guaranteed prices for working farmers. When farmers in many nations make these demands simultaneously, capitalism will be unable to answer. The necessity for socialism will then be more understandable.

Albert Fried-Cassorla
Melrose Park, Pennsylvania

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

S. Africa: whites-only referendum reflects crisis of apartheid regime

BY GREG McCARTAN

Stung by the loss of a parliamentary by-election to the opposition Conservative Party, South African president F.W. de Klerk has called for a whites-only referendum on the regime's course in negotiations with the revolutionary democratic movement in the country.

The election results and the response by de Klerk signal the continuing crisis of the government as it faces mounting pressure to rapidly make way for the election of a constituent assembly on the basis of one person, one vote.

Slated for March 17, the referendum will ask: "Do you support continuation of the reform process, which the State President began on Feb. 2, 1990, and which is aimed at a new Constitution through negotiation?"

De Klerk's National Party has seen its traditionally strong majority in parliament dwindle over the past several years, with the rightist Conservatives picking up most of the seats. The election that precipitated the government's current crisis was in Potchefstroom, a long-time National Party stronghold.

After the victory, Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht told a cheering audience that the election showed that the National Party and de Klerk did not represent the "white nation" in negotiations that began with the African National Congress and other political parties last December.

Known as the tricameral parliament, the legislative body is dominated by a whites-only chamber. Subordinate houses for representatives chosen by those the regime designates as "Asian" and "Coloured" exist as window dressing for the apartheid government. Blacks are still denied the vote in South Africa.

'A serious mistake'

Calling de Klerk's move "a serious mistake" African National Congress president Nelson Mandela said in a recent article published in the *Los Angeles Times* that it is "no longer tenable in today's South Africa for any single population group to have a veto over the process leading to finalization of the new constitution establishing a non-racial democracy."

"The only way to make the end of apartheid irreversible is for blacks to have the vote," the ANC leader wrote. "For those both inside and outside South Africa who support democracy and economic improvements for our people, pressing the current regime to allow an interim government is the critical issue."

The Conservative Party has been the main voice in the country speaking out against the steps the regime has been forced to take to move away from the legal structures of white minority rule. With a base in capitalist electoral politics, the party has also organized protest actions and collaborates with ultrarightist formations such as the Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB).

After de Klerk announced the date of the referendum, AWB leader Eugene Terre Blanche said his organization would do everything in its power to stop whites from voting. "We cannot allow them to be led to the slaughter like lambs," he declared, according to a report carried in the *London Financial Times*. Threatening violent attacks unless progress toward elimination of apartheid is reversed, Terre Blanche said democratic organizations "have declared war on your property rights. . . . We are going to have war."

The Conservative Party and ultrarightist outfits like the AWB appeal to the fears and insecurities among some whites, who have been nurtured on the apartheid regime's diet of virulent racism, decades of violence and repression against Blacks, and the illusion that the social system of apartheid would endure.

They address the real social problems faced by a growing number of whites after



Nelson Mandela speaking in Ka Nyamazane, South Africa, in April 1990.

years of steep recession, an economic crisis among farmers, and rising unemployment.

Playing on these facts, they place the blame on the government for granting concessions to the revolutionary democratic movement and raise the specter of Black domination of whites if the changes continue. They have mounted a campaign for a "white state," a return to apartheid policies, and the end of negotiations with the ANC and other organizations.

Conservative Party leader Treurnicht said the party's leadership was in favor of calling for a boycott of the referendum but was overruled by members of the parliamentary caucus. He announced February 25 that the party would organize a "vote no" campaign. "If we lose, this is not the end of the political

war in South Africa," he said. "There is still a white nation that cannot be wished away."

In a phone interview from Johannesburg, ANC spokesperson Gill Marcus said the liberation organization considers the referendum illegitimate because "we reject any form of ethnic referendum."

A member of the ANC National Executive Committee, Marcus said, "Given the fact that the referendum is going ahead, we feel that it is incumbent upon white South Africans to also make a statement about their commitment to the peace process" in the upcoming vote. "Now that they are having the referendum as a white referendum, we are saying that there is in fact an opportunity — not one of our choosing, and we would rather it would not be happening — for whites to go out and

vote 'yes' for the peace process and their rejection of Conservative Party politics.

'A future for everybody'

"We are saying that the vote is not about de Klerk or the National Party or the Conservative Party. The vote should be about a commitment to a fundamental change of the whole of this society," she said. The ANC has repeatedly stated that "there is a future here for everybody; there is no need to go to war over these policies."

Marcus also outlined the ANC proposals for moving rapidly to an interim government. Once the current negotiation process, called the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, is completed, the ANC proposes an Interim Government Council be established.

An independent nonpartisan body would oversee an electoral commission to supervise elections to a constituent assembly and a media commission "to ensure a free and fair and impartial public broadcasting service."

"A second part of the Interim Government Council would be based on multiparty committees focusing on security, budget, foreign relations, and local government for a duration of three months," Marcus said. Although the tricameral parliament would continue to exist, it would be overseen by the interim government.

Once a constituent assembly is elected, it should have a short duration, the ANC leader said, possibly for 6 to 9 months.

"Because of the kind of need to allay fears generally, particularly white fears, we say that 'sunset' clauses could be in place for 3 to 5 years. We are aiming to establish a government of national unity for five years that would ease in the question of this new South Africa," she said.

'De Klerk makes a serious mistake'

The following article by African National Congress president Nelson Mandela appeared in the February 26 issue of the *Los Angeles Times*.

BY NELSON MANDELA

JOHANNESBURG — President Frederik W. de Klerk is making a serious mistake in calling for a referendum of the white population to affirm the National Party's course to end apartheid and seek a peaceful transition to democracy in South Africa. In doing so, he has revealed that he thinks of himself not as a leader of the whole population of South Africa, but only of the 15% who are white.

It is no longer tenable in today's South Africa for any single population group to have a veto over the process leading to finalization of the new constitution establishing a non-racial democracy. Yet De Klerk has now made it clear that no constitution will be finalized unless it is approved by whites. He has told us directly that if the whites reject the constitution, "We have to go back to the drawing board." And make no mistake about it — back to the drawing board means back to square one.

The right wing is confident, strong and growing. It has increased its share of the vote in every by-election since the last general election. Before the 1989 general election, De Klerk's ruling National Party held 40 parliamentary seats from the Orange Free State. Now, 30 of those belong to the Conservative Party, which has openly declared that it wants to reimpose apartheid and put me back in prison.

In last week's by-election in the western Transvaal, the Conservatives once again re-

peated their strong showing against De Klerk's party. Since there are other, smaller political parties in South Africa that oppose the normalization of racial relations, it is very conceivable that, if the National Party is further weakened in a referendum, a right-wing coalition could form a parliamentary majority to reverse all the progress of the past few years.

The only way to make the end of apartheid irreversible is for blacks to have the vote.

We want to see a multi-party democracy established as quickly as possible, enshrined in a constitution providing for one-person, one-vote on a common voters' roll, separation of powers between the legislature, executive and judiciary, and the devolution of power to regional and local levels of government. We also want to see a bill of rights, protected by an independent and representative judiciary.

Under the constitution we envision, all population groups would have equality before the law. Any population group that wants to keep its own schools, provided they are not racially segregated, and maintain its own language, culture and religion would be allowed to do so.

As the new constitution is drawn up, the African National Congress is willing to look at any proposals aimed at addressing the fears of discrimination by any group, provided that such proposals are not in furtherance of apartheid and intended to subvert the normal democratic practice of majority rule.

In recent weeks, in negotiations with the De Klerk government, we had come very close to agreeing on the establishment of an interim government composed of representatives of the entire population. That government would oversee the promulgation of the new constitution and sponsor elections in

which all South Africans would participate.

As far as the ANC is concerned, this remains the way to proceed. The non-racial majority, black and white, must be presented with a constitution on which they will decide. The right wing, to which De Klerk has paid so much heed, would be marginalized in the process. Although the right wing is a considerable presence among the white population, it is but a tiny minority of all South Africans.

Once a representative interim government is in place, the ANC has agreed that trade and financial sanctions should be lifted against South Africa.

The legal pillars of apartheid have been largely removed. But apartheid is more than a legal structure. It is an economic and social practice.

Given the radical maldistribution of wealth, the ANC has in the past called for nationalization as the key solution to providing more economic equality. However, we are now re-examining this position and will hold a special economic conference on the matter in April.

Knowing that there can be no economic advance without the business community, the ANC has asked South African businessmen to come up with an alternative to nationalization that is nonetheless effective in correcting economic apartheid.

The ANC has no ideological attachment to nationalization. Optimally, we envision a mixed economy in which state intervention is no greater than in Italy, France or Germany.

For those both inside and outside South Africa who support democracy and economic improvements for our people, pressing the current regime to allow an interim government is the critical issue.