

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Mohawk Indians
face second trial**

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Free the L.A. detainees; indict the guilty cops!

BY JOE SWANSON

SAN FRANCISCO — More than 2,000 people packed Glide Memorial Church here following a protest march in response to the verdict in the Rodney King case. Speaking at the open-mike meeting, Estelle DeBates was greeted with big applause when she introduced herself as the Socialist Workers

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vice-presidential candidate. "I want to raise a question here tonight," said DeBates. "How are we going to get justice for Rodney King?"

"The national response of outrage, including this meeting," the candidate said, "points to the potential to build a movement to demand that the cops — all 20 on the scene, and Police Chief Daryl Gates as well — be indicted now under federal civil rights laws."

On less than 24 hours notice, San Francisco Bay Area supporters of the DeBates
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May 2 march of 6,000 in Minneapolis protesting the Rodney King verdict. Protests occurred worldwide demanding that the cops who beat King be jailed for their actions.

Militant/Jon Hillson

U.S. Supreme Court cuts prisoners' right to appeal their convictions

BY PAUL MAILHOT

In yet another blow to democratic rights, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled May 4 that federal courts were no longer obliged to grant prisoners a review of their convictions, even when a prisoner can demonstrate that he or she was not properly represented in a state court appeal.

The case before the court involved José Tamayo Reyes, a Cuban immigrant who speaks little English and who was accused of a barroom murder. Unable to understand poor translations, he pleaded no contest to a manslaughter charge thinking he was agreeing to stand trial. On his appeal to a state court, his attorney failed to explain the facts about the translation and circumstances of his plea.

Under habeas corpus law Tamayo appealed his conviction to a federal court. His appeal asked for a new hearing of the case not limited to the evidence his negligent attorney had put forward in Oregon state court.

The Supreme Court held that Tamayo was entitled to a hearing in federal court but his defense would be restricted to the inadequate evidence presented by his lawyer in state court. Therefore Tamayo's case will not get a meaningful review by the federal courts.

The 5-4 Supreme Court decision in the Tamayo case overturned a 1966 Congressional amendment to habeas corpus law that guaranteed a prisoner the right to a hearing on all the facts of the case, if the facts were not adequately presented at the state court hearing.

The latest Supreme Court decision follows several other recent rulings that sharply limit the ability of state prisoners to gain some justice through habeas corpus statutes. A petition for a writ of habeas corpus is a prisoner's challenge to the legality of a conviction or sentence.

Under habeas corpus law a federal court can decide that a prisoner did not get due

process in the state court system and order a review of the case. It is one of the few ways prisoners have to challenge unfair trials and inadequate legal representation.

This especially affects working-class and poor people who are often railroaded to jail and cannot afford good lawyers. Almost all of the 323 people on death row in California are impoverished and are unable to pay for legal representation. The state public

defender's office has staff to represent 46 of these prisoners. Private attorneys paid by the state must be recruited to represent the rest. At present 25 percent of death row inmates in California have no lawyer at all.

One day late

Last year the Supreme Court ruled that a prisoner has no right to have a case reviewed
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Guilty verdicts delivered against Puerto Rican fighters

BY TIM CRAINE
AND CARL WEINBERG

BRIDGEPORT, Connecticut — On May 5, after a three-week trial, a Federal District court jury delivered a guilty verdict on all counts against Puerto Rican independence fighters Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and Yvonne Meléndez Carrión. The two were charged in connection with a 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo depot in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Ojeda, who went into hiding in 1990 and was tried in absentia, could be sentenced to more than 100 years in prison. Meléndez faces up to 15 years on charges of transporting and conspiring to transport stolen money.

Judge T.F. Gilroy Daly set July 1 as the sentencing date.

Since Ojeda, Meléndez, and 13 other independence activists were arrested nearly seven years ago, the case of the Hartford 15 has received widespread support as an example of U.S. government repression against the independence movement in Puerto Rico. Outside the courthouse, Meléndez told reporters, "This was not a fair

trial. For three weeks we waited for evidence. There was no evidence."

In a statement released to the press at the time of the verdict, Meléndez described the frame-up that had taken place.

"I was not allowed to be judged by my peers and in my country," she stated, referring to the fact that repeated motions to move the trial to Puerto Rico had been denied. There has been widespread support for her case there.

"I was denied the right to a speedy trial," she noted. "And the selection of the jury took place behind closed doors."

Meléndez added, "The judicial process demonstrated the overwhelming power and all the resources the government has at its disposal to defend its own interests." The government paid \$270,000 to Mayra López to translate tape-recorded conversations from Spanish to English in an inaccurate and politically slanted way to boost the prosecution's case. Kenneth Cox, a professional criminal, was paid \$60,000 to become an informer for the FBI.

"This trial showed the surveillance to which thousands of Puerto Ricans were sub-

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Backers of Minnesota activist denounce death threats

BY LEAH FINGER

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota — Chris Nisan, a prominent leader in the fight against police brutality here and in St. Paul, received three telephone death threats at his home the night of May 7. Nisan was a central organizer of a May 2 march of 6,000 in Minneapolis demanding justice for Rodney King.

Three different callers stated that Nisan would be "taken out" for his role in organizing the protests. Nisan is the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 5th District.

"I pin the blame for these threats against my life on the U.S. government," said Nisan. "Every day that goes by without a federal indictment under existing civil rights legislation of the criminals in uniform in California emboldens ultrarightists, white supremacists, agents provocateurs, and other opponents of broad, united protests against police brutality."

Clusters of people on all four corners listened to Nisan and other speakers at a street corner rally May 9. Campaign supporters passed out leaflets denouncing the death threats.

To show support for Nisan in the face of the threats, leaders and members of the Africana Student Cultural Center and the Coalition for Police Accountability attended the event. Clyde Bellecourt, a leader of the American Indian Movement, also attended with a group of activists.

"We're out here today," Nisan said, "to

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Lebanese gov't resigns amid nationwide protests

Lebanon's prime minister Omar Karami resigned May 6 after two days of nationwide protests against skyrocketing prices and a plunging currency. The Lebanese currency slumped to 2,000 pounds to one U.S. dollar, losing two-thirds of its value since the beginning of the year.

A four-day general strike called by labor unions May 5 shut shops, banks, schools, and offices. Marches in Beirut and several other cities turned into riots as demonstrators smashed bank signs and glass windows and attacked government buildings. The Finance Minister's residence in Tyre was set on fire.

Unemployment rises, prices skyrocket in Romania

Romanians are paying five times more to heat their homes since the government abolished 25 percent of state subsidies May 6. Among other boosts, electricity rates rose fivefold, train tickets became seven times more expensive, and the price of a loaf of bread doubled. The government said salaries will be raised to compensate for about 65 percent of the increases. Remaining subsidies on energy, rents, and basic foodstuffs are scheduled to be eliminated by next year.

Meanwhile, the official unemployment rate increased to 4.6 percent in March, up from 3.8 percent in February. It was less than 1 percent last June when the government began collecting unemployment data.

Former Yugoslav republic insists on keeping name 'Macedonia'

The government of the republic of Macedonia, denied recognition by the European Community and the United States as a result of pressure from Greece, insists on maintaining its name. The Greek regime, which has organized a nationalist campaign claiming the name Macedonia belongs exclusively to Greece, has repeatedly blocked oil, food, and other supplies for the former Yugoslav republic.

Government officials in Skopje, the republic's capital, explained that they could not accept an EC proposal to use the name "Slavic Republic of Macedonia" since only 64 percent of Macedonians are Slavs, while 21 percent are Albanians, and nearly 5 percent are Turks.

North Korea submits report on nuclear sites to atomic agency

The North Korean government submitted a report on its nuclear installations to the

International Atomic Energy Agency May 4. Officials of the nuclear agency said they were taken aback at the level of detail provided by the North Korean authorities. "The facilities listed were more than they needed to give us," David Kyd, a spokesman for the agency, said. Inspectors from the agency are expected to visit the facilities later this month.

Meanwhile, the North and South Korean governments sealed an accord for an August exchange visit by war-separated families.

Tel Aviv will boycott two parts of peace talks

The Israeli government announced it will not attend Mideast regional peace talks on refugees and economic development because of the participation of Palestinian negotiators from outside the occupied territories. Cosponsors of the two sessions — one scheduled to take place in Ottawa, Canada, and the other in Brussels, Belgium, in May — were informed of the decision. Israeli officials said they still planned to attend three other rounds of talks on arms control, the environment, and water resources since they have no objection to the Palestinians expected to sit at the table in those talks.

Washington halts some TV Martí transmissions to Cuba

The U.S. government refrained from transmitting TV Martí to Cuba in daytime hours

April 14 after Havana denounced the serious interference that the transmissions caused with Cuba's channel 13 the day before. A statement by the Cuban foreign ministry said that "for Cuba obviously there is no choice" but to respond vigorously to the invasion of the airwaves. Shortly after TV Martí extended its predawn broadcasts to daytime hours April 1, Cuban radio signals were transmitted to the United States in response.

Ever since Washington began beaming TV Martí to Cuba in March 1990, the Cuban government has maintained that it is illegal and harmful interference with the country's airwaves. Even though there is currently no regular programming on Cuban TV during daytime hours, a test pattern is being broadcast from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. "At the moment we consider a test pattern an intelligible signal, and we should not be broadcasting against it," conceded Tony Navarro, head of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting that oversees TV Martí.

Managua asks Cuba to send more doctors

Faced with a dramatic health-care crisis, the Nicaraguan government of Violeta Chamorro has turned to Cuba for help. An envoy from Managua formally asked the government of Cuba at the end of April to quadruple the number of Cuban doctors working in Nicaragua. Cuba has a medical brigade of 128, mostly physicians, working in some of

Hundreds of thousands march in Cuba on May Day

More than half a million Cubans, many riding bicycles, joined a May Day march in Havana to celebrate International Workers Day and express their support for Cuba's socialist revolution. It was the largest May Day action in the world. Smaller marches were also held across the country. "We have what we ought to have: real socialism and not some caricature that can collapse at any moment," said Pedro Ross, head of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, in a speech to the Havana rally.

Marches were also held in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Chile, Colombia, and most other countries in Latin America. In one of several demonstrations in Venezuela, 10,000 protesters demanded freedom for an army colonel who led an aborted coup in February against the government of Carlos Andrés Pérez. Some 1,500 in Panama demanded the ouster of U.S. troops from the country.

Indian judge orders seizure of Union Carbide assets

At the request of the Indian government a judge in Bhopal, India, ordered the seizure of all assets of Union Carbide in the country. The order was issued in response to the chemical company's announcement last month that it plans to sell its 51 percent stake in Union Carbide India Ltd. India's Supreme Court recently lifted Union Carbide's immunity from criminal prosecution for a poisonous gas leak from its Bhopal plant in 1984 that killed 3,000 and caused severe injuries to 20,000 people.

New report shows U.S. economic recovery is uneven

Furnishing additional evidence of an upturn in the U.S. economy the Federal Reserve reported May 6 that economic activity has increased across the country. The most significant change came from a pickup in manufacturing, particularly in motor vehicle and steel production. The report pointed to an uneven recovery, with some regions, like the Northeast and the West coast, lagging behind.

Bank lending, which had tightened as banks worried about loan defaults, has begun to increase. Homebuilding is on the rise. Sparked by falling mortgage rates, sales of existing homes has picked up in 45 states. An index of 14 leading retail companies compiled by Salomon Brothers Inc. showed that sales were up 6.1 percent in April and 3.3 percent for the combined March and April period.

Social conditions deteriorate for Blacks in the United States

More than 40 percent of children in the United States who are Black are growing up in families with incomes under the poverty level, mostly in families headed by women, notes the *New York Times*. About one of every four young Black men is in jail, on probation, or on parole. Black men constitute 6 percent of the population but 47 percent of the prison population. —ARGIRIS MALAPANIS



Demonstration in Miami in 1989 against TV Martí. Washington recently halted some daytime transmissions to Cuba.

Militant/Nancy Cole

the country's most run-down hospitals and poorest rural areas. Many Nicaraguan doctors refuse to work in these areas. Managua pays the Cuban doctors \$25 a month and provides housing, food, and transportation.

Nicaraguan health minister Ernesto Salmerón said health care has deteriorated since Chamorro defeated the Sandinista National Liberation Front government in the 1990 elections. A measles outbreak recently killed 650 children while tuberculosis afflicts up to 60 percent of the population in the rural north. About 40 percent of rural children suffer from malnutrition.

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Bush offers meager aid in California visit

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — During his recent two-day visit here, President George Bush muted his earlier bristling attack on social welfare programs. Instead, he promised an eyedropper of federal aid to areas of the city devastated in the social explosion that was touched off by the whitewash of the cops who beat Rodney King.

Meanwhile, Bush dispatched up to 60 federal investigators and prosecutors to work with local government officials in building cases against those accused of participating in arson or theft.

Discussing the Justice Department decision to reactivate the federal grand jury probe of the four acquitted cops, Bush signaled that there might also be federal indictments against some of those who joined in the outbreak.

Meanwhile, his proffered federal aid to the thousands of people in desperate need is pitifully meager.

Apart from the \$600 million he said would be available as loans and grants to businessmen trying to resume operation, Bush offered \$19 million under the administration's new "Operation Weed and

Seed." The central aim of the program is to weed out "criminal elements" and, secondly, provide some social welfare.

"The philosophy that underlines the program is that social programs must be closely coordinated and integrated with law enforcement efforts," said Attorney General William Barr.

During his rapid tour of burned-out areas, Bush spoke piously of the need for "racial harmony."

But, in a backdoor visit to a police station in the Black community, he assured the cops of his full support in dealing with "young

hoodlum guys" and "gang guys."

In his campaign-type stops before carefully selected audiences, the president sought to avoid visible expressions of the anger in the Black community. This was not totally successful.

As he spoke at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, a crowd described by the *Los Angeles Times* as "sullen" gathered outside.

Rodney White, a carpenter, shouted to reporters: "Lip service, that's all they're going to do!"

"Go ask [Bush] how he caused the gang-banging for all the young Black men with no jobs and no hope and no future," he exclaimed.

When Bush addressed 300 invited guests at a community club, protesters again gathered outside. The *Times* reported they chanted, "Bush, Bush, a day late, a dollar short!"

At one stop by Bush's motorcade, when Housing Secretary Jack Kemp tried to work the crowd, the *Times* reported, he was shouted down by Geno McKinney, a laid-off McDonnell Douglas aircraft worker.

"We need better education, more jobs, a stake in the community," he told Kemp.

Kemp hurried back across the street, "stunned by the man's anger."

William Clinton, Bush's Democratic rival for the presidency, arrived a few days earlier than the president. But he had nothing better to offer.

Clinton said he favored federal aid to the poor, but stressed the "limits" of doing so.

He added that he favors "an industrial strategy to rebuild the manufacturing base." In other words, give the main aid to employers.

Clinton said society must reach out to "all those people who are profoundly disconnected from us."

He cynically added, "If there's one thing I've learned in public life . . . it is you certainly can't do anything for anybody they

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Supreme Court cuts prisoner appeal rights

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if the appeals were improperly filed. That ruling stemmed from the case of Roger Coleman, a Virginia coal miner on death row, who lost his federal right of appeal because his lawyer had missed — by one day — the deadline for filing documents in the Virginia courts. It made little difference to the justices that important new evidence in the case points to Coleman's innocence.

Coleman is scheduled to be executed on May 20 for the murder of his sister-in-law Wanda McCoy. Since his conviction in 1982, four women have come forward to state that McCoy's next-door neighbor had sexually assaulted them. One of the women says he bragged to her that he had killed McCoy. In addition, a jail-house informer, who earlier testified that Coleman had confessed the murder to him, has admitted that he made up the story to get a reduction in his own sentence.

Since the reimposition of the death penalty by a 1976 Supreme Court ruling, habeas corpus statutes have been one of the most important avenues for prisoners to reverse or delay death sentences. Over the last 16 years, federal judges overturned more than 40 percent of the death penalty cases that reached them through habeas corpus petitions. And those are only the cases they actually decide to review. Only a small percentage of habeas corpus petitions are granted by the federal courts.

Rush to kill

The Supreme Court's curtailment of a prisoner's right to appeal follows other moves to speed along the rate of executions in the United States. In an unprecedented move, members of the high court stayed up all night April 21 to overturn four California stays of execution for Robert Harris. Finally, at 8:45 a.m., in an unsigned opinion, the justices ordered that no further stays could be issued by any federal judge without the explicit permission of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court's recent actions have led some judges and political commentators to express concern that these moves are beginning to make the whole judicial process look bad.

Even justices Sandra O'Connor and Anthony Kennedy, who have both voted to limit prisoners' right to appeal in the past, voted with the minority in the Tamayo case. O'Connor objected that the court was overreaching itself in reversing not just judicial precedents but actual federal law decided by Congress.

An April 22 *New York Times* editorial titled "The Court's Rush to Kill," cautioned the court on its overzealousness in the Harris case. The editors pleaded, "The Supreme Court . . . will retain more moral authority by pronouncing its last word, and last rites, with more restraint."

The Court's decisions in the Harris case provoked a public rebuke from John Noonan, a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which had granted the stays. Writing for the Op-ed page of the *New York Times* he explained that the Harris case posed some important constitutional questions.

The state's rush to have the execution on schedule collided with "the precedents, built up over this century for guarding everyone's civil rights," which, he explained, the court had "suspended or set aside to assure the orderly keeping of an execution date."

Noonan argued that federal judges were being asked to "commit treason to the Constitution" by abstaining from exercising their responsibility to review questions of law brought before them.

One of the stays that affected the Harris case came as a result of a suit brought under the Civil Rights Act on behalf of California's 323 death-row inmates. A judge ordered a hearing on whether death by cyanide gas was cruel and unusual punishment, and thus prohibited by the Constitution. All executions were put on hold, including Harris's, until the hearing could be held.

Judge Noonan argues that this was a legitimate petition. It should have been acted on before Harris's execution, he wrote, because, "'Cruel and unusual' means 'cruel and unusual' in today's terms." Since the Bill of Rights was adopted in 1791, he said, "we have been committed to an evolving standard of human decency." He further argued that the constitution prohibits "unnecessary suffering" in imposing the death penalty. "The constitution permits capital punishment: it does not permit torture," he pointed out.

While the Supreme Court has been working overtime to make sure executions take place on time, Arkansas governor and presidential candidate William

Clinton has made sure to be on hand as the barbaric penalty is implemented in his home state. For the second time in his campaign he flew back to Arkansas to be present for one of the 26 executions he has scheduled while in office.

Clinton denied clemency to 25-year-old Steven Hill who was killed by lethal injection May 7. Hill had filed an appeal of his death sentence based on the confession of his partner, Michael Cox, who admitted to pulling the trigger in a shootout that left a police officer dead.

Earlier in January, Clinton denied clemency to Rickey Rector, a brain-damaged Black man. Rector had previously shot himself in the head and was, at the time of his execution, unable to tell the time and not even aware that he was about to be executed.

When taken from his cell to die by lethal injection, Rector left a piece of pie on his table. He would eat it later, he said. According to Rector's attorney, the condemned man was considering voting for Clinton in the next election.

Socialist: Indict all the cops who beat King

Continued from front page

campaign organized her 10-day speaking visit. DeBates had just finished a tour to North Korea and Japan.

DeBates spoke to nearly 2,500 people at 20 meetings. The majority of the meetings were at Bay Area college campuses that included Laney College, Merritt College, the University of California at Santa Cruz, San Jose State University, and San Francisco State University. The meetings were organized by teachers and student activist supporters of the SWP campaign.

A United Transportation Union official and switchman on the Union Pacific Railroad organized a breakfast meeting of six rail workers that was also attended by two Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union members who work at Shell Oil refinery.

The rail workers were very interested in the meetings DeBates held with officials and members of the National Railway Union of Japan. They were keen to know how to build links with each other as international trade unionists.

Three of the rail workers contributed \$50 to the SWP campaign and one of the switchmen offered to take his tool box and travel to Los Angeles on his days off to help rebuild the Los Angeles campaign office and the Pathfinder Bookstore, which were destroyed during the antipolice riots.

Dozens of young people signed campaign endorser cards during the tour; *Militant* subscriptions were sold at every meeting that DeBates spoke at; and four students and two workers volunteered to help rebuild the Los Angeles Pathfinder Bookstore.

DeBates explained that the injustice of the capitalist system was typified by the verdict in the trial of the cops who beat Rodney King. "Millions of working people in every corner of the world are watching how working people and students in the United States respond to the verdict in the wake of the antipolice riots," she said.

The overwhelming majority of students DeBates met at campus meetings and classes were outraged by the verdict. Dozens said that over the past few days they had become involved in organized protests for the first time.

The heart of the campus meetings was the discussion of what steps to take to mount an effective fight for justice for Rodney King. Some students said they believed that the system is so corrupt that it is impossible to win justice.

DeBates explained that the U.S. rulers and their government never give working people anything. "All the rights we have were won in struggle," she said. "It is a constant struggle to exercise these rights. We can get justice for King and deal a blow to the pervasive brutality of the police only if we are organized and powerful enough."

"Broad layers of people, outraged by this

verdict, can be won to the perspective of demanding that the cops be indicted under federal civil rights laws," said DeBates.

"We have no guarantees of a victory, but it is only with this approach that we even have a chance. Only by building this type of fight can we forge the necessary unity to confront all aspects of the crisis of capitalism. It is only through struggle that we will develop a new leadership that is effective and truly represents our interests."

Joe Swanson is the Socialist Workers candidate in California's 12th Congressional District and a member of United Transportation Union Local 1730.



Estelle DeBates, socialist candidate for vice-president, speaking in San Francisco.

Sharpening interimperialist competition weakens Washington's embargo of Cuba

BY SETH GALINSKY

When news was released last year that the French oil company Total had signed an agreement with the Cuban government to explore for oil off the island's coast, in exchange for 50 percent of the earnings, many in business circles around the world paid close attention. Would Cuba find enough black gold to significantly make up for the drastic cutback in oil sent from the former Soviet Union?

The White House was not pleased. U.S. officials let the French government know that, as far as Washington is concerned, any oil deposits discovered still belong to U.S. companies and the families that own them, based on claims staked out before the 1959 revolution. In a statement sent to businesses in Switzerland, Washington warned that firms investing in Cuba could find that they "may be legally encumbered by unresolved claims."

No significant oil discoveries have yet been announced. The *Wall Street Journal* in an April 15 article claims Total has only found some difficult-to-refine deposits that would bring merely \$6 a barrel on the world market.

But the paper details the company's extensive investments in the United States. It has four refineries as well as 647 gasoline stations in 18 states, and sells gasoline under four brand names to an additional 2,118 stations in 22 states. The *Journal's* implied message: Total could face U.S. retaliation if it proceeds with its oil exploration in Cuba.

In spite of the threats, other companies are trying to ensure their share of any future discoveries. Canada Northwest Energy Ltd., acquired last year by Toronto-based Sherritt-Gordon, has been awarded three oil exploration and production contracts by Cuba.

In January, Brazil's state oil company Petrobras signed a contract to drill for offshore oil and modernize a Cuban refinery in Cienfuegos. The Swedish firm Taurus Petroleum also signed a deal, and Shell and British Petroleum are discussing possible exploration contracts.

Interimperialist trade conflicts

The simmering tension over oil exploration is one example of the difficulties Washington is having in maintaining its economic embargo against Cuba under conditions of intensifying interimperialist trade conflicts.

More companies than ever before are willing to stand up to U.S. pressure. There is growing concern among a section of U.S. capitalists that their rivals are moving in to capture valuable markets from which U.S. firms are excluded.

For more than 30 years Washington has maintained a draconian embargo in an attempt to undermine the Cuban revolution. Not content with cutting off U.S. trade to the island, the U.S. government enforced retaliatory measures against firms around the world that did not follow suit. The embargo has cost Cuba more than \$20 billion since it began, Cuban officials estimate.

While maintaining the prohibition on direct trade with Cuba by U.S. companies, Washington loosened some restrictions in the mid-1970s. The biggest modification in the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, the law that governs U.S. trade with Cuba, came in 1975. For the first time since the start of the embargo, subsidiaries of U.S. companies operating in other countries were allowed to



Sugar cane field outside Havana. While Washington continues to prohibit direct trade with Cuba, exports to the island by subsidiaries of U.S. companies abroad jumped from \$97 million in 1988 to \$533 million in 1990.

Militant/Terry Coggan

trade with Cuba.

After the restrictions on subsidiary trade with Cuba were lifted, the total value of imports and exports hovered around \$300 million a year. But from 1989 to 1990, trade by U.S. subsidiaries with Cuba doubled from \$331 million to \$705 million.

The change is even more striking when looking at exports to Cuba. Cuba bought \$97 million in products from U.S. subsidiaries in 1988. In 1990 the figure jumped to \$533 million.

Foodstuffs account for almost three quarters of all Cuban imports from U.S. firms abroad. Cuban exports to U.S. subsidiaries in 1990 consisted mostly of sugar and molasses.

Foreign subsidiaries of some of the United States' largest corporations are routinely granted trade licenses by the U.S. Treasury Department. Among the biggest names are Cargill Inc., which buys Cuban raw sugar for resale; Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, which sells tires to Cuba; Otis Elevator Company; Johnson and Johnson; and Tenneco Inc.

Trade with USSR collapses

Prior to 1989 the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe accounted for 85 percent of Cuban trade. In 1988, the re-export of Soviet oil was Cuba's second largest source of hard currency, after sugar. By 1989 re-export was down to zero. The Soviets shipped 7 million tons of oil to Cuba in 1991, but this year only 3 million tons are expected from Russia. Cuba is offering to rent out its extensive excess refining and storage capacity, one of the consequences of the drop in trade.

Trade with the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe was at prices more favorable than on the world market and did not usually require hard currency. With the collapse in trade, Cuba has been forced to look elsewhere for its basic necessities.

As a result, hard currency imports are up from \$1 billion in 1988 to \$4 billion today. Although Cuba's total imports have been cut in half, its imports from hard currency markets have almost quadrupled.

Capitalist countries today account for the majority of Cuba's trade. Because of the U.S. embargo, Washington's allies and competitors have filled the gap.

Spain, Sweden, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Britain, Japan, Italy, and Belgium are all engaged in significant commerce with Cuba.

"Canada," a new report from Business International Corp. points out, "has served as one of Cuba's major trading partners outside the socialist bloc since the 1959

revolution."

Before the revolution, Canada was one of the main imperialist competitors of the United States in Cuba. The Royal Bank of Canada had 64 branches on the island in 1927 and extensive interests in its sugar industry.

In 1990 Canada exported more than \$141 million to Cuba, most of it flour and cereals.

In turn it imported \$107 million, mostly sugar.

Business opportunities

When some capitalists look at Cuba all they can see are opportunities to make money. Business International Corp. published an 84-page booklet in March called *Developing Business Strategies for Cuba*. "Business International's purpose is to provide senior managers of multinational companies with the highest quality of information, analysis and advice," the booklet states.

At \$475 a copy, the booklet tops the best-sellers list of the firm's publications on Latin America. "Cuba's location, large population and other qualities make it a potentially important market and production site," the report states.

Among the island's strong points, it says, is the fact that its market "is the largest in the Caribbean or Central America. Eleven million inhabitants with a high level of education represent a potentially attractive market for consumer goods."

Business International also notes that Cuba has the world's fourth largest nickel reserves.

Much of the interest in Cuba has been fueled by a concerted effort by Havana to win new investment and trade, taking maximum advantage — with some success — of the growing interimperialist rivalries.

Cuba's 1982 Joint Venture Law — which allows foreign companies up to 50 percent ownership and perhaps more — only really began to be used in 1989. According to *New Opportunities for U.S. — Cuban Trade*, published in April 1992 by the Cuban Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University, there are now more than 200 joint ventures.

Cuba is also aggressively seeking new markets for its products from nickel to biotechnology, as well as trying to generate increased tourism. One of its newest customers is South Korea, which for the first time ever is purchasing 100,000 tons of raw sugar.

Ruling class division

The increased trade by U.S. subsidiaries abroad has been a source of controversy within the U.S. ruling class. While the total amount of the trade is relatively small by big-business standards — although not insignificant to the individual companies involved — it is extremely important to Cuba.

There is a real tug-of-war going on between those in ruling-class circles who want to prevent all trade with Cuba in an attempt to destroy the revolution and those who

believe the embargo is unsustainable. The latter argue that their rivals will trade in spite of U.S. pressure and that, in the long run, U.S. capitalists will be hurt by the inexorable workings of the laws of capitalist development and competition.

The so-called Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, a bill sponsored by Democratic congressman Robert Torricelli and backed by the Cuban American National Foundation, would restrict shipping and U.S. subsidiary trade, while loosening restrictions on mail and phone service. It is still before Congress. A similar bill has been initiated by Republican senator Connie Mack.

Both President George Bush and his Democratic opponent William Clinton try to outdo each other in condemnations of the Cuban revolution. But behind the rhetoric, the Bush administration, like the Reagan administration before it, opposes the restrictions on subsidiary trade that are at the heart of the Torricelli bill. There is no reason to think that Clinton, if elected president, would do differently.

In an attempt to preempt the bill Bush ordered some changes in U.S. regulations that went into effect April 23. The new rules prohibit vessels from entering U.S. ports while they are carrying cargo to or from Cuba. This is less restrictive than Torricelli's provision, which would bar the ships for six months.

Hurts Canadian trade

The new shipping restriction will primarily hurt Canadian and other competitors who can rarely send full ships directly to Cuba and back. Peter McKellar, a spokesman for the Canadian consulate in New York, said in a phone interview that the new regulations "could create scheduling difficulties and delays for what we consider to be legitimate bilateral trade with Cuba."

Bush also lifted restrictions on direct mail service for sending packages of food, medicine, and clothing to Cuba — a measure aimed at winning support from Cuban-Americans — at the same time as he introduced the shipping changes. Mail currently takes a cumbersome route through Mexico or other countries. Cuba has not yet announced whether it will agree to the service.

Powerful U.S. companies that benefit or wish to benefit from trade with Cuba have forcefully stated their opposition to the Torricelli and Mack proposals.

U.S.-based Continental Grain, for example, opposed the Mack bill "simply because it will not deter Cuba's imports of food commodities and is not in the best interest of United States trade."

Other governments, including U.S. allies, have long chafed at the flagrant violation of their sovereignty by the U.S. claims to extraterritoriality. They argue forcefully that their laws govern trade by companies incorporated on their territory, not U.S. law.

British trade secretary Peter Lilly warned in September 1991, "We will not accept any attempt to superimpose U.S. law."

In 1990, The Canadian attorney general issued an order barring Canadian corporations from complying with U.S. measures that limit subsidiary trade. Foreign Affairs Minister Joe Clark called proposals in the Mack amendment "an intrusion into Canadian sovereignty."

Aiming at U.S. competitors

According to the London-based *Cuba Business*, "There is a suspicion in European business circles that the hidden agenda of the new legislation is to squeeze non-U.S. business out of the Cuba market in preparation for the eventual re-entry of U.S. business."

These suspicions are borne out by the selective U.S. application of current embargo rules.

Although it now readily grants licenses to U.S. subsidiaries to trade with Cuba, Washington continues to threaten punishment against foreign companies that do the same.

The Sept. 9, 1991, edition of the *Wall Street Journal* reported how far Washington's use of the embargo stretches, especially when it involves non-U.S. firms. The Brazilian VASP airline broke off negotia-

Continued on Page 12

Celebrate the opening of the new Pathfinder Bookstore in Boston

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Verdict in Rodney King case spurs sales of 'Militant'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The *Militant's* expanded coverage and analysis of the protests against the verdict in the trial of the cops who beat Rodney King were welcomed by youth and working-class fighters throughout the world.

In Los Angeles, the *Militant's* banner headline, "Indict the guilty cops now," received a good response in working-class communities, in factories, and on campuses. In four days of sales, 25 *Militant* subscriptions were sold there. Supporters plan another big effort to circulate the paper throughout the Los Angeles area this week.

Danny Booher, a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in Lawrence, Massachusetts, reports: "When the cops who beat Rodney King were acquitted, discussion and debate were buzzing in the Malden Mills textile plant where I work. On that day 6 coworkers became new readers of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*."

"In the last three weeks, 10 *Militant* subscriptions, 9 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 2 *New Internationals* have been sold on the job — 18 of these sold in the last two weeks! Coworkers were interested in finding out more about the case of the Hartford 15, and the deepening war threats against Iraq, North Korea, and Libya. One coworker was especially interested in finding out more about the fight for justice for Mark Curtis."

Bob Miller, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union in Landover, Maryland, reports selling 10 subscriptions to coworkers over the past several weeks. He writes: "Following the acquittal of the four L. A. cops, six coworkers at Smithfield's ham processing plant bought subscriptions — 4 to the *Militant* and 2 to *Perspectiva Mundial*. Prior to the L. A. events 4 workers subscribed after many discussions about the Caterpillar strike."

Supporters in New York City sold 3 *Militant* subscriptions at picket lines set up by the Newspaper and Mail Deliverers' Union of New York and Vicinity at distribution centers for the *New York Times*. These workers were locked out from their jobs after rejecting a proposed contract that would have drastically changed union work rules and eliminated overtime. *Militant* supporters were welcomed by the picketers who were interested in discussing the lessons of

the recent strikes at the *Daily News* and against Caterpillar.

'Thanks for selling the paper'

Kate Kaku, a member of the United Steelworkers of America reports from Chicago: "We had a great team at an 'L' [subway] stop where people stopped to shake our hands and thank us for selling the paper because of its coverage of the Rodney King case." In the days following the announcement of the King verdict, socialist campaigners from Chicago sold 8 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 2 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, 55 single copies, and more than \$100 in Pathfinder literature on three campuses.

"Seventeen new subscribers were won on the campuses of the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire and Bemidji State University in northern Minnesota May 6-7," writes Jon Hillson from St. Paul, Minnesota. "They were attracted by the paper's extensive coverage of events surrounding the acquittal of the racist cops who brutally beat Rodney King, and the *Militant's* story on the victory of abortion rights fighters in Buffalo over Operation Rescue."

From Manchester, England, Debbie Delange, a member of the Rail Maritime & Transport Union reports from her workplace: "When the news broke here of the reaction in California at the results in the King case, many people were keen to talk to us as we sold the *Militant*. A number of workers commented it was not just in the U.S. that police attacked people. They had personal experience at the hands of police. One workmate felt the police were often provoked. This led to fierce discussion."

"There was great interest in the *Militant* article on Le Pen's election gains in France. One Black worker said he was worried by the attacks on immigrants. Another worker explained, 'I can't go back to India — this is my home.'"

Target week in Wellington

Supporters of the *Militant* in Wellington, New Zealand, report selling 13 *Militant* subscriptions and 2 *New Internationals* during

'I couldn't sleep until I finished the Militant'

BY SAMAD YEREVANI

LOS ANGELES — "I couldn't sleep till I finished the *Militant*. When I went to bed it was four in the morning. I liked it very much. This issue helped me understand better last week's riot," commented an aerospace worker at the McDonnell Douglas plant in Los Angeles who subscribes to the *Militant*.

In just four days, supporters of the *Militant* in Los Angeles sold 25 subscriptions and more than 200 single copies.

"Many coworkers who bought this issue of the *Militant* had never bought the paper before," said Carole Lesnick, a *Militant* supporter working at the McDonnell Douglas plant. So far this week, supporters there have sold 3 subscriptions, 32 single copies, and 2 *New Internationals*.

In front of Lucky's supermarket in the Crenshaw area of Los Angeles, a *Militant* sales team sold 25 copies and 2 subscriptions in less than two hours!

At California State University in Long Beach, *Militant* supporters sold 6 subscriptions and 20 single copies. A big campaign and sales effort on Saturday resulted in more than 70 copies of the paper being sold.

"I believe that we need our own action, our own organization to fight against police brutality," said a young man who is Black after purchasing a copy of the *Militant*. "The presence of the army in L.A. is ridiculous. You know this army came here because the system is scared to death. But we're going to change this system anyway."



Militant/Tim Elliot
Socialist candidates James Warren for U.S. president and Joel Britton (with cap) for U.S. Senate in California campaign with the 'Militant' among McDonnell Douglas workers near Los Angeles.

ing the recently completed target week. The majority of these were sold at the Massey University, Palmerston North campus, a couple of hours drive away.

"The paper was particularly popular among overseas students," writes Felicity Coggan. "New subscribers included students from Vanuatu, Zimbabwe, and Cambodia."

In Stockholm, Sweden, supporters of the *Militant* sold papers and put up a literature table as part of the pro-choice counterdemonstration of 200 against a march of 5,000 by the "Yes to Life" antiabortion group April 25.

"I want to buy your paper because I have

to show my opposition to these people in some way," stated one young woman. Supporters sold 4 *Militant* subscriptions and 29 single copies through political discussions held that day.

These and other reports that are coming into the *Militant* business office indicate that the circulation drive is picking up momentum. These positive experiences in winning new readers are helping many areas establish a real campaign atmosphere. While the current scoreboard stands 14 percent behind schedule, more subscriptions were received in the business office last week than during any of the previous weeks.

Selling the socialist press to unionists

Union	Militant*		New Int'l	
	% Sold (Goal)	Sold	(Goal)	Sold
UNITED STATES				
ACTUW	24%	55	13	25
IAM	24%	110	26	19
OCWA	31%	39	12	15
UFCW	30%	90	27	30
USWA	35%	85	30	20
UTU	58%	45	26	20
TOTAL SHOULD BE	32%	424	134	129
AUSTRALIA				
MTFU	0	5	0	2
SHOULD BE	45%	2	2	0
CANADA				
ACTUW	0	8	0	3
CAW	0	15	0	2
IAM	0	5	0	2
USWA	0	16	0	8
TOTAL SHOULD BE	45%	44	0	15
SWEDEN				
FOOD WORKERS	50%	4	2	0
METAL	33%	9	3	3
TOTAL	38%	13	5	3
SHOULD BE	45%	6	6	1

ACTUW — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; MTFU — Metal Trades Federation of Unions; OCWA — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; USWA — United Steelworkers of America.

* Also includes subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Sales Drive Scoreboard

Perspectiva L'inter-New The Militant Mundial nationaliste International Total											
Areas	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Salt Lake City	130	64	49%	20	4	2	0	30	3	182	71
Des Moines, IA	130	61	47%	25	8	2	0	40	6	197	75
Pittsburgh	90	37	41%	5	2	2	0	30	3	127	42
Seattle	120	47	39%	35	16	3	3	25	7	183	73
Greensboro, NC	80	29	36%	8	1	2	1	15	0	105	31
St. Louis	100	34	34%	5	0	2	0	25	1	132	35
Chicago	150	51	34%	35	11	5	0	70	11	260	73
Houston	80	27	34%	20	4	2	0	20	6	122	37
Washington DC	130	42	32%	20	15	10	0	55	7	215	64
Los Angeles	180	57	32%	100	20	4	0	110	18	394	95
Cleveland	90	28	31%	10	1	2	1	20	8	122	38
Detroit	140	40	29%	10	0	2	0	30	16	182	56
Twin Cities, MN	140	37	26%	20	9	2	0	30	2	192	48
Morgantown, WV	80	21	26%	3	2	2	0	30	1	115	24
Boston	135	35	26%	40	17	15	2	50	0	240	54
Baltimore	110	28	25%	12	3	3	1	30	0	155	32
Newark, NJ	160	40	25%	50	2	15	4	70	5	295	51
Atlanta	90	22	24%	8	5	2	1	30	4	130	32
San Francisco	150	36	24%	50	5	8	0	70	17	278	58
Birmingham, AL	80	19	24%	5	1	2	0	40	0	127	20
Miami	110	24	22%	30	13	15	6	45	3	200	46
Ft. Madison, IA	5	1	20%	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
Philadelphia	85	16	19%	20	3	3	0	30	12	138	31
New York	250	45	18%	100	7	20	1	110	10	480	63
Cincinnati*	39	7	18%	3	0	0	0	5	0	47	7
New Haven, CT	10	1	10%	2	1	0	0	3	0	15	2
U.S. TOTAL	2,864	849	30%	636	150	125	20	1,013	140	4,638	1,159
AUSTRALIA											
	45	7	16%	14	1	1	0	10	2	70	10
BELGIUM											
	3	1	33%	1	0	12	1	8	2	24	4
BRITAIN											
Sheffield	50	22	44%	3	0	2	0	25	5	80	27
Manchester	50	14	28%	2	0	1	0	30	7	83	21
London	80	19	24%	6	0	2	0	40	11	128	30
BRITAIN TOTAL	180	55	31%	11	0	5	0	95	23	291	78
CANADA											
Vancouver	90	35	39%	15	3	5	1	30	7	140	46
Montreal	65	24	37%	20	4	30	8	50	22	165	58
Toronto	90	30	33%	20	7	5	2	45	8	160	47
CANADA TOTAL	245	89	36%	55	14	40	11	125	37	465	151
FRANCE											
	5	0	0%	2	0	15	0	5	0	27	0
ICELAND											
	20	9	45%	1	0	1	0	5	0	27	9
MEXICO											
	0	0	0%	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
NEW ZEALAND											
Wellington	40	22	55%	1	0	1	0	10	2	52	24
Auckland	55	29	53%	5	0	1	0	13	2	74	31
Christchurch	40	12	30%	1	0	1	0	10	0	52	12
Other N.Z.	4	2	50%	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
N.Z. TOTAL	139	65	47%	7	0	3	0	33	4	182	69
PUERTO RICO											
	1	0	0%	5	0	0	0	2	0	8	0
SWEDEN											
	55	43	78%	30	14	3	0	10	5	98	62
TOTAL	3,554	1,117	31%	767	179	205	32	1,306	213	5,835	1,542
SHOULD BE		1575	45%		338		90		563		2,565
DRIVE GOALS	3,500			750		200		1,250		5,700	
*raised goal											

Second jury trial of Mohawk Indians starts in Montreal

BY MONICA JONES

MONTREAL — The second jury trial stemming from the 1990 confrontation between the Mohawk Indian people and the Quebec and Canadian governments will begin here May 11. Thirty-nine Mohawks and their supporters face charges.

The Mohawks intend to use the trial to confront their accusers. Joe Deom, a defendant from the Mohawk territory of Kahnawake, told reporters gathered at the courthouse on the last day of jury selection, "We expect the trial to be political. They are charging us as criminals, but we have only done what our conscience made us do. If conditions remain like they were in 1990, I'm sure it could happen again."

He added, "We have support not only from our community but from all across Canada."

Harold Oakes, a defendant from the Mohawk territory of Akwesasne, said, "We are not criminals. We hope that the jury has the courage and wisdom to set the record straight."

On July 11, 1990, the Quebec provincial police stormed a symbolic barricade that Mohawks had established at Kanesatake, Quebec, to prevent the extension of a local golf course on land claimed by them. The golf course extension was being pushed by capitalist interests in the neighboring town of Oka, 30 miles west of Montreal.

The police raid provoked an armed standoff at Kanesatake and Kahnawake, also near Montreal, that lasted 11 weeks. Three weeks into the standoff, the Canadian army was sent in.

In the first jury trial, which ended earlier this year, Mohawks Ronald Cross and Gordon Lazore were sentenced to 52 months and 23 months in jail, respectively, on charges of mischief, possession and use of firearms, and aggravated assault. They have since been released on bail, pending appeals of their convictions.

It took 40 days to select the 12 jurors for this second trial, longer than any other jury selection in Canadian history. Eight of the

jurors were selected on the last day of the selection process, April 29.

Of the 2,700 people who were summoned for selection, more than 1,000 did not respond and 500 others were excused for various reasons. Of the 643 who were questioned, 355 were disqualified. Many of these had expressed support for the Mohawks.

A machine operator told the court, "They have more rights to the land than we do." An office worker said, "I am a member of an ethnic minority and believe people have rights." They were both disqualified.

The 39 accused are charged with participating in a riot, possession of firearms, and obstruction of justice. The large majority are Mohawks, but they also include Natives from British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and northern Quebec.

As with the first jury trial, the 39 accused have been charged under a preferred indictment. This is a rarely used procedure that allows the government lawyers to group all the accused in one trial and to bypass a pretrial discovery process. This eliminates the possibility of the defense filing for dismissal of the charges for lack of evidence. It also means defense lawyers have less advance knowledge of the evidence the government intends to present at the trial.

While the Mohawks are being prosecuted as criminals, the land dispute at Kanesatake remains unresolved. Despite more than 150 years of struggle by Mohawks, there is no legally recognized Mohawk territory.

This trial occurs as the government and capitalist interests in Quebec press forward several huge hydroelectric projects in northern Quebec, over the objections of Natives living in the affected areas. The projects will flood territories the Natives claim as their own.

One such development is being promoted for the Ste-Marguerite River in northeast Quebec. Natives and other people in Quebec oppose the \$3 billion development. They have raised serious concerns about the social and environmental impact of the project.



Militant/Monica Jones
Joe Deom (right) from Kahnawake and Harold Oakes from Akwesasne are among 39 Mohawks and supporters framed up on charges of obstruction of justice. 'We have only done what our conscience made us do,' says Deom.

A demonstration of 5,000 people was held May 3 in Sept-Iles, the closest large town to the project. They demanded that it go ahead with or without Native approval and without waiting for the results of an environmental impact study.

The demonstration was called in the name of "job creation" in a region where the official unemployment rate is 16 percent. It was sponsored by Quebec's two main union federations, the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) and the Quebec Federation of Labor (FTQ), as well as the Chamber of Commerce of Sept-Iles, the Quebec Manufacturers Association, and many capitalist politicians in northeast Quebec.

Officials of the two union federations were silent during the 1990 police and army assault on the Mohawks and have lent their support to a racist campaign by the Quebec government and Hydro Quebec against the Cree Indians of northern Quebec. The Cree oppose the huge Great Whale River hydroelectric project in their territory.

A demonstration in solidarity with the Mohawk defendants has been called for May 11, the first day of the trial, at the provincial courthouse in Montreal.

Monica Jones is a member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 2309 at Canadian Airlines International in Montreal.

Bush offers meager assistance

Continued from Page 3

won't do for themselves."

Commenting on the Bush and Clinton visits, Ronald Brownstein, a political writer for the *Times*, observed that they "agreed to a surprising extent" about what should be done.

That, Brownstein said, included stress on business development rather than social programs financed by Washington.

"Both," he wrote, "termed tougher law enforcement the prerequisite of any economic revival."

Also in town was Patrick Buchanan, the ultraright contender for the Republican presidential nomination. He compared the attitude of those who participated in the outbreak to "the laughter and rejoicing of barbarians."

Buchanan charged that the public school system has expelled "God, the Ten Commandments, and moral instructions."

He took aim at rock concerts, which, he declared, celebrate "hatred, violence, and hedonism."

Bruce Herschensohn, ultraright contender for the Republican senatorial nomination in California, simplified the Buchanan position. "The underlying cause," he said, "is that some people are rotten."

His more moderate Republican rival, Thomas Campbell, opined that the outbreak was the work of "evil people."

Meanwhile, the reported number of deaths stands at 58. More than 80 percent of these are nonwhite, almost all Blacks and Latinos. Two were Asians.

The number of people arrested for curfew violations or on felony charges, including arson and theft, now stands at more than 17,000.

Public anger at the exoneration of the four cops who beat King remains strong.

A *Los Angeles Times* poll found that 71 percent of all Los Angeles residents disagreed strongly with the verdict.

Nearly 90 percent said they favored federal prosecution of the four cops.

Socialist candidates in N. Carolina confront rightist presidential contender Buchanan

BY DIANE SHUR

GREENSBORO, North Carolina — Right-wing presidential contender Patrick Buchanan was answered head on by Socialist Workers Party candidates when he visited this state at the end of April.

While Buchanan was promoting his rightist movement, the socialist candidates and their supporters were protesting the acquittal of the cops who beat Rodney King, defending abortion rights, and campaigning door-to-door in Kannapolis, North Carolina, a town that is the center of a drive to organize 6,000 textile workers.

Socialist candidates brought their campaign to workers and youth in seven cities across the state. They also took the floor at campus meetings for Buchanan and exposed his reactionary views.

When Buchanan spoke at Duke University April 27 he was greeted by protests, including a demonstration by pro-choice activists. Right after Buchanan's presentation, speakers in the discussion opposed his positions on AIDS, abortion rights, and the holocaust.

Socialist campaign activists set up a table outside the meeting and distributed the campaign newspaper, the *Militant*. Bruce Kimball, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, participated in the discussion, pointing out that the logic of Buchanan's ultra-patriotic "America First" politics leads toward more wars.

In a speech at Wake Forest University April 30, Buchanan explained that he is not running to win, but to "influence the direction of the country." Attacking affirmative action quotas, which he implied mean only Blacks and Latinos will be hired, he said, "You can now put signs up in Boston that

say, 'No Irish need apply.' " Claiming that he was campaigning to "uphold traditional values and beliefs," Buchanan's talk was peppered with derogatory allusions to gays, Jews, disabled people, women, and Native Americans.

After addressing the crowd of more than 500 students, many of whom appeared to agree with his talk, the candidate opened the floor for discussion. The first speaker was a Black student who said he could not understand how Buchanan could give a political talk without mentioning the acquittal of the Los Angeles police officers that had been announced the night before.

Buchanan responded by calling for the use of "whatever force is needed to stop the orgy of looting, arson, and lynching taking place in L.A."

When the student pointed out that a "guilty" verdict would have prevented the explosion in the Black community, he was told by Buchanan that "we must accept the process of the criminal justice system."

Socialists confront Buchanan

The next speaker from the audience was Tony Prince, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in North Carolina's 12th district. As soon as he announced who he was, Prince was met with boos and jeers from part of the audience. As he tried to speak, he was repeatedly interrupted by Buchanan himself, and finally was physically shoved away from the microphone by Buchanan aides. A few questions later, Socialist Workers candidate for governor Naomi Craine addressed the crowd, pointing out how Buchanan's scapegoating of gays, immigrants, and poor Blacks leads to the kind of violence meted out to Rod-

ney King and thousands of other working people. Craine also explained how right-wing attacks on women have led to violent attempts to shut down abortion clinics. When challenged by Buchanan about the seriousness of her campaign, Craine stated that North Carolina's undemocratic election laws have kept parties like hers off the ballot.

In discussions after the meeting, socialist campaigners found that many students who had been present disagreed with Buchanan's fascist program and were appalled at his treatment of Socialist candidate Tony Prince. Several students explained that a vigil was planned for that evening protesting the verdict in the L. A. cops trial.

When the verdict was announced, the North Carolina campaign distributed a statement demanding that the cops be prosecuted under federal civil rights laws. On the job, at demonstrations, and campaigning door-to-door, working people and youth have been eager to discuss the need to build a broad united movement to press this demand. The socialist campaign statement was read and discussed in textile mills in the area, at a rally for Buchanan in the Burlington area, and at a demonstration of 2,000 in Hamlet, protesting unsafe working conditions, which led to the death of poultry workers there last fall.

When a campaign supporter called Craine in the middle of the night to invite her to participate in a protest at his high school in nearby Durham, Craine was out there the next day. Administrators would not let her into the school. School officials later cancelled a campaign speaking engagement that had been scheduled by students there who want to hear what the socialist candidate has to say.

'Militant' Prisoner Subscription Fund

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

Should steelworkers fight for import quotas?

BY MICHAEL PENNOCK

BRACKENRIDGE, Pennsylvania — Legal restrictions on steel imports into the United States expired April 1. The controls took the form of agreements to limit steel imports to no more than 20 percent of the U.S. market. Known as Voluntary Restraint Agreements (VRAs), they were first put into effect in 1984.

As this year's deadline neared, my employer, Allegheny-Ludlum Steel, pressured workers to join the lobbying effort to further extend VRAs. Allegheny-Ludlum is the largest specialty steel maker in the United States. Stainless and electrical steel are its primary products, along with a very profitable line of more exotic steels.

The company placed notices on bulletin boards through-

UNION TALK

out the plant stating where form letters addressed to President George Bush could be signed. On company time, at that. The company then stamped and mailed them. Tables were set up in the gate houses at each entrance with letters and petitions. Almost all workers in the plant signed up in this effort.

Discussion on the issue was very narrow. Workers think import quotas are a way to help save jobs for them at this mill. How best to convince President Bush and Congress was virtually the only concern. A few workers said Bush's free-trade approach is the way to best protect our jobs. The government has said that it will not renew the import controls.

The union in the plant was a big part of the campaign for the VRA extensions. United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1196 officers were at the gate houses. "Have you signed your letter yet?" they would call as we punched our time cards. "Help save our jobs!"

The form letter backed by the union contained this paragraph: "I'm proud of the role my industry played in Desert Storm. We were able to respond quickly to urgent requests by the Department of Defense to supply materials for the war effort. These demands could not have been met by a producer outside the United States." A coworker in

my department commented, "This reminds me of the line from the anti-Vietnam War movement, 'War is good business; invest your son.'"

The form letter further states, "A failure to extend VRAs on our products will threaten the jobs of thousands of specialty steelworkers who depend on a healthy specialty steel industry for their livelihood."

The president of USX Corp., the largest steel maker in the United States, summed up this attitude in an April 13 interview with the *New York Times*. "Our long-term interests are exactly the same," said Thomas Usher. "Whether you are a manager or a member of the union, everyone wants to do a good job, and they want to provide for their families."

He is exactly wrong. The primary interest of USX, Allegheny-Ludlum, every other steel maker around the globe, and every business in the capitalist market is to make a profit for their owners. That's where the term "the bottom line" gets its meaning. To achieve these profits the



Striking Hyundai workers in Korea in 1988. Workers in United States have more in common with fellow workers in struggle abroad than with our bosses at home.

steel companies are willing to do some mighty drastic things to steelworkers. Like throw them out of work. A dozen years ago there were more than 100,000 steelworkers in the Pittsburgh region. Today there are some 18,000.

In 1980 it took more than 10 man-hours to make a ton of steel in the United States. Improvements in technology and speeding up the work dramatically lowered this to 5.3 hours today. This compares to 5.4 hours per ton in Japan and 5.6 in Germany and Britain.

These productivity gains have benefited only the companies. They certainly have not helped steelworkers who lost their jobs, their families, or the communities where the mills were closed. At the USX Gary Works, where it takes 2.7 man-hours to make a ton of steel, there are less than 8,000 workers. In the 1970s, there were more than 28,000.

At Allegheny-Ludlum workers took a wage freeze throughout the 1980s. Yet the company recorded profits each and every year, including breaking some previous records.

In 1990 we signed a four-year contract. Each year we get a 50-cent-per-hour raise. And starting this year we also get a profit-sharing check. We just got it. Mine was typical. \$150 — about 7 cents per hour over the course of a year.

Steelworkers will come under much more pressure to help companies remain profitable as the capitalist economic crisis sweeps across the world. We must act upon the reality that workers have no common interests with bosses in this country or around the world. We do have common interests with Korean steelworkers who need their jobs as much as we need ours.

No amount of concessions will save jobs in the end. But active solidarity with other workers can lead us to the kind of power that can win strikes.

But this will also require a global perspective. If we line up with the company by war-mongering against Iraqi workers, then no amount of concessions will be too deep for "the war effort."

Michael Pennock is a cold rolling-mill helper at Allegheny-Ludlum's Brackenridge Works and a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 1196.

U.S. has 45,000 contaminated radioactive sites

BY SETH GALINSKY

According to a report released by a U.S. Senate committee, there are more than 45,000 sites in all 50 states that are either contaminated or "potentially contaminated" with radioactivity.

Although the sites range from nuclear power plants to laboratories that use radioactive materials, some of the most severely contaminated areas are related to programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy, which manufactures nuclear warheads.

The U.S. government currently has no plan for determining the extent of radioactive contamination at each site or for what to do to eliminate the problem. The clean-up at just 17 major sites in 11 states is expected to cost more than \$160 billion over 20–30 years.

April hearings by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, which released the report, also revealed other little-known information about nuclear contamination.

In testimony to the committee, Thomas Baca, deputy assistant secretary of defense, confirmed that there have been 32 U.S. nuclear weapons accidents since 1950, most of them in the United States.

"Only three Air Force accidents," Baca assured the committee, "involved serious plutonium contamination." Plutonium is one of the most deadly nuclear substances and has a half-life of 24,000 years. Two of these accidents occurred in Spain and Greenland. None of the incidents resulted in detonation, he said.

Radioactive sites not monitored

"In one instance, near Goldsboro, North Carolina," Baca stated, "a portion of a nuclear weapon containing uranium was not recovered from more than 50 feet below swampy farmland. There has been no monitoring at the site or in underlying water sources."

In two of the most serious accidents involving plutonium release, the Air Force's follow-up was inadequate at best. In one, after the initial medical tests, the Air Force claims it did not conduct any further examinations to see the results of the exposure on those involved. In the second case, follow-up exams were terminated after one year.

The Defense Department's almost total lack of concern is not unusual. No attempt has been made to assess the potential risks to the public or to investigate whether nuclear waste has spread to water supplies at

most of the 45,000 locations. Radioactive materials, even in extremely small quantities, can cause several kinds of cancer.

The Hanford Nuclear Site in the state of Washington is an example of the nuclear waste time bomb that is ticking away. The nuclear weapons complex sprawls over 560 square miles and once had nine nuclear reactors in operation.

"This place is the most contaminated of all the DOE [Department of Energy] sites," Phil Hamrick, deputy manager of the Hanford facility, told the *Christian Science Monitor*.

How much waste?

No one admits to knowing the total amount of waste stored at Hanford, but DOE

officials estimate that at least 625,000 cubic meters of solid waste are radioactive and that 200 square miles of ground water are contaminated.

Nuclear fuel processing facilities at the site have been shut down for several years, but some of the radioactive contaminants have entered the Columbia River, just three miles upstream from where the city of Richland obtains its public water supply.

The billions of dollars projected for "cleaning" selected waste sites may not do much good. There is still no known safe way to dispose of radioactive wastes. Because the most toxic materials remain radioactive for tens of thousands of years, storage areas must be extremely long-lasting.

One of the much touted clean-up proposals is called "vitrification," transforming high-level radioactive waste into glass-like logs, which are then stored in stainless steel canisters until buried.

But the U.S. Congress's Office of Technology Assessment notes that vitrification has never been tested on a large scale and its performance "is difficult to predict and hard to verify."

"The whole thing is kind of an environmental lab," Hanford official Hamrick told the *Monitor*. "One has to think big. One really has to think big."

The Hanford Downwinders Coalition is not happy about being the guinea pigs in the environmental laboratory. They are suing Hanford contractors.

1,000 rally to back Michigan grocery strike

BY JOHN SARGE

MADISON HEIGHTS, Michigan — One thousand people joined a rally and mass picket line here May 2 to support 7,000 striking members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union. UFCW locals 876 and 539 are on strike against 64 Kroger grocery stores in southeast Michigan.

The clerks, stockers, and meatcutters struck April 13 in response to company demands for another giveback contract, a central component of which would force an ever growing majority of them into permanent "part-time" status, with low wages and no benefits.

This was the first of several solidarity events being organized by the Labor/Community Coalition in Support of the Kroger Strikers.

The food giant is spending a reported \$300,000 a week for security guards alone. The company regularly runs two full-page ads in the region's daily newspapers. One is an open letter urging strikers and shoppers to cross the picket lines. The other advertises special sale items at giveaway prices.

Kroger is keeping the stores open using managers and a reported 2,500 scabs

The company claims its customer levels have grown to 50 percent of prestrike levels, but pickets report that at most stores traffic is only at 20 percent or less. Pickets also report that other unionists and regular

customers frequently bring food to or join the picket lines, which operate around the clock.

On May 2, the strikers and their supporters gathered at the UFCW headquarters here where local union officials, the president of the Metro AFL-CIO, and regional United Auto Workers officials spoke.

James Gibbs, a leader of the miners' 1989–90 strike against Pittston Coal, brought greetings to the strikers from the United Mine Workers union. He explained that the labor movement from the Detroit area had come to the miners' aid and they were ready to aid the UFCW now. He said one lesson he learned in the Pittston fight was, "If you want the union to operate, you've got to take it." The only way to win, he added, was to organize all the workers, because "no union is going to be strong unless you have the numbers."

Linda Barnes, a striking clerk, reviewed some of the takeback demands of the company. She explained that the pickets were set to "keep the customers out — that's our main objective." She urged everyone to help by making the fight against Kroger their fight.

The strikers, together with auto workers, building trades members, Teamsters, and members of the Metro Council of Newspaper Unions, then moved two miles for a mass picket of a Kroger store.

The picketers were met with constant horns from passing cars and trucks. The picket line was larger than the rally, as people driving by parked and joined it.

The strikers are facing a big and determined enemy. Kroger is one of the largest grocery retailers in the nation. It has slashed the wages and benefits of its employees across the country. Wages in the Detroit-area stores are some of the highest in the chain.

In 1984 Kroger locked out its southeast Michigan workers to impose a concession contract. Kroger only reopened suburban stores. There are no Detroit Kroger stores today. Many of the Detroit stores were eventually reopened as nonunion Foodland stores.

The company has made it clear that it is willing to lose millions of dollars a week to force through its contract demands. The strikers are determined to give Kroger a fight.

The Labor/Community Coalition in Support of the Kroger Strikers is projecting ongoing strike support activities. A pre-Mother's Day "Rally to Honor Striking Kroger Mothers" is planned as well as a fundraiser for the strike fund.

John Sarge is a member of United Auto Workers Local 900 and works at a Ford Motors plant in Wayne, Michigan.

15,000 arrested in Los Angeles dragnet

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Federal and local cops quickly joined forces to crack down on participants — real and alleged — in the anti-police riot touched off by the verdict in the case of four cops who beat Rodney King.

As of the evening of May 6, a total of 15,249 people had been arrested. Of these, 2,628 were held on felony charges, the rest for misdemeanors.

Several thousand of those arrested are Latinos. A substantial number of them were summarily declared to be "illegal aliens" and

turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for deportation.

This is an admitted violation of a long-standing city policy that when the cops arrest someone who is not documented, the person is not to be handed over to *la migra*, as the INS is known.

According to Los Angeles Police Department figures, 5,438 people were arrested in the first several days of the outbreak. A majority, 2,764 were Latinos. In addition, 2,022 were Black, 568 white, and 84 "other."

A reported 1,044 were declared to be "illegal" Latino immigrants. An official said that of these, 781 were still being held in the county jail and 263 had been turned over to the INS for deportation.

Earlier, without offering a shred of evidence, Police Chief Daryl Gates had publicly charged that "illegal aliens" were responsible for most of the arson and looting

that occurred.

Assailing the scapegoating and victimization of immigrants, Madeline Janis, of the Central American Refugee Center, declared, "There was almost a feeling that someone was exacting vengeance against the community."

It was reported that about 400 Border Patrol cops — the armed unit of *la migra* — were among the 1,000 federal cops deployed here to help stamp out the rebellion.

California law stipulates that anyone held on a felony charge — such as arson or violence — be arraigned within 48 hours of the arrest. On May 5, by unanimous vote in both houses, the state legislature rammed through a bill giving Los Angeles officials the right to hold people seven working days.

The bill was rushed to Gov. Peter Wilson, who was in Los Angeles. He signed the measure on the hood of a state police car.

Meanwhile, lawyers charged they had

found scores of innocent people among those grabbed by the cops, most of them on charges of violating the dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed for four nights by Mayor Thomas Bradley.

The courts, in assembly-line style, have been dishing out sentences of 10 days in jail and one year of probation to curfew violators. Many of the victims are reportedly pleading guilty in order to do the 10 days and get out.

Of the 358 people arraigned in a single day, 308 pleaded guilty.

Among the victims were homeless people—including one who was busted while waiting to get into a shelter that did not open until 8:30 p.m.

Some people were out after the curfew because buses had stopped running and they had to trudge long distances home from work.

One man was arrested while out searching for medicine for his child.



Youths arrested for curfew violation

Protests continue against King verdict

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

The acquittal of the cops who beat Rodney King caused outrage across the United States and around the world. Protests continue to take place against the verdict around the country.

What follows are reports on some of the actions that took place last week. Besides those mentioned below, the *Militant* received reports from Houston, Texas; Cleveland, Ohio; and other cities.

* * *

March on Washington, D.C., May 16

A national march on Washington, D.C. will take place May 16. "Justice for Rodney King" and "Immediate prosecution of the four acquitted police officers on federal civil rights charges," have been added to the march demands. The action was originally called around the slogan of "Save our children, save our cities" at the initiative of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Large attendance is expected, with 500 busloads coming from New York alone.

Klan cancels rally in Cincinnati

About 150 people held a rally to protest racism and bigotry in Cincinnati May 2. The action had been scheduled to protest a march, planned by the Ku Klux Klan for that day, which was canceled. Steve Anderson, a Klan leader, said the racist rally was called off because of the riot in Los Angeles over the Rodney King verdict.

Members of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, National Organization for Women, University of Cincinnati Coalition for Choice, the Socialist Workers Party, and others carried placards saying, "Justice for King" and "No justice, no peace."

An Associated Press report on the action quoted Garmez Parks, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in Cleveland. "The way to fight against the Rodney King verdict is to have more demonstrations and protests like this demanding justice for King and demanding that the federal government indict the police officers . . . under the Civil Rights Act," Parks said, addressing the Cincinnati rally.

Protests in New York

Hundreds of Erasmus High School students from Brooklyn, New York, walked out of their classes May 1 protesting the King verdict. The students led a march that grew to 1,500 over the Brooklyn Bridge to City

Hall in Manhattan. Students from the Arts and Design High School led another march of 500 in New York, chanting, "Prosecute the guilty cops now!"

As rumors of possible violence spread throughout the city, Wall Street and most business districts were shut down by early afternoon. Another demonstration of 1,000 was held the next day outside police headquarters. Students at Bard College in upstate New York organized a meeting May 6 to discuss how to press the fight to indict the Los Angeles cops who beat King.

23-mile walk in Massachusetts

One thousand students and faculty from Williams College joined a 23-mile walk May 4 from Williams to Pittsfield, Massachusetts, to protest the King verdict. Participants included members of the Black Student Union, Koreans of Williams, and Chinese Citizens of America.

Students protest in New Jersey

Nearly 300 high school students, angered by the Rodney King verdict, marched through the city of Newark May 4 halting traffic briefly at a downtown intersection.

Numerous demonstrations took place in New Jersey May 1, including at Rutgers University in New Brunswick where 500 students chanted, "Eyes don't lie." The same day a group of Princeton Theological Seminary students marched through the center of town and 400 high school students walked out of their classes in Montclair.

A demonstration of 250, mainly Black youth, chanting, "From Teaneck to L.A., no justice in the U.S.A.," took place in Newark May 5. The chant referred to the acquittal of white Teaneck cop Gary Spath in the shooting death of Black teenager Phillip Pannell.

Venus Hannah and Sharon Mayse, lead-

Continued on Page 13

Rallies in Toronto demand an end to police brutality

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO — Nearly 1,000 people rallied at the Queen's Park provincial legislature here May 7 to demand an end to cop violence against Black people in this city. In the past four years, eight Black youths have been shot by Metro Toronto police. This includes the May 2 killing of 22-year-old Raymond Lawrence in what the cops described as a drug bust.

The rally, called by the Black Action Defence Committee (BAD-C) took place two days after a May 4 demonstration of similar size called by the BAD-C to protest the acquittal of the cops who beat Rodney King in Los Angeles, as well as the Lawrence killing.

Following the May 4 action, which took the form of a peaceful march from the U.S. consulate along Yonge Street to City Hall Square, several hundred young people took part in a window-breaking and looting spree. It ended in a confrontation with the police riot squad. About 30 people were arrested.

The May 4 events were seized on by the cops, provincial and municipal politicians, and the media to launch a violence-baiting attack on the BAD-C leaders including Dudley Laws, the committee's principal spokesperson. Laws is currently being hauled before the courts on frame-up charges of smuggling people illegally into the United States.

Police Chief William McCormack announced the cops would have the "public-order unit" on full standby at all future demonstrations because "unfortunately these demonstrations now seem to be without the appropriate control from within."

In a report to the city council, McCormack charged that organizers of the May 4 demonstration had incited the crowd to commit violence. The council voted 31-1 to demand that the BAD-C postpone the May 7 rally, arguing that it could result in violence.

Despite the threat from the cops, the rally went ahead as scheduled. BAD-C organizers demanded the appeal of the recent decision to acquit the cops who shot and killed 19-year-old Michael Wade Lawson in 1988. On May 8, the Ontario government an-

nounced it would not appeal the acquittal. Rally organizers demanded an inquiry into racism in the justice system, steps to "stop the use of deadly force and train police in alternative" methods, and other proposals to reform the police. They also proposed that the federal government make racism a criminal offense.

Speakers included leaders of the BAD-C; city council members; Native and civil rights activists; Robert White, president of the Canadian Auto Workers; Judy Rebbick, president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women; and Ontario New Democratic Party premier Robert Rae.

Rae called on people to support his government's efforts to get "jobs and justice for every community and playground" and to "say no to racism and the voices of division." While he was speaking a number of rally participants called out, "What are you going to do?" and "Jail the killer cops." Some began chanting, "No justice, no peace."

A speaker from the American Indian Movement got big applause when he condemned the use of military force against Mohawks in Quebec by the federal government last summer.

Protests against racist police violence also took place in Montreal and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

A Montreal coroner's report released March 7 accused the cops of incompetence and racism in the shooting death of Black 24-year-old Marcellus François. The coroner's inquest found that the only resemblance to the suspect the cops were allegedly looking for was the color of his skin.

Federal justice minister Kim Campbell has announced her intention to consider toughening restrictions in the criminal code on the use of deadly force by cops. Ontario premier Rae has called on the former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, Stephen Lewis, to produce a report on racism in Ontario by June 5.

John Steele is a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 836.



Militant/Steve Marshall

March in Newark, New Jersey. Protests across the country condemned King verdict.

In speech on Los Angeles events, socialist explains, 'Where do we go from here?'

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

NEW YORK — "The only possible way of understanding the recent events in Los Angeles is to see them as part of the world we live in today," said James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, at a Militant Labor Forum here.

Warren's talk at the May 9 forum focused on the antipolice riot that erupted in Los Angeles following the April 29 acquittal by a jury of four police officers who beat Rodney King, a construction worker who is Black. The socialist candidate was in Los Angeles campaigning when the verdict was announced. He remained in the city until May 8, speaking at college campuses and other meetings.

"The U.S. government's reaction and response to expressions of dissent and resistance by working people to the devastating social conditions that millions face can be seen in the war Washington led against the people of Iraq last year," Warren said.

That war was the opening guns of World War III, he added. The butchery in the Gulf did not lead to more stability or expansion of the capitalist market system. It exacerbated the conflicts between the major imperialist powers.

"That war along with the events in Eastern Europe and the break up of the Soviet Union led the Socialist Workers Party to conclude that we are in the initial stages of a world economic depression, similar to the social crisis that unfolded in the 1930s," Warren said.

For the capitalist classes the only solution to this disaster is to attempt to break the resistance by working people around the world "through military force and might." If the employing classes succeed in imposing such defeats, Warren said, these blows will culminate in the unthinkable destruction of a massive world war, as Washington, Bonn, Tokyo, and other rival capitalist powers struggle to reorder their domination over the world.

Before the rulers can lead us into such a slaughter, working people will get their chance to organize struggles that can score victories in the face of the capitalists' escalating assaults, Warren predicted. From these struggles working-class forces will emerge that will lead the fight to take political power out of the hands of the war makers and prevent such a world catastrophe.

Where do we go from here?

Warren reported that before leaving California he had spoken at a rally at Los Angeles Community College on the cop acquittal verdict and its aftermath. The theme of the rally was, "Where do we go from here?"

"Where we go from here is a totally different direction from that of the Democratic and Republican parties, the parties of Police Chief Gates, the parties of the four cops who were guilty as charged," Warren said.

President George Bush and all other Democratic and Republican candidates visited Los Angeles while Warren was there. "None of these politicians address the decisive question," the socialist candidate said, "which is the demand that the federal government indict the four cops under the Civil Rights Act. This should be done immediately." Instead Bush is investigating whether it is appropriate to do so.

"Government authorities are not so slow to make other decisions," Warren said. "For

example Bush explained that his administration will do everything in its power to convict the thousands arrested in Los Angeles." The government made available 60 additional prosecutors to the city of Los Angeles to expedite bringing charges against the thousands arrested. "There is no long investigation planned here. There is not even the assumption of innocence until proven guilty."

"They play over and over the tape of the white truck driver who was beaten, something that justifiably horrified everyone. But they emphasize even more the destruction of private property. This is an attempt to portray all those involved in the antipolice riot as 'animals,' as hoodlums, as antihuman, as having no morals or values."

"The rulers are setting up a horrible defeat for working people in Los Angeles," Warren



James Warren, socialist candidate for president, speaking in Los Angeles May 3.

More than 12,000 national guard and federal army troops were deployed, "which maximized the possibilities of deaths and injuries," Warren said. "They wouldn't have needed to deploy any troops if they had indicted the cops on civil rights charges right after the verdict."

Hundreds grabbed for curfew violations

Warren described the huge police dragnet to carry out arrests that followed. By Thursday night, April 30, when the fires and the looting had begun to ebb, only a few hundred people had been arrested. The police, who at the beginning stood by and let many fires burn, organized massive sweeps, bringing the total of those arrested to more than 16,000 a week later.

"They don't claim to have arrested a single person in the act of setting a fire. Keep that in mind because many people will be charged with arson," Warren said. The police grabbed hundreds of people in the streets for curfew violations or for allegedly taking a tape recorder or a carton of milk from a shop. "The only witnesses against these people will be the cops and the military personnel," he said. Police are searching people's apartments claiming an anonymous neighbor turned them in.

"The Democrats and Republicans who control the state legislature changed the law about how long the police could hold people before charging them. They extended the limit from 48 hours to seven days. It took them only 48 hours to change that law. But they show no concern about the cops who beat Rodney King," Warren added. "This tells you something about the character of these parties."

A massive propaganda campaign is now being conducted against those arrested.

said. "They are trying to convince working people to turn their backs on those caught up in this dragnet."

"The authorities will pick several hundred or thousand of those arrested and try to railroad them with show trials," Warren explained. "They want to teach working people a lesson that when you protest, when you fight, especially if you use ineffective tactics, they will go after you. They want to make working people hesitate to take any form of political action."

Fight the massive frame-ups

"We cannot allow them to do so," the socialist candidate said. He demanded that the massive arrests stop. "A fight must be organized against the massive frame-ups of people in Los Angeles," he added, "alongside the fight to indict the cops who beat Rodney King."

Why did people come out in the streets? "The reason is simply the decision handed down by the jury against the four cops," said Warren. The impact of the economic depression on working people has led to the impoverishment of large sections of the population, especially Black youth and many immigrants. A resegregation has occurred, excluding large sections of Black youth from the job market.

"But being poor, being hungry, even living with the effects of a depression doesn't lead people to go out in the streets to protest, to set fires, or to loot. It was an outrage like the complete injustice in the Rodney King case combined with the lack of any political mobilizations leading up to it, that was the cause of the explosion that took place," Warren said.

The fight to get rid of Police Chief Gates and to convict cops for police brutality and racism goes way back, before the King beating, Warren said. The potential for mobilizations with such demands was never realized because Black politicians, leaders of the NAACP [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People], the Urban League, Black churches and other Black organizations, along with trade union leaders, organized to prevent working people from taking political action around this case from the day King was beaten, Warren added.

Mobilizations build solidarity

"It is only through political mobilizations that you can get a rise in human solidarity among working people, which is the only way to get some discipline over the less experienced and less thoughtful elements among the oppressed," Warren added.

Warren said his campaign offers a different perspective. That includes an international fight for jobs for all — beginning by shortening the workweek with no cut in pay; affirmative action programs to unite working people on an international scale; and a fight to cancel the foreign debt of third world countries.

Political action with mobilizations in the streets to press demands along these lines, together with the demand to indict the cops who beat Rodney King, is what is needed, Warren said, "not imitating incorrect actions that took place during the antipolice riots in Los Angeles, like indiscriminate beatings and random killings."

A lively discussion followed Warren's presentation.

Has the government taken an offensive or a defensive stance towards the fight against police brutality following the events in Los Angeles? one forum participant asked.

"The government was in a defensive position because of the massive outrage right after the verdict was announced," Warren replied. "But the events during the antipolice riot set everything back. They enabled the authorities and bourgeois politicians to take the focus off the case and shift attention to the destruction and the looting."

"We must understand what caused this kind of explosion and hold those in power completely responsible for it. The idea that the riot represented something progressive is totally wrong," Warren continued. Working people are now put in the position of attempting to defend thousands of police frame-ups for months to come while "the government is now on the offensive."

Responding to another question about the accusations in the media and by the FBI that Koreans were a special target during the riot, Warren said there was an element of this but it was a secondary element.

The head of the FBI in Los Angeles who raised the possibility of bringing federal civil rights charges against those who looted Korean stores admitted "that it would be hard to bring conspiracy charges, since 67 percent of the businesses destroyed were not owned by Koreans," Warren said.

There is competition between middle-class Blacks and Koreans over who will get loans to build shops. "That is why many middle-class Blacks used the case of Latasha Harlins to go after Korean store owners," Warren said. Harlins was shot and killed last year by Soon Ja Du, a Korean shopkeeper who accused the Black teenager of stealing a bottle of orange juice. Du was convicted, and after being given a 10-year suspended sentence she fled the country. "The justice system is sympathetic to store owners, whether they are Korean, Black, or white," Warren said.

"The capitalist party politicians attempt to present Korean store owners as the primary victims, not the 16,000 arrested," he continued, "in order to shift the political debate to a reactionary axis."

Another forum participant asked what the differences were between the 1965 rebellion in Watts, a neighborhood in Los Angeles, and the recent riots.

"A rebellion is an uprising of the vast majority of working people in an area. During the Watts rebellion in 1965 working people chased the cops out of the neighborhood and kept them out for several days," Warren said. "The most significant difference is what happened in the decade and a half that preceded Watts: a massive movement by working people that led to the overthrow of the Jim Crow system of segregation in the South."

The opposite preceded the decade that led to the latest events in Los Angeles. There has been no movement to fight against the deteriorating social conditions and attacks on democratic rights. "The antipolice riot was not an attempt to organize and mobilize the maximum number of working people to protest the injustice against Rodney King," Warren explained.

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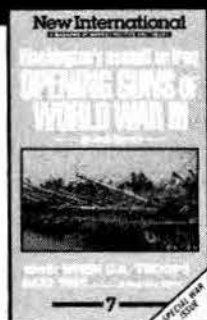
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As Operation Rescue fizzles in Buffalo, its leader outlines group's rightist agenda

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

BUFFALO, New York — After only one week of Operation Rescue's attempt to close abortion clinics here, the effort was clearly making no headway. The so-called right-to-lifers were confronted in the streets each day by hundreds of pro-choice activists who organized to defend and successfully keep all the clinics open.

Many of the fighters who defended the clinics had participated in and drew inspiration from the half-million strong national demonstration in Washington, D.C., in support of abortion rights April 5.

On April 26, in an effort to rally his forces, Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry addressed a meeting attended by nearly 1,000 people at the Evangel Assembly of God Church in the Buffalo suburb of Amherst.

His remarks revealed something of the broader right-wing political agenda of this organization, and the threat it poses to working people if not answered and soundly defeated wherever it moves.

Operation Rescue has won a following among middle class layers and some working people attracted to radical rightist solutions to the economic and social crisis. Many of its members are full-time cadres for the right-wing movement who travel from one city to another to participate in "rescue" actions. Some have been arrested numerous times.

"I'm here to get people to act out their beliefs," stated Terry to the April 26 meeting. "We are in danger. Our children are in danger. We're told it's supposed to get worse and there's nothing we can do to stop it."

Follow a 'higher law'

Citing a mandate from the Bible, Terry urged his supporters to follow a "higher law" than that legislated by Congress or interpreted by the courts.

Operation Rescue seeks to mount street actions where participants threaten or use violence to achieve their aims. "Thirty years of prayers without action have given us 30 million dead babies," stated Terry in describing the right exercised by women to obtain abortions.

His speech was directed towards convincing more Operation Rescue sympathizers "to put their bodies on the line," by volunteering to be arrested as part of Operation Rescue's blockades and attacks on abortion clinics. He described spending time in prison as "one of the richest spiritual experiences you can have."

The rightist leader painted a picture of the moral decay of America, which Operation Rescue sets itself the goal of moving into action to halt. Terry called for reforming all of culture, "The arts, the media, the entertainment industries, medicine, the sciences, education." He condemned the fact that musicians such as Madonna and Michael Jack-



Militant/Brian Williams
Pro-choice demonstrators successfully outmobiled rightist antiabortion groups in Buffalo, New York. Operation Rescue forces failed to close down any clinics.

son are admired by today's children.

"What's America going to be like in 30 years?" he asked. To answer this question he urged the audience to imagine themselves back in the year 1959. "Who would have believed back then that in the next 30 years we would see the murder of more than 30 million babies, that tax money would be used for blasphemy, that homosexual pornography would be put forward as art, and that prayer would be illegal in the classrooms while information on abortions and condoms could be given out in the schools?"

Terry then predicted what the next 30 years have in store: "We will see pastors arrested from the pulpit, forced abortions, and forced sterilizations." From not being able to preach the gospel in public schools, it is only a "small step to preventing it on public sidewalks," he said.

Lashes out at 'corrupt politicians'

Terry lashed out in particular at the news media and liberal Democratic Party politicians, from New York State governor Mario Cuomo to presidential candidate William Clinton.

He called New York state attorney general Robert Abrams the "Antichrist" for marching with homosexuals in the recent St. Patrick's Day parade in New York City.

"It is the self-appointed humanist elite that is running the networks and the *Buffalo News*," he said. "They are self-enamored lap-dogs of the abortion industry."

Describing the struggle in the world as that between the "wicked" and the "righteous," Terry declared that what is needed today is the "fear of God to bring this country back to moral sanctity."

Congress and the "corrupt politicians in Washington" were a focus of Terry's attacks. "Most of you would do a better job than the politicians currently running this government because you can balance your check-

book," Terry explained. "Kick out those who don't fear God. Only people who fear God should run this country."

Claiming to be the authentic Christians, Operation Rescue has targeted for harassment Christian ministers who support the pro-choice position. Several hours before the Amherst meeting, Operation Rescue held a picket in front of the Sweet Home United Methodist Church to protest the pro-choice stance taken by the church's pastor, Stephen Calos.

Another side of Operation Rescue's campaign has been harassing doctors who perform abortions. Entitled "Operation John the Baptist," this campaign includes what the organization describes in a leaflet as "house calls, public proclamation, distribution and detective work."

Operation Rescue has placed ads charging these doctors with committing murder. It has organized street actions aimed at intimidating the physicians in the neighborhoods where they live. A similar campaign was carried out by Operation Rescue in Wichita, Kansas, last summer. There they also made death threats against the judge who had issued an injunction prohibiting blockades of the clinics.

At the conclusion of the Operation Rescue meeting, all those willing to put their bodies on the line and be arrested were asked to stand up. Only some 100 out of the 950 present stood up, despite further exhortations from the podium.

Abortion opponents promised that the following morning would be the "big day" in their Spring of Life campaign. But the rightists were once again outnumbered by the countermobilization of pro-choice activists who successfully stood their ground and kept the Buffalo abortion clinics open.

Antiabortion protesters block clinics in Alabama

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — More than 150 rightists blockaded two clinics that provide abortion services in Montgomery, Alabama, April 18.

When June Ayers, the clinic director at Reproductive Health Services, arrived at 7:20 a.m. to open one of the clinics, she was immediately surrounded. "They were coming down the access road," said Ayers. "They looked like a football crowd. They covered all three doors. There were 75-100."

About half an hour later at the opposite end of town, more than 75 anti-abortion

protesters descended on the Beacon's Women's Center. "They covered all the entrances. They put keys in the locks and broke them off," said clinic director K.B. Cole.

Both Ayers and Cole said it took the Montgomery Police too long to respond. "They had to call police and get them out of bed," said Cole. "The police were totally unprepared."

Only 15 police officers arrived half an hour later. "I had called the chief of police two weeks ago and said they should be prepared either on the 11th or the 18th," said Ayers. "Randall Terry had been in town on the 11th at a meeting and was interviewed on Christian Television Network. On [April] 17 Reverend James Joseph Pinto, a right-wing organizer from Birmingham, had spoken at a rally." It took the police almost two hours to begin making arrests.

The rightists chanted, prayed, and sang. They also yelled and screamed abusive language to the patients and staff. They slammed the door shut on a staff member of one clinic and grabbed a patient at the other.

Although the majority were from Montgomery, many who participated in the blockade were from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and Atlanta, Tennessee, and Florida.

The police finally arrested 56 and charged them with criminal trespassing. They were later released from jail on \$100 bond each.

The Socialist Workers campaign of Alyson Kennedy for U.S. Congress in Alabama's 6th District issued a statement on the attacks.

"The labor movement, civil rights organizations, and others should join women's rights groups in defending the clinics," the statement said.

"Labor and its allies must show these ultrarightist forces that women, youth, and all working people are prepared to rebuff their efforts."

Alyson Kennedy is a laid-off miner and member of United Mine Workers of America Local 2368.

Abortion access widens in British Columbia

BY JOANNE PRITCHARD AND COLLEEN LEVIS

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — A significant gain for women's rights was won March 20 when the New Democratic Party (NDP) government announced its decision to expand access to abortion services in hospitals and to provide financing to women's clinics that provide abortion.

The new regulations will increase availability of abortion in rural regions, provide funds for Everywoman's Health Centre and Elizabeth Bagshaw's Women's Clinic in Vancouver, and finance abortion education programs.

This decision follows more than 10 years of struggle by women's rights organizations, student groups, trade unions, and others who support women's right to choose abortion.

Opposition to antiabortion policies of the former British Columbia Social Credit government was a factor in the electoral victory of the NDP.

Within days of the government's decision, at least 85 women in the Northwest Territories (NWT) stepped forward to protest abuse of their bodies in hospitals there.

A rape victim from Iqaluit told reporters about the suffering she had endured during

an abortion without any anesthetics last year at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital. Since then, the NWT Status of Women Council has received a flood of complaints from other women who were given abortions without anesthetics.

One woman said she was only given one valium, strapped to an operating table and had to be held down by several people because of the pain.

Another woman said that after her abortion the doctor said, "Well, this really hurt, didn't it? But let that be a lesson before you get yourself in this situation again."

NWT health minister Tony Whitford resigned March 31 because of the revelations of pain imposed on women.

NWT government leader Nellie Coroyea has ordered an inquiry into abortion procedures at the region's biggest hospital. Women seeking abortions at the hospital will now be offered a choice of pain control options.

On April 12, 800 people demonstrated outside the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Vernon, British Columbia, to protest the NDP regulations that reverse the hospital's anti-abortion policy.

When hospital trustees initially refused to

comply with the new law, medical staff sent a letter to Health Minister Elizabeth Cull asking her to fire the trustees.

The antiabortion hospital officials resigned after the government made it clear it would not tolerate further delays in restoring abortion services. A public administrator was appointed.

About 1,000 opponents of abortion rights demonstrated at the opening of the legislature in Victoria in late March to protest the new regulations. They have launched a campaign that will include picketing abortion clinics, doctor's homes and offices, and the houses of pro-choice activists.

British Columbia Medical Association president Gur Singh has said that picketing against doctors will not deter them from providing abortions.

The British Columbia Coalition for Abortion Clinics is organizing a conference in June to discuss the next steps in the fight to defend women's right to choose.

Joanne Pritchard is a member of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 287. Colleen Levis is a member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 3014.

Brown students demand open admissions

BY NEIL CALLENDER

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island — "We want diversity at the university," was the final chant at a rally of 300 students at Brown University April 20. The rally, organized by Students for Aid and Minority Admissions (SAMA), is part of a fight for an admissions policy that opens the door to poor students, called "need-blind admissions."

Two days earlier 253 students were arrested after occupying University Hall, the campus administrative building.

SAMA, formed in January to continue the "25-year-old struggle to implement a concrete plan to attain racial and economic diversity at Brown," organized the sit-in, which started with about 70 students. Hundreds gathered outside the administration building to show their support.

Meredith Kolodner, a leader of SAMA, explained that frustration and anger grew at the lack of any positive response from administration officials. When a student trying to pass food inside the building was wrestled to the ground by a Brown security officer, hundreds of students spontaneously rushed the building and took it over. At one point 450 students were inside, with another 500 outside — roughly one fifth of Brown's undergraduate students.

Kolodner reported that, after a mass meeting, students decided not to barricade themselves in but to stay in the building until they were all arrested. It took several hours for the police to arrest everyone.

Affirmative action struggle

The struggle for "need-blind admissions," admitting students without regard to ability to pay, is part of a long history of fights to defend and extend access to Brown University for students of working-class families, especially those of oppressed nationalities. Protests have erupted on the campus over issues of financial aid, minority recruitment and hiring of faculty, the fate of Black studies courses, and racial harassment over the past three decades.

SAMA explains in its literature, "With the deepening national recession, the need for affirmative action policies becomes doubly apparent for those students of color who will be on financial aid."

Brown University now costs \$24,000 a year not including the cost of books and other expenses. Sienna Craig, one of those arrested, emphasized that the struggle at Brown was a "class and race issue." It was for "economic access to higher education," she said.

The students' central demand is for the university to add \$50 million to its \$450 million Capital Campaign fund-raising effort, the extra money to be devoted exclusively to financial aid. The administration claims to support the concept of "need-blind admissions" but says raising the extra \$50 million is "unrealistic."

The student protest actions have received support from Service Employees International Union Local 134, which represents Brown's unionized employees. Many community and student organizations have also expressed support for SAMA's demands.

The student group plans more campus outreach and further protest actions to keep the pressure on. Nightly candlelight vigils in front of university president Vartan Gregorian's house are being organized.

Students at Brown are optimistic and confident about their struggle. Allison Flam, who was one of the hundreds of students outside University Hall, said, "It's inspiring to see so

many people putting a lot on the line for something they believe in."

John O'Brien perhaps best summed up the mood in a letter to the campus daily, the *Brown Daily Herald*. He wrote, "Prac-

tically driven to tears by the impassioned speeches of SAMA's representatives, I too stormed University Hall. Once in the building, I sat with students of varying classes, races, and sexual orientations and

united with them in a common cause. We spoke, chanted, sweat, laughed, and screamed together. I was deeply moved as I thought, 'This is what life should be about.'"



An 11-day strike by public employees in Germany ended May 7 after leaders of the 2.3 million-member union accepted a new wage offer by the government. The settlement calls for a 5.4 percent wage increase, up from the government's earlier 4.7 percent offer. The strikers shut down airports, disrupted train service, and halted garbage collection and mail delivery. Meanwhile, talks between the government and the 3.7 million-strong metalworkers' union broke down May 5. The union could strike to demand a 9.5 percent wage hike.

Cuba debated on New Jersey campus

BY ELLEN KERR

NEWARK, New Jersey — "I am grateful that the university invited Carlos Tablada, who represents the Cuban government, to speak here last fall," was how Emilio Adolfo Rivera, a right-wing opponent of the Cuban revolution and a representative of the 30th of November Movement, began his April 13 lecture at the Newark campus of Rutgers University.

Rivera was invited to speak by the Cuban Cultural Committee and several other student groups that had taken responsibility for the successful lecture given by Cuban economist Carlos Tablada last November 21. Judy Fernandez of the Cuban Cultural Committee had introduced Tablada last year explaining that not all members agreed with Tablada's point of view but the club voted to endorse the meeting in the interest of academic freedom.

The Tablada lecture created a good deal of controversy on campus. Before the event a death threat against Tablada and some harassing phone calls were received by student groups in an attempt by right-wingers to stop the lecture.

When the student groups refused to be intimidated, a group of about 50 Cuban rightists attempted to break up the meeting. They were unsuccessful due to the broad sponsorship of the lecture, which included a number of academic departments and student groups, and the serious attitude taken by organizers toward defense of the meeting.

Tablada's lecture was attended by about 250 people. In spite of incessant heckling by the rightists, it continued for two hours, including a question-and-answer period in which all sides were allowed to express their point of view.

Response to Tablada tour success

Following Tablada's lecture, rightists began to put pressure on the students who had helped to organize the lecture. The Cuban students were the target of a special harassment campaign, receiving hostile phone calls and letters at home and school. Cuban students who did not agree with sponsoring the Tablada lecture began to demand that the club present the "other" side of the issue. The 30th of November Movement, which supports the U.S. government's campaign to overthrow the Cuban revolution, insisted that the club finance and sponsor a right-wing speaker. The club leadership agreed, with the intention of staying away from political issues in the future.

The Rivera event was structured as a response to the Tablada event. The title of both talks was "Cuba in the '90s." Judy Fernandez opened the meeting by explain-

ing, as she did for Tablada's talk, that the sponsoring groups did not necessarily hold the views of the speaker. About 30 people attended, many of them Cuban and other Latino students who had come to hear Tablada.

Rivera acknowledged many of the social gains brought about by the Cuban revolution, including free health care and education and the fact that no one goes hungry in Cuba today. He contended, however, that Cuban leader Fidel Castro, who he said is not a communist, is power-hungry and leading the country toward disaster.

He claimed that any economic problems Cuba faces today cannot be blamed on the U.S. trade embargo, but on Castro, because Cuba can still trade with the rest of the world. Rivera supports the trade embargo which denies Cuba access to vital food and medicine from the United States.

During the question-and-answer period a Puerto Rican student remarked that the revolution created a better standard of living for those living in the countryside who had not benefited from Cuba's pre-revolutionary wealth.

A Cuban-American student asked, "What are the goals of Alpha 66 and the 30th of November movement?" Rivera's response

was that only a small minority want war since the Cuban people have suffered enough. Alpha 66 is a right-wing terrorist group of Cuban exiles.

The lecture was also attended by two organizers of the Tablada meeting who support the Socialist Workers candidates for Congress, Jane Harris and Ray Parsons. Harris is running in the Union City district, which has a large population of Cubans and other Latinos. Parsons is running against Democratic Congressman Robert Torricelli, who has proposed a bill that would tighten the U.S. trade embargo on Cuba.

The socialist campaign supporters handed out campaign statements protesting the embargo. They explained during the discussion period that they are supporters of the Cuban revolution and pointed to the political and social accomplishments and international contributions of the revolution. Many students appreciated the socialists' participation in the meeting.

The dean of students, John Faulstick, took the platform to close the meeting. He thanked all of the participants for contributing to a successful meeting and said that he wished all the participants at the Tablada meeting had allowed that meeting to proceed as smoothly.

further reading from Pathfinder on the Cuban revolution



In Defense of Socialism. In these speeches Castro argues that progress is impossible on the basis of the dog-eat-dog competition of capitalism. 142 pp. \$12.95



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Backers of Minnesota activist protest threats

Continued from front page

speak to working people and youth about the need to keep the pressure on! We have to press the fight for federal prosecution of the criminals who beat Rodney King."

Coverage of the rally was featured on local TV stations along with interviews with Nisan. "These threats are aimed at intimidating us from building a movement," he explained. "But our response is to build the movement. We will continue the fight for justice for Rodney King."

Supporters of Nisan plan to go to union officials, the mayor, Nisan's opponents in the congressional race, and others to request condemnations of the death threats.

The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation are welcome to attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people. At the Militant Labor Forum you can express your opinion, listen to the views of fellow fighters, and exchange ideas on how best to advance the interests of workers and farmers the world over.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Victory for Women's Rights in Buffalo. Sun., May 31, 5:30 p.m. 111 21st St. S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Video and discussion: Incident at Oglala. Documentary on the frame-up of Leonard Peltier. Speaker: Josie Tamez, American Indian Movement State Council. Sun., May 17, 2:30 p.m. 2552-B W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$5. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

CONNECTICUT

New Haven

Police Brutality: What It Is and How to Fight It. Tues., May 19, 7:30 p.m. Dwight Hall Library, 69 High St. Tel: (203) 772-3375.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Justice for Rodney King! Indict the Guilty Cops! Speakers: Maceo Dixon, Socialist Workers Party; Garfar Andrews Jr., Atlanta Metropolitan College; others. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Socialist Workers 1992 Illinois Campaign Rally. Speakers: James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president and member of

United Steelworkers of America Local 3247; Kate Kaku, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate and member of United Steelworkers of America Local 5488. Sat., May 16 Reception, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$5. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018. Translation to Spanish

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Indict the Guilty Cops Now! Speakout for Justice for Rodney King. A panel discussion. Sat. May 16, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (410) 235-0013. **Socialist Workers Campaign Rally.** Meet the socialist candidates for U.S. Senate and Congress. Sat., May 30, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Keep the Pressure On! Demand Federal Prosecution of the Cops Who Beat Rodney King! Speak-out Against Death Threats Made to Anti-Police Brutality Leader Chris Nisan. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Malcolm X on the Cops, Courts, and the Capitalist System. Speakers: Andrea González, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D.; others. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808. **Support the Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign, the Internationalist Alternative to the Wars, Racism, and World Economic Crisis of Capitalism.** Speakers: David Sandor, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Missouri; Margaret Savage, Socialist Workers candidate for University of Illinois Board of Trustees. Sat., May 23, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Operation Rescue Defeated in Buffalo: Lessons for Defending Abortion Rights. Sat., May

16, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Anti-Semitism: Its Roots and Role in World Politics Today. Speaker: Lorraine Starsky, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., May 17, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

New Stage in the Struggle to End Apartheid. Speakers: Hilton Mokoka and Tuwani Rasengane, African National Congress; Matt Herreshoff, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, 25th district. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

The Fight to Free Mark Curtis: An Answer to Right-Wing Supporters of a Police Frame-Up. Speaker: Nels J'Anthony, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress, member United Transportation Union. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Rodney King Verdict: The Fight to Indict the Guilty Cops. A panel discussion and speakout. Speakers to be announced. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 523 8th St., SE. Donation: \$3. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Indict the Guilty Cops Now. Free the Thousands Thrown in Los Angeles Jails! A panel of speakers. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

The Los Angeles Rebellion and the International Fight Against Police Brutality. Speaker: Mamie Kennedy, Communist League. Sat., May 16, 6 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Tel: 02-281 3297.

BRITAIN

London

Los Angeles: "Law and Order?" Speaker: Martin Hill, Communist League. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £2. Tel: 071-928-7993.

U.S. embargo of Cuba weakens

Continued from Page 4

tions on entering an operating partnership with Cuba's state airline after Washington threatened to embargo VASP's purchase of U.S.-made planes.

Since the embargo was first imposed, Washington has been especially strict on its prohibition against the import of products containing Cuban nickel, no matter how

Manchester

Immigration Controls: An Attack on Working People. Speakers: representative South Manchester Law Centre; Mark Curtis defense campaign supporter; representative Communist League. Sat., May 16, 7 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Sheffield

Stop New Moves Towards War! Speaker: Larry Herman, Communist League. Sat., May 16, 6 p.m. 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-765070.

CANADA

Toronto

Buffalo: the Fight to Defend Abortion Rights Against Operation Rescue. Speakers: Sharon Fawley, Buffalo United for Choice; Lynne Rich, Buffalo United for Choice; Merle Terlesky, Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics; Brigitte Groulx, Young Socialists. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. West. Translation to French. Donation: \$4. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

Vancouver

Abortion Rights Fighters Keep Buffalo Clinics Open. Speaker: Joe Young, Communist League, participant in struggle in Buffalo. Sat., May 16, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23rd and 24th Ave). Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990's. Speaker: Brendan Gleeson, Communist League, member Food and Textile Workers Union. Sat., May 16, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$2. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

Behind the Civil War in Yugoslavia. Speaker: Colin Parker, Communist League. Sat., May 23, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

Wellington

Drive to War, Depression: the New World Disorder. Speaker: Felicity Coggan, Communist League, member of New Zealand Meatworkers Union. Sat., May 16, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

Korea—The Struggle for Reunification and Peace. Sat., May 23, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

War Threats Against Libya, Iraq, and Korea: Washington's Policy Leads to World War III. Speaker: Lars Johansson, Communist League. Sat., May 16, 4 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

Puerto Rican fighters found guilty

Continued from front page

jected, violating their right to privacy and free association. This electronic surveillance," she stated, "revealed the 'Big Brother' policy of the federal government and its agencies."

Independence supporters have pointed out that these hundreds of hours of electronic surveillance carried out by the FBI directly violated the Puerto Rican constitution.

César Batalla, a leader of the Bridgeport Committee for the Preservation of Constitutional Rights, had this reaction: "I think this verdict sends a message that Puerto Ricans are second-class citizens who cannot get justice in the U.S. It further drives home that our country is a colony whose laws are ignored here."

The net result was that federal agents and the prosecution were able to "cover up and misrepresent evidence," Meléndez concluded. "They did that to manipulate the understanding of the jury," by withholding evidence from their consideration. This included evidence that FBI agents had broken their own rules in failing to seal their tapes of the defendants' conversations, thus enabling them to doctor the recordings.

As a result, the jurors went along with the government's case. They evidently believed the government's contention that Meléndez had journeyed from the United States to Mexico with stolen Wells Fargo money, in spite of the fact that her attorney introduced into evidence a videotape showing that she was in Puerto Rico at the time the trip allegedly took place.

On the evening of the verdict Meléndez spoke to an audience of 30 people at the Militant Labor Forum in New Haven, Connecticut. Reporters from the *Bridgeport Post* and a local TV station were present.

"My first priority is to continue to struggle for the independence of my country," she said. "This is just one battle in that struggle." She told the audience she would be traveling to Puerto Rico to explain the latest developments to the Puerto Rican people.

A reporter asked Meléndez why she had turned down the opportunity to accept a plea bargain for a five year sentence and run the risk of facing up to fifteen years in prison. She replied that someone had to stand up to

the violations of democratic rights the government had committed against her, the independence movement, and the Puerto Rican people.

At the forum there was a lively discussion comparing this unjust verdict with the Rodney King decision less than a week earlier. "These verdicts show that we cannot trust the judicial system that works for the ruling class, against the oppressed," Meléndez stated.

At the forum supporters took up a collection for the Yvonne Meléndez Defense Fund and urged all supporters of democratic rights to mobilize to appear at the Bridgeport Federal Court for the July 1 sentencing date.

Meléndez is planning to appeal her case.

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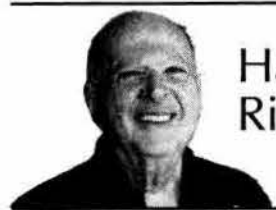
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Getting personal? — Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev are making their U.S. tour in a jet provided by



Harry Ring

Forbes, Inc. The name of the plane is taken from the masthead of *Forbes* business magazine — "Capitalist Tool."

Here most everybody has one — The Gorbachevs opened their U.S. tour with a visit to Ronald Reagan's 688-acre California

ranch. The thing they reportedly marveled over most was that the Reagans have their own personal gas pump on the ranch.

Things are tough all over — Brimming over with the free-market spirit, the Russian government tried to sell \$1 million worth of advertising space in Red Square for May Day. The U.S. operator who handled the deal said they fell about two-thirds short of the goal.

They're on the case — Medical quackery adds \$30 billion a year to the U.S. health-care bill, according to congressional testimony. The Food and Drug Administration said if you suspect quackery call their fraud hotline. If there's no answer, try Donald Duck.

Art for art's sake — A Los Angeles County Museum of Art exhibit features 200 pairs of the shoes made by Ferragamo of Beverly Hills. (Up to \$1,975 a pair.) The exhibit is funded by Ferragamo but, tastefully, they're not selling any shoes there. The museum gift store is offering Ferragamo odds-and-ends accessories — \$175 ties, \$375 sweaters.

What's to be ashamed? — Spiro Agnew has been the only one missing from the U.S. Senate's collection of vice-presidential busts. He resigned the office in 1973 as part of a plea bargain on tax swindling. Now a marble head has been commissioned (cost: up to \$50,000) but, one news item says, "it likely won't be

on public view."

He wasn't taking enough? — In Oakland, California, the wife of policeman Keith Carlen was found strangled in the trunk of her car. The word "war" was painted on the car, suggesting a war on cops by drug dealers. But paint samples at the scene matched paint on Carlen's clothing, whereupon he fessed up he had killed her because he was tired of arguing about money.

The folks next door — In Pasadena, California, Jerry Sconce coached the Bible class football team and spouse Laurieanne played the church organ. With son David, they ran a prosperous funeral home, acing out competitors with low-

priced cremations. Now trial evidence indicates they kept prices low by illegally removing organs and gold teeth for sale and cremating bodies together.

Must be Type A — Already convicted on several cremation swindle counts, David Sconce beat the rap on charges of murdering a rival mortician. He's now awaiting another trial on allegations that he tried to arrange the murder of his grandparents and a prosecutor.

A note — If you recently sent an item for this column and it doesn't appear, it may be that it went up in smoke. What to do? Send more — c/o Pathfinder Books, 2552-B W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90006.

1991 'Militant' index: record of historic events

BY DEREK BRACEY

The *Militant* index for 1991 has just been printed. This document gives readers the opportunity to use the wealth of political coverage and information printed in the *Militant* as a reference to 1991 world events.

The facts and analysis that appear in the *Militant* make it a resource of lasting value for the needs of the fighters who seek to better understand the world. With the index, information on any topic can be easily found.

The index cross-refers the articles, speeches, interviews, and other items according to two categories, author and country. In a major change from last year's index, articles on the United States are listed with the other countries instead of under a separate category. Articles from 65 countries are listed.

Countries with larger numbers of articles are divided further into subjects. In the case of Canada, for example, these include such subheadings as Democratic Rights, Farm Struggles and Mideast War. The United States is divided into some 140 sub-headings, with some of these further divided. For example, the Mideast War subheading lists articles under 15 further subcategories, from Antiwar Student Actions to Washington and Allies. These include no less than 160 articles, covering the massively destructive military assault on Iraq by the United States and its allies, as well as the continuing blockade and harassment of the Iraqi people. The struggle of the Kurdish people for self-determination was also closely followed in several articles.

The *Militant* features articles from revolutionaries and activist workers and youth from around the world, from Britain to Belgium, Australia, and Turkey. In addition,

reporting teams traveled widely in 1991 to cover important political developments firsthand. This included trips by *Militant* reporters to Nicaragua, to Israel and Palestine shortly after the war on Iraq, and two visits to South Africa.

Not only does the *Militant* present the facts, it provides historical background vital to understanding current events. Such articles, for example, were a significant part of the wide coverage on the attempted coup in the Soviet Union in August, its defeat, and the subsequent breakup of the Soviet Union.

These articles traced the gains of the Russian revolution and the rise and development of the Stalinist counterrevolution. Understanding this background is essential to being able to assess the challenges facing working people today in Russia and the other former Soviet republics.

Readers of the *Militant* receive information on the struggles of workers and farmers against attacks by the capitalist class. The 1991 index lists numerous articles on the labor movement in Britain, Canada, France, South Africa, the United States, and other countries.

The *Militant* also carries speeches by and interviews with leaders of working-class struggles. In 1991 these included Cuban ambassador to the United Nations Ricardo Alarcón, African National Congress president Nelson Mandela, and Palestinian leader Hanan Ashrawi.

The 1991 index can be ordered by sending \$1.50 to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Bound volumes of the *Militant* can also be purchased from this address.

The index can also be obtained from local Pathfinder bookstores, whose addresses are listed on page 12.

Continued protests of King verdict

Continued from Page 8

ers of the fight against police brutality in New Jersey whose children were killed by the police in two separate incidents, addressed the rally. "It's good that you are taking a stand against the verdict in Los Angeles," Mayse told Newark mayor Sharpe James, who was present. "Where were you when my daughter and LaMont Jones were killed by Newark and Hillside cops?" As the mayor attempted to justify the city's inaction on the case the youth present began to shout, "No sellout!"

On May 6, Hannah and Mayse joined two other families and their supporters involved in the fight against police brutality at a well-attended press conference in Trenton, New Jersey. They demanded that the cops who beat Rodney King be indicted and that New Jersey governor James Florio take action against cops involved in the New Jersey cases.

Florida judge moves officer's retrial

Saying he could not ignore "the national tragedy of the urban riots that followed the Rodney King verdict," Dade county circuit judge Thomas Spencer ordered May 6 that the retrial of police officer William Lozano be moved from Orlando to Tallahassee, Florida.

About 20 percent of the population of Tallahassee is Black, double the proportion in Orlando, and roughly equal to that in Miami's Dade County. The judge had earlier moved the retrial from Miami to Orlando.

Lozano was convicted in 1989 and sentenced to seven years in prison for killing two Black men on a motorcycle in the Overtown section of Miami. The killings sparked a three-day rebellion in that community. Lozano appealed the decision. Last June a three-judge panel threw out the conviction and ordered a new trial.

Marina Sitrin, a student at Bard College, in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York; Richard Sorrentino, a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in New York; and Olga Rodríguez from Newark, New Jersey, contributed to this article.

'Militant' 1991 Bound Volume

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25 AND 50 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interest of the Working People
May 22, 1967 Price 10¢

Cops have again opened fire on black students — this time at Jackson State College in Jackson, Mississippi. As a result, 22-year-old Benjamin Brown of Jackson is dead.

The confrontation between students and cops began on May 10 when two policemen arrested a student motorist on the all-black Jackson State campus. Students began pouring out of the dorms in protest and a crowd gathered. Cops were brought in, barricades set up, and students began throwing rocks and bottles.

The fatal shooting occurred the next day when students rushed a police barricade. At the time most of the shots were fired, the students were in retreat.

Immediately after the shooting national guardsmen were brought in carrying carbines with fixed bayonets and led by three armored cars. They occupied the campus for 36 hours.

On May 12, a march of 400 to the city hall was held to protest the killing of Benjamin Brown. Cleveland Sellers of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee urged students to concentrate on building a black power organization which could fight for black political power.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

May 23, 1942

One recent day a Norwegian freighter entered the port of New Orleans. As the vessel was coming alongside a group of burly, grey-uniformed Pinkerton guards ap-

peared on the wharf. Two took up stations on the port side while the others took up positions at the gangways. Their job was to see that no member of the 37-member Chinese crew left the ship. This has long been the practice whenever a ship with an Oriental crew enters a port of the United States.

The practice stems from the whole policy of American imperialism in its dealings with the Oriental peoples. It is legalized in the Immigration Act of 1924 which barred Orientals from entering this country, exception being made only in the case of well-heeled students and persons temporarily employed as servants by white people.

The fact that Washington, despite its tireless eulogies of the "brave Chinese nation," continues to treat Chinese and other Orientals as coolies, is an indication of what is in store for the Asiatic people if, failing to win and hold their independence, they fall under the heel of dollar imperialism.

America is in this war to assure freedom for all peoples? Let the American imperialists begin by giving freedom to Chinese seamen. Let them proclaim the end of the unequal treaties with China, which it is also entirely within their power to do. It's a safe bet they will do neither unless they are forced.

The Chinese sailors return to their homeland and tell others what America's "war for freedom" looks like where Chinese are concerned. Meanwhile they are not the least inclined to submit to the status of inferiority which the imperialists thrust upon them. In New York harbor on April 11 twelve members of the Chinese crew of a British merchantman entered the captain's quarters and demanded shore leave. According to press reports, the captain ordered them to leave and see him about the matter later. The leader of the crewmen reportedly swung at the British skipper with a marlin spike and the skipper shot him dead. Police were summoned and the remaining 11 were arrested.

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Supreme Court speeds injustice

The United States Supreme Court continues its onslaught against democratic rights with its latest decision on a prisoner's right to appeal.

In a 5-4 decision the high court justices ruled that José Tamayo Reyes was not entitled to a full review of an unfair trial. It doesn't matter that due to poor translation Tamayo, a Cuban immigrant who speaks little English, pleaded no contest to a manslaughter charge when he thought he was agreeing to stand trial. It doesn't matter that during his appeal in state court his negligent attorney didn't even mention the circumstances of Tamayo's plea.

In making its decision the Supreme Court overturned laws affirmed by Congress that guaranteed most state prisoners a new federal hearing if evidence critical to a case had not been properly presented in the state courts. Now federal judges do not have to hold those hearings unless the prisoner can demonstrate "cause," that is, a reason deemed valid by the federal court for reviewing an improperly presented case.

Earlier Supreme Court decisions have made it clear that in its view, an inexperienced, overworked, or even negligent lawyer does not constitute such cause.

The Supreme Court has once again overturned an aspect of the laws that allow a prisoner to challenge an unjust verdict or sentence in federal court. These laws come under a legal heading known as habeas corpus. Even before the recent ruling, habeas corpus was not a wide opportunity to overturn wrongful criminal convictions. Of the 10,000 habeas corpus petitions submitted to federal courts every year, only about 400 are granted; most others are thrown out without review.

Getting your day in court is more and more being

reduced to just that — one day. Under capitalist justice it doesn't much matter whether you received a fair trial, had incompetent attorneys, or even whether new evidence points to your innocence. Supreme Court justice Byron White, writing for the majority in the Tamayo case, explained that the new standard would "obviously contribute to the finality of convictions."

Especially dear to the Supreme Court, and the system of unequal justice it upholds, is the speed-up of executions that will come as a result of its recent curtailing of a prisoner's right to appeal. The justices made that point demonstratively by slapping down California federal judges four times on the night of April 21 to make sure that Robert Harris would not live one more day. Since March 1, 10 people have been executed in the United States.

As the economic crisis deepens in the United States and around the world, the wealthy rulers are looking for every opportunity to attack democratic rights and weaken the ability of working people to organize and fight against victimization. Much of their fire today is directed at prisoners, in an attempt to create a pariah class, that supposedly is not entitled to any rights. Accepting these attacks without a fight hurts all working people, whether behind bars or not.

It is the courts and the cops, and the capitalist system they defend, that should be deprived of the "right" to beat, incarcerate, and execute working people.

The labor movement has a big stake in defending the precious rights we have won.

Every step the courts take to undermine democratic rights should be met by forceful public protest.

Indict cops; stop mass frame-ups

Political mobilizations in the streets across the country are needed to demand that President George Bush immediately indict the four officers who savagely beat Rodney King.

While the government hesitates to do this, Washington has not been at all reluctant to send an additional 60 federal investigators and prosecutors to Los Angeles to aid city authorities in their plan to railroad to jail many of the 17,000 arrested in the days following the antipolice riot. While most federal army troops have been withdrawn from Los Angeles, 10,000 National Guard troops remain, aiding the police in daily roundups.

A massive propaganda campaign by all capitalist politicians is under way. It aims to paint those who protested in outrage as "hoodlums" or "evil people." The underlying cause of the outbreak is that "some people are rotten," says one California Republican senatorial candidate. Patrick Buchanan calls them "barbarians."

This is part of a concerted effort to shift the focus of the political debate away from the injustice done to Rodney King. By their example of throwing thousands of people in jail, Republican and Democratic party politicians alike are trying to make working people hesitate to take any kind of political action to defend our rights.

The thousands of working people and youth who have

been rounded up, and who are now being framed up by the cops, need defending. The thousands in jail must be freed and the charges dropped.

Bush, Democratic presidential front-runner William Clinton, and all other major capitalist politicians, demonstrate their attitude towards working people in Los Angeles and everywhere else, with their "solution" that consists of making available some loans to the damaged businesses and spending more resources on the police to weed out "criminal elements."

"People are looting," says Clinton, "because... they do not share our values, and their children are growing up in a culture alien from ours, without family, without neighborhood, without church, without support." All the capitalist candidates echo a version of this.

To this, the labor movement needs to counterpose an internationalist program of demands to unify working people, both employed and unemployed, and across borders. The fight for jobs for all is central to this. This begins with the demand for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay.

Mobilizations advancing such demands are needed along with the fight to jail the cops who beat Rodney King and to end the police and military crackdown against the working people of Los Angeles.

Strike lessons from Germany

"After 11 days of mounting piles of garbage in Germany's streets, undelivered mail, halted trains and grounded planes, German public sector workers forced the government to give them more than it wanted to." That is the *Wall Street Journal's* assessment of the results of the strike that just ended in western Germany.

The German government wanted public workers in the west to accept austerity, claiming that Bonn needs extra money to sustain the economy of eastern Germany. But the workers didn't buy it.

Reunification, at first touted as a big success for German capital, is instead fueling instability in Europe's most powerful imperialist nation. Far from having reestablished capitalism in eastern Germany, Bonn finds that it is funneling money into a bottomless hole.

The successful strike by public-sector workers underscores even deeper problems ahead for German capitalists. "The settlement," the *Wall Street Journal* explains, has broader implications. It is also "a setback for Germany's private sector." Metalworkers and printers who are also threatening to strike for higher wages, will be more confident as a result of the public workers victory.

The strike has shaken the government. As the strike began, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher quit — after 18 years on the job. While not directly related to the strike, his resignation is a symbol of the crisis flowing out of the disaster reunification has become for the German rulers.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's worries are not over. Workers in eastern Germany did not join this strike. They earn wages much lower than those of their fellow unionists in the west. Capturing the mood of many in former East Germany, one worker told the *New York Times*, "We're not striking now, but we will be soon, because we want 80 percent of what they get on the western side sooner than the Mayor has promised to give it to us."

The potential for workers in eastern and western Germany to join together in struggle against a common enemy is greater now than it has ever been since the two parts of the country were artificially divided following World War II.

The fact is that, in the public-sector strike, the unions unleashed merely one-tenth of their potential power. Only 250,000 of the union's 2.3 million members were called out on strike, yet the breadth and strength of the action were impressive.

For workers trying to draw the lessons of the Caterpillar strike in the United States, for young people wanting to know what to do next to fight against the acquittal of the cops who beat Rodney King, for working people fighting austerity and injustice around the world, the real message is: If you fight and organize, you can win.

Metalworkers in Germany, who could soon be on strike for higher wages, deserve the support and solidarity of workers everywhere.

'We can make it harder for cops to attack us'

BY ELIZABETH STONE

LOS ANGELES — Sixty people packed the Militant Labor Forum here May 9. A panel of activists in the fight against police brutality were the featured speakers.

Randall Peterson, a Black construction worker, described how he got involved in the anti-cop-brutality fight after being beaten by Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies when his car broke down in August 1990.

"I had my head under the hood to see what was wrong, and when I looked up it was straight into the barrel of a sheriff's deputy's gun." After sending him to the hospital, the deputies brought charges against Peterson. He won in court and is now suing the cops.

Another panelist, oil refinery worker Eli Green, raised the need to fight for indictment of the cops who beat King and demand that charges against the thousands arrested in the anticop riot be dropped. Green is the Socialist Workers candidate for county supervisor in District 2.

A lively discussion began when one of the forum participants, Marvin Roberts, questioned whether getting the cops indicted would do any good. "Won't the police keep doing the same thing, even if some go to jail," Roberts asked.

Peterson responded that he did not think the cops would change fundamentally. "These are racists," he said, "Every minority man who drives a BMW or a Cadillac they see as a drug dealer. The police are out of control, the drugs are out of control, and there is no leadership. People just keep putting band-aids over it."

Green agreed that "cops, by their very nature" will continue to brutalize working people. "So long as working people and farmers do not control the government, so long as the rich rule, we will have brutality," he said. "But we can make it harder for them to attack us if we build a movement strong enough to force the guilty cops to go to jail."

Kevin Jones, an aerospace worker and congressional candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, added, "We have to keep the focus on the Rodney King verdict that sparked the anticop riot and protests in the first place."

"Everyone is talking about, 'Let's start the healing process, let's send food to the victims, money to the businesses burned.' Well, that's fine, but how can you have a healing process with these cops who the whole world knows are guilty walking around free and thousands of working people in Los Angeles are in jail on flimsy and phony charges."

Henry Peco Justice Committee

Theresa Allison, cochair of the Henry Peco Justice Committee, which is fighting to expose the truth about the police killing of 29-year-old Henry Peco at the Imperial Courts project, also spoke. She described how many youth at the project were arrested during the riot on curfew violations. "They are giving 30, 60, and 90 days in jail just for people sitting on their doorsteps," she said. "We have to oppose this."

Members of the Peco Justice Committee continue to be harassed and arrested on phony charges to discourage them from continuing their fight. "When you organize the right way, they go after you," Allison said. "But we have to stick together. We cannot let these protests die out."

Barry Schier, an activist in the El Rescate refugee center, reported that on May 8 the Service Employees' International Union (SEIU) organized a demonstration of several hundred immigrant workers, linking the beating of King with the cop attack on a "Justice for Janitor's" demonstration several years ago.

Another participant in the discussion described how on May 9 cops dispersed hundreds of demonstrators organized by a coalition of unions and political groups to protest cuts in social services. Some demonstrators were arrested.

"We need to fight for our right to demonstrate and join those around the country and world who are organizing large demonstrations," Green pointed out. "This is what has been lacking during the whole past year."

"Those who claim to represent workers in this city — the politicians and the labor officialdom — have done almost nothing to mobilize working people in the King case," Green explained. "In fact, as the frustration built up, as the trial was moved to Simi Valley, they blocked any response."

Green described a candidate's forum sponsored by the Los Angeles Black Journalists Association which he participated in May 7. "The candidates at that forum included elected officials who represent the areas most affected by the anticop riot," Green said, "yet no one but myself raised the need to mobilize people to put the guilty cops in jail. This, despite the fact that 90 percent of people polled say they favor indicting the cops who beat King."

Peterson ended the forum by calling on all those at the forum to get involved. "We have to get the message out, take flyers to our jobs, our churches," he said.

Correction

An article on page 5 of the May 15 issue, "Beating violated 'the most elementary rights of Rodney King,' says socialist," contained a typographical error. The article was the text of a talk given by Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate James Warren in Los Angeles May 3.

In the third column of the text, it should have read: "They tried to say that this is not a political case, that it is not a racial case. We disagree. It was the case of four racist cops beating yet another working person, a Black worker."

Colorado miners win pact after one-year strike

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

Working people around the world are involved in skirmishes 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

heated the picket shacks through the Rocky Mountain winter. They were boldly painted with prostrike slogans. Cyprus never attempted to resume production or hire scabs.

The union won major improvements in the pension package for current and future retirees as well as spouses. Not only will they get substantial pension raises, but retirees and spouses will no longer have to fear medical insurance cutoffs, which would have hap-

only against Cyprus but against the cops and courts. The union had to fight off numerous frame-up efforts. One worker still faces criminal charges, but the union forced the company to agree that no workers would be disciplined for so-called strike misconduct.

Solidarity grows for New Zealand textile workers

Solidarity is growing for nearly 90 workers at Christchurch Carpet Yarns who have now been locked out by their employer for more than 10 weeks.

Members of the New Zealand Meat Workers Union at the Sockburn meat-packing plant in Christchurch, New Zealand, recently voted to give \$3,200 (NZ\$6,000), the largest single donation to date. Workers at CFM Canterbury, the city's other major meat-packing plant, donated \$1,000 to a collection on pay day. Bus drivers, waterfront workers, seafarers, textile and garment workers, churches, and many other organizations and individuals have donated money and food.

At the local Toyota vehicle assembly plant the Engineers Union site committee posted information about the dispute on the union bulletin board and sent a delegation to participate in the picket line. Individual workers from a number of other unions have also joined the picket line.

Representatives of the locked-out workers have spoken at local union meetings of seafarers and waterfront workers, as well as worksites covered by their own union, the Food and Textile Workers Union.

The Christchurch Carpet Yarn workers struck February 17 when the company proposed a new contract that included alterations to pay rates for overtime and weekend work as well as shift allowances. The proposal did not incorporate the existing redundancy (severance) agreement and removed all mention of the union.

The company also demanded a new clause allowing them to change any part of the contract at a

month's written notice. The workers believe this would be used to cut bonuses, which make up between a third and half of their wages, and undermine working conditions.

Shortly after the strike began, the company declared a lockout in an attempt to force the workers back under its terms. A public relations firm was hired to send out procompany propaganda to the news media and to the locked-out workers and their families.

The workers established a round-the-clock picket line outside the factory. Initially the pickets succeeded in stopping trucks carrying supplies in and out, but sizable contingents of police are now being used to clear a route through the pickets.

More than 40 workers crossed the picket line early in the dispute. In recent weeks, however, only one person has gone back. The company has also hired a considerable number of "temporary" workers, and 80 or 90 people are now working in the plant, which before the dispute employed 135 process workers. The strikebreakers work 12-hour shifts, but have been unable to reach the factory's previous output.

Steelworkers fight LTV's demand for concessions

Hundreds of steelworkers in Cleveland, both active and retired, attended United Steelworkers of America (USWA) union meetings April 21 to hear an update on negotiations with LTV Steel and to respond to the steel bosses' threat to impose a concession contract.

In a letter to the *Cleveland City Reports*, a local paper, the executive board of USWA Local 2265 at LTV took the stand, "Just say no to concessions." It warned that "if the company violates their signed agreement and convinces the bankruptcy judge to void this existing contract, we will be locked out."

On February 14 LTV announced it had reached an agreement with creditors that would allow it to come out of bankruptcy by the end of the year. The com-

pany has been in bankruptcy proceedings since 1986. A key part of the company's plan is to renegotiate its wage and benefit plan with union workers.

In late March LTV Steel Corp. announced its intention to use the bankruptcy courts to impose a contract on the USWA if it did not get the wage and benefits cuts it wanted through negotiations. The company threatened it might file under Article 1113 of the bankruptcy code to set aside the current contract and put in place a new one. There have been no negotiations since then.

USWA members are angry about this new company threat. "They want to force a contract down our throats," said Steve Mowery, who has worked in the plant for 16 years.

The company demands on steelworkers include a wage cut of 50 cents an hour; no more Sunday premium pay; a 35 percent cut in incentive pay; a health plan forcing workers to assume 20 percent of medical expenses, which could cost a family as much as \$3,000 per year; and elimination of the company-paid half of retiree major medical insurance.

The current USWA contract does not expire until August 1993. The six union locals at LTV represent about 5,000 steelworkers. Thousands of retirees who worked for the former owners, Republic Steel and Jones and Laughlin, are covered by the contract. Funding for their pension is one of the biggest issues in the bankruptcy proceedings.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Dave Salner, member of United Steelworkers of America Local 8319, and Bill Arth, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 2-591 in Salt Lake City, Utah; Stuart Needham, member of New Zealand Meat Workers Union in Christchurch, New Zealand; Michael Italie, member of USWA Local 14919, and Don Mackle, member of USWA Local 1170, in Cleveland.

ON THE PICKET LINE

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.

"They tried to bust us and they couldn't," said United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1799 vice-president Delbert Archuleta.

After almost a year on the picket line, the 160 members of UMWA Local 1799 in Craig, Colorado, ratified a contract that they considered a victory and a gain for their union and all working people.

Cyprus Minerals had demanded that miners pay 20 percent of their medical costs, plus cost adjustments. It also pushed for deep cuts in the pension package.

The UMWA local mobilized its members on a weekly basis in a "corporate campaign" of public pressure against Cyprus and its customers, such as Colorado Public Service. The miners traveled throughout Colorado and made four visits to unions in Salt Lake City.

The union maintained round-the-clock pickets. Wood stoves

opened under the program Cyprus wanted to impose. The union also won a raise over the five-year contract. The union agreed to a medical plan where miners will assume 10 percent of the costs but will not be subjected to medical cost increases.

The unionists were dissatisfied that only 55 miners were scheduled for immediate recall. But most felt that many more would be quickly called back in order for Cyprus to fill existing orders.

Two weeks earlier the union had firmly rejected a tentative agreement because it contained a 21-day grace period restricting grievances against the company for foremen working.

Another provision would have allowed the company to bring some miners back for up to 28 days without their full package of sick pay and other rights. Mine workers rejected this because it would have been an opening for establishing temporary worker status and inequality in the workplace.

Union members demanded and won a ban on mandatory overtime until all workers are recalled.

"We did a lot better than the Caterpillar strikers," said Archuleta. Several local members said they were disappointed that the United Auto Workers officialdom had called off that fight. The local had sent messages of support to the Caterpillar strikers.

Archuleta explained that the strike represented a victory not

LETTERS

'Proud to be UMWA'

The contract of United Mine Workers of America Local Union 2350 with Meco International, formerly the Dowty Corp., expires Sept. 27, 1992. The company insists on postponing contract negotiations till eight weeks prior to expiration.

The April 16, 1992 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* revealed that Meco has been lobbying behind the scenes for ordinances to ban residential picketing in two townships it straddles, Marshall and Cranberry. Marshall Township did pass such an ordinance, refusing to identify the company which initiated it, but Cranberry is debating it, and revealed to the *Post-Gazette* that Meco International is the source.

Local 2350 members responded with a leaflet addressed to the citizens of both townships, warning that the First Amendment rights of entire communities should not be violated by a handful of corporation executives. The leaflet calls for a rejection of the ordinance in Cranberry and a reconsideration of the one in Marshall.

Meco is a British-owned multinational with operations in South Africa. It has been organized by UMWA Local 2350 since 1977, when the UMWA won a six-month recognition strike. Meco has never stopped trying to undermine the UMWA there. After the Pittston protest of June 1989, Meco used a former local union officer to attempt to initiate a decertification of

the union. The membership categorically rejected decertification, and that former union officer was later rewarded with a company job.

We 2350 members are proud to be UMWA and will do whatever it takes to remain so. We want a contract, we want it yesterday, and we demand that Meco, for the first time ever, begin bargaining and dealing with the union and community in good faith.

Newton Brown
member, UMWA Local 2350
New Brighton, Pennsylvania

'Very satisfied'

I've been subscribing to the *Militant* for about a year and I am very satisfied with it, because I don't see any of these articles in any other magazines. The *Daily News*, *New York Post*, the *Star Ledger*, and the *New York Times* newspapers don't print what I can read in the *Militant*. The *Militant* is real.

J. R.
Jersey City, New Jersey

Frame-up in Brazil

On April 16, 1992, External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall announced that the Canadian government would not help to free two young people who are Canadian citizens serving 28-year sentences in a Brazilian prison for a crime they did not commit.

Two years ago, David Spencer and Christine Lamont, longtime Vancouver human rights activists,

were arrested in São Paulo, Brazil. They were charged with the kidnapping of Albino Dinez, a Brazilian millionaire businessman who was held captive in a secret room in a house they shared with several other people. They had no knowledge of the kidnapping.

Dinez himself has stated that he had never seen them before and that there was no evidence of their involvement. In fact, Dinez paid part of the legal costs of the defense of Spencer and Lamont.

Paul Evaristo Arns, archbishop of São Paulo, is convinced of their innocence and has spoken out about his serious misgivings about the trial.

Originally, David and Christine were given respectively 10 and 8 years in prison. But when they appealed their case, their prison terms were increased to 28 years each!

As foreigners, they aren't eligible for parole. Their lawyers failed in an attempt to have the trial reclassified as political. The police withheld evidence which would have proved the political nature of the case.

The events unfolded during a hard-fought presidential campaign and were used to discredit the Brazilian Worker's Party (PT), by claiming all the accused were members of that party.

All appeal procedures have been exhausted and the only recourse is that the Canadian government request their expulsion. The Brazilian government has already agreed to do so if it receives such a request.



However, Barbara McDougall has made it clear that the government of Canada intends to leave them in prison in Brazil.

The families and friends are organizing a protest rally in Vancouver on May 9. They are also appealing for people to send protest letters to Rt. Hon. Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada, Langevin Block, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2, Canada.

Barbara Howie,
Surrey, British Columbia

American 'justice'

National Public Radio on its morning broadcast May 3 reported that an editorial had appeared in the Saturday edition of a semi-official Egyptian newspaper (maybe the *Cairo Times*). The editorial had dis-

cussed the verdict in the Rodney King case and what it showed about the American "justice" system.

The verdict in the King case should strengthen the resolve of the Arab people to resist the U.S.'s demands for the extradition of the two Libyans wanted for their supposed involvement in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. If Rodney King couldn't get a fair trial in spite of the video footage seen all over the world, what chance do the Libyans have? The editorial asserted that in many ways, a miscarriage of justice in the Lockerbie case would be a more serious blow than even the King verdict, given the way the U.S. government will use such a verdict.

Gary Boyers
Detroit, Michigan

Denmark: 10,000 rally to condemn fatal bombing of socialists' office

BY DAG TIRSEN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — More than 10,000 people marched in Copenhagen, Denmark, to protest the murder of Henrik Christensen, who was killed March 16 when a powerful letter bomb exploded in the headquarters of the International Socialists in that city. Many suspect ultrarightists were responsible. The demonstration was supported by seven political organizations and 60 trade

unions, among them Christensen's own local of the General Workers Union. More than a hundred statements protesting the murder, many of them from local unions, were also received by the International Socialists.

The big-business media initially suggested that Christensen had been killed while making a bomb that exploded. The cops also spread this allegation.

The media had to drop this false accusa-

tion when a postal worker testified that he delivered a heavy package to the International Socialists office just a few hours before the explosion.

During the first two weeks after the murder there was no response from the main political parties. This changed after the big demonstration, however.

The city assembly of Copenhagen held a minute of silence at the time of the demon-

stration in commemoration of Christensen. A broad range of parliamentarians issued a statement condemning the murder.

Many have pointed to government responsibility for the emboldened right-wing violence. The Danish government has been intensifying its attacks on the rights of immigrants and refugees. Chauvinist scapegoating of immigrants has been the focus of rightists' stepped-up activities.

"The government creates the water that the racists are swimming in," said Tom Christensen, a leader of the International Socialists.

Two weeks after Henrik Christensen's murder, for example, the minister of justice proposed a new rule requiring that everybody seeking asylum in Denmark be fingerprinted. Feeding the anti-immigrant propaganda campaign, the minister argued for the measure by claiming, "There are examples of people who have tried to apply for welfare in different countries at the same time."

The ruling party and the social-democratic opposition party are discussing a new "law on foreigners" that would place further restrictions on admitting refugees into the country.

Frame-up victim is freed in Canada

BY DEREK BRACEY

David Milgaard was released from prison April 16 after serving 23 years on a false murder conviction. After reviewing his case, the Supreme Court of Canada overturned his conviction and recommended a new trial as a result of new evidence, including recanted testimony from key witnesses and information about another possible suspect in the case.

Robert Mitchell, attorney general for Saskatchewan where the murder took place, said Milgaard would not be retried. He said, however, that he would stay the murder charges for a year, meaning the charge could be reactivated.

Milgaard's attorneys are seeking an inquiry into police procedures used at the time of the murder investigation, as well as financial compensation for his time in prison. Mitchell has said neither would occur because the court ruled that Milgaard received a fair trial and because he has not been declared innocent.

The court review came after a years-long campaign by Milgaard's family and a growing number of supporters to overturn his conviction.

Milgaard was tried in 1970 for the 1969 rape and murder of Gail Miller. Central to his conviction were the testimonies of two people who were with him the day of the murder.



David Milgaard after his release from jail, pictured with his mother. He served 23 years on a false murder conviction.

Union Carbide to cut 500 union construction jobs in W. Virginia

BY TOM NICHOLS

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia — Union Carbide, a huge multinational corporation based in South Charleston, West Virginia, announced it will be shutting down its construction division June 30. This will throw approximately 500 hourly employees out of work. The workers first heard of the shutdown through news reports April 15.

The construction division has been operating since 1920. In 1990, a successful organizing drive brought in Local 298 of the International Association of Machinists (IAM).

Union Carbide did not do away with the actual jobs. It announced it will hire outside contractors to do the work, principally the notorious nonunion Brown & Root construction company based in Texas.

Most of the affected workers have an average of 17 years on the job. The majority were just short of early retirement. Over the winter months hundreds of laid-off workers were told, some just days before the announcement, that they would be called back this spring to build chemical units.

At an April 16 union meeting of 250 members, workers were stunned and angry. Many wanted to figure out how to fight back. Workers pointed to the terrible safety record of Brown & Root, which

has been responsible for deadly chemical plant and oil refinery explosions in the past in Texas and Louisiana. Construction and maintenance workers in chemical plants like Union Carbide, which produces chemicals containing cyanide — including the chemical MIC that killed thousands in Bhopal, India — need rigorous and ongoing training. Brown & Root and other nonunion contractors pay low wages, move workers around often, and offer scanty training.

Unions in Kanawha Valley, formerly the "chemical center of the world," where several large chemical corporations such as DuPont, Monsanto, Union Carbide, Occidental Chemical, FMC, and Rhone Poulenc are located, tried unsuccessfully to block Brown & Root when the company was first contracted in 1989. There was picketing, organizing, and joint meetings of representatives of several unions, including the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, IAM, and the building trades. But Brown & Root gained a foothold and, with Union Carbide's actions, many fear that all maintenance and construction jobs will eventually become nonunion.

Tom Nichols is a charter member of International Association of Machinists Local 298 and a 15-year employee of Union Carbide's construction division.

During the review one of them, Ronald Wilson, told the Supreme Court of harassment and threats by the police during interrogation. Another, Nichol Demyen, testified that she was incapable of providing evidence on the murder.

Milgaard's case has received wide publicity as an example of the lack of justice in Canada's criminal court system. His lawyers are confident that compensation can be won. One lawyer, Hersh Wolch, said, "If a man has spent 23 years in jail and hasn't got a conviction, isn't that what compensation is all about?"

Sweden pro-choice supporters counter antiabortion action

BY KERSTIN GRANBERG AND CATHARINA TIRSEN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Five thousand opponents of abortion rights demonstrated here April 25, organized by the anti-abortion organization Yes to Life. The demonstrators walked through central Stockholm behind Swedish flags and singing the Swedish national anthem and religious songs.

The antiabortion forces, however, had to walk through lines formed by some 200 defenders of abortion rights who chanted "Illegal abortion never again" and "Defend the right to free abortion."

Many Saturday shoppers in downtown Stockholm expressed their support for the pro-choice counterdemonstrators and a couple joined them. One said, as she joined the defenders of abortion rights: "I didn't even know this [antiabortion march] was happen-

ing. I was demonstrating here exactly 20 years ago for the right to abortion. Now it is time to act again." Others shared her astonishment: "Can this be happening here in Sweden?"

In discussions, most pro-choice protesters agreed that a big abortion rights demonstration should be organized right away.

The antiabortion demonstrators gathered at a big meeting in a downtown Stockholm square to listen to religious songs and speeches by several pastors who led the march. The meeting ended by the singing of the song "God Bless Sweden."

During the whole antiabortion meeting the pro-choice demonstrators, surrounded by police, continued to make their point of view known in one by their chants and by holding a big banner reading, "Prohibition of abortion = illegal abortion = murder of women."

New Zealand students vote against proposal to station cops on campus

BY MALCOLM STUART

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — In a victory for civil rights, 170 students at Victoria University met, debated, and voted 3-1 against the proposal for a "community constable" being stationed on campus.

The proposal for the police presence came from the university administration. Currently police are banned from Victoria and other campuses as a result of student struggles years ago.

The motions approved at the April 29 student meeting stated that the presence of police would "tend to undermine the free and open exchange of ideas," and recommended action to overturn the administration's proposal.

Students who supported the administration's proposals, including a trainee cop, argued that one lone constable could not suppress ideas. The cop at Massey University, 80 miles north of Wellington, was liberal, they said. They claimed he ignored under-age drinking laws and kept marijuana smokers clear of the courts.

Student leader Rob Smissen, who also spoke on the issue at a Militant Labor Forum, replied. He explained that the police in New Zealand are as racist and reactionary as they are elsewhere and have a history of harassing legal protest. He cited a recent police raid on the Auckland Unemployed Rights Centre where several activists were clubbed; one was badly beaten and later arrested.

Other speakers mentioned police spying and disruption during the protests in 1981 against a rugby tour by a team from South Africa, and the recent armed assault by police on Syd Jackson, a prominent Maori trade union official wrongfully accused of bank robbery.

A few days prior to the meeting, police had baton-charged hundreds of students at a party in Dunedin.

A number of students explained after the meeting that this was the first time they had attended a political activity like this and were excited by their victory.