

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

A reply to Boston area attacks on Mark Curtis

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Defend abortion rights!

The following statement was issued June 30 by James Warren and Estelle DeBates, the Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. president and vice-president.

In upholding both the Pennsylvania restrictions on abortion rights and the principal pillars of the *Roe v. Wade* decision, the Supreme Court has handed working people and youth who support abortion rights a new challenge: mobilizing the majority support the court fears, to combat the persistent chipping away at abortion rights under way since 1973.

As shown in the inspiring victory for women's rights scored in Buffalo, we can rely on our own power and strength to fight both rightist assaults on clinics and new legislation aimed at curtailing the right of women to safe and legal abortion. In that fight the Democratic and Republican parties and their candidates — whether male or female — are not the ally of working people, but the chief architects of the assault on abortion rights that has hit working women the hardest, especially those of oppressed nationalities.

From Buffalo to Milwaukee to Baton Rouge young people, especially, are demonstrating a different road forward than that practiced by the established leaderships of the National Organization for Women, Planned Parenthood, and the National Abortion Rights Action League. The leaders of these organizations have said abortion rights will survive only if supporters elect "friendly" Democrats or Republicans and look to November to make a statement at the ballot box. They went so far with this dead-end strategy as to urge the court to overturn *Roe* if it did not choose to declare Pennsylvania's laws unconstitutional.

The court's decision was overtly political. It registered what the wealthy rulers of this country have achieved in pushing back women's right to choose abortion. It is consistent with the character of attacks on abortion rights, from the Hyde Amendment to a

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Wave of mass protests sweeps across S. Africa

ANC breaks off negotiations after massacre

BY GREG McCARTAN

Facing government intransigence at the negotiating table and a campaign of intimidation involving assassinations and massacres, workers, youth, and rural toilers across South Africa are joining in a sustained series of mass rallies, protest marches, and strikes called by the African National Congress.

The country was virtually shut down June 29 as millions observed a day of mourning for some 40 residents of Boipatong township killed in an attack organized by the regime's security forces.

Picket lines and other events took place around the world, heeding a call by democratic organizations in South Africa for international solidarity with the anti-apartheid struggle.

African National Congress (ANC) president Nelson Mandela called for the July mass action campaign after the latest round of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa) negotiating sessions, involving 19 political organizations in the country, hit a deadlock. The South African Congress of Trade Unions and other organizations fighting for a democratic republic are also joining in the July actions.

"We are determined that the minority in this country is not going to dictate to the majority," Mandela said in response to the South African regime's insistence that minority veto rights be codified in any new government. The ANC has long fought for majority rule, based on one person, one vote.

The power of the oppressed

"The government currently has no intention of being persuaded by argument to give up power," an ANC statement said. "We have no choice but to call on the only power at our disposal: the voices of the disenfranchised and oppressed who have waited too

long for democracy."

ANC secretary general Cyril Ramaphosa told the press that the random shootings of township residents across the country and the massacre at Boipatong are the government's response to the mass action campaign. In the days leading up to the launching of the actions, 79 people were reported killed.

"We charge [South African president] F.W. de Klerk and his government with complicity in this slaughter," he said of the Boipatong massacre. "It is becoming clear that the government's agenda is that they want to negotiate with an ANC that is powerless and has no following."

The London *Independent* wrote of the Boipatong events: "Everybody — about 30 reporters fanned out around the township interviewing eyewitnesses — gave a similar version of the event."

Late in the evening police arrived in armored vehicles and dispersed, with pellets and tear gas, youth guarding barricades erected to protect the community. The de-



Rally in Evaton addressed by Nelson Mandela was one of many actions that protested massacre in Boipatong township.

fense teams had prepared for an attack since word had spread earlier in the day that residents of a nearby hostel, the crude dormitory for workers at the state-run metallurgical monopoly, Iscor, were preparing an

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100,000 demonstrate against war at Belgrade protest rally

Washington moves closer to military intervention in Yugoslavia's civil war

BY SETH GALINSKY

In the biggest demonstration yet against the policies of Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic, some 100,000 people demonstrated June 28 in Belgrade demanding that he resign.

The *New York Times* reported that "at the rally, religious figures, labor leaders, students and professors deplored what they described as the dictatorial and demagogic rule of the government and called for replacing blood-letting with a policy of negotiations."

The toll from the war has reached 7,200 dead, 25,000 injured, and 1.3 million driven from their homes in the last three months.

Meanwhile, the United States is moving closer to military intervention in Yugoslavia.

President George Bush met for two hours June 26 with Pentagon and Defense Department officials to consider "options for an expanded role."

In recent days the conflict has escalated, with military units of Serbian rightist forces maintaining constant bombardment of Sara-

jevo and forces backed by the Croatian government increasing their actions in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Reflecting some of the hesitations within the Bush administration and U.S. ruling circles, Secretary of State James Baker told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee June 23 that the White House had "not ruled out — we haven't ruled it in but we have not ruled out — participating in some multilateral operation" in Yugoslavia.

The senators questioning Baker made it clear that they favor military action.

"I would support efforts that would, say, allow helicopter landings of food and medical supplies supported by fighters," Sen. Paul Simon told Baker.

The world needs "some type of international police force" under U.S. leadership, Simon stated.

The day after the hearings the outgoing commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, U.S. general John Galvin, said that NATO forces were "uniquely ready" for such a mission.

Galvin described intervention in Yugoslavia as "our moment of great chance," and an opportunity to "stabilize this part of the

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Socialist candidate visits Cuba, pledges solidarity



Militant/Selva Nebbia

Socialist presidential candidate James Warren (right) meets with Parmenio Ortega (left), head of 32nd brigade of Blas Roca contingent, and other members of brigade, which is now working in agriculture. See article on page 16.

Campaign reports — Pages 10-11



Germany passes pro-choice bill

The German Parliament voted June 26 to adopt a new law allowing abortion on demand in the first three months of pregnancy. In spite of opposition from Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the law was approved by a vote of 357 to 284, with the support of many deputies from Kohl's ruling Christian Democratic Union.

After East and West Germany were reunified in October 1990, abortion remained legal in the east and heavily restricted in the west.

"The final decision can and must be up to the woman," said Rita Süßmuth, a leading Christian Democrat who backed the bill.

Israeli military favor negotiations

A survey published June 21 indicates that a large majority of former Israeli generals believe the government should be open to conceding complete control over territories occupied by Israel since 1967 in exchange for advancing negotiations with the surrounding Arab regimes. The poll showed that 68 percent were prepared to allow some limited form of Palestinian control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip; seventy-one percent would return "a substantial part" of Syria's Golan Heights if it would help win accords.

Labor Party wins Israeli vote

The Labor Party, headed by Yitzhak Rabin, soundly defeated the governing Likud Party in national elections that took place in Israel June 23. A central debate in the elections was the ongoing Mideast peace negotiations involving Israel, Palestinian representatives, and the surrounding Arab countries. Rabin promised he would open discussions on Israeli control of the occupied territories as part of the negotiations. Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir rejects that perspective.

Russia threatens Moldova

Russian president Boris Yeltsin said he was ready to order the Russian army into regions of the former Soviet Union. Yeltsin said that Russian armed forces would take action in Moldova if the conflict did not end. "We have the strength to do it," Yeltsin stated. Russian vice-president Alexander Rutskoi added, "If one more shell falls on the territory of a military unit or on civilian headquarters, the side that launched it will get 10 times as much in return."

In Georgia, government armies are bat-



Police wade through a wheat field to reach road blockaded by French farmers

ting groups seeking to become part of Russia. In Moldova, separatist forces have received active military support from Russia's 14th Army, which is still based in the country. "We have to call a spade a spade — we are at war with Russia," Moldovan president Mircea Snegur said.

Ramos new Philippine president

Fidel Ramos was proclaimed the winner of the Philippine presidential election by the congress, after six weeks of counting ballots and fraud investigations. Ramos, a leading figure in both the Ferdinand Marcos and Corazon Aquino governments, will be inaugurated June 30.

Ramos has stated that he intends to hold peace talks with the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party, as well as with a layer of military officers that have made several coup attempts against Aquino.

French farmers protest

Farmers in France have organized a series of protests against the European Community's new farm policy. Farmers have dumped tons of produce in the streets of major cities, set up road blocks on highways, and have jammed traffic in many areas with tractors. A group of farmers has announced plans to blockade Paris until the policy is reversed.

The movement, spearheaded by large farming concerns and capitalist growers, is protesting an agreement reached by EC member governments in May. Many working farmers have been drawn into the ac-

tions. The agreement will eliminate price support guarantees. Governments will instead supplement farmer's income with direct aid payments.

Casper Weinberger indicted

Former defense secretary Casper Weinberger became the highest ranking Reagan administration official to be charged with crimes in the Iran-contra investigation. Weinberger was indicted June 16 on five felony counts including lying to Congress and obstructing government investigations. Among the charges is concealing 1,700 pages of diary notes on the government operation to finance the contra war against Nicaragua with sales of military equipment to Iran at a time when aid to the contras was prohibited by law.

Weinberger's indictment has led to increased calls by the right wing for President Bush to stop the investigation by independent counsel Lawrence Walsh. Some are demanding an end to all independent counsels. Walsh's five-year-long investigation, which began under the Reagan administration, has cost an estimated \$30 million.

Zaire seizes oil company assets

The government of Zaire announced June 6 that it is seizing the assets of all foreign oil companies in an effort to ease fuel shortages and "to prevent the already sick national economy from dying of suffocation." The government said that the measure is temporary, that companies will be reimbursed for supplies taken, and that equipment and property would be returned, although no date was given.

Zaire's economy is rapidly deteriorating, with 4,000 percent inflation each year and a depreciating currency. In January 1990, the national currency, the zaire, exchanged at 300 to a U.S. dollar. Currently the official rate is more than 200,000 to the dollar.

Japan's stock market declines

Japan's stock market continues to decline,

hitting on June 20 its lowest point since October 1986. The market dropped 598 points to 15,921.22 which represents a 59 percent decline in value since the market peaked in 1989. The stock plunge comes as more pessimistic news was released on the direction of the Japanese economy.

Iraqi people continue to suffer

Recent studies show the extent of suffering that the Iraqi people continue to endure, nearly 16 months after the U.S. war on the country ended. Nearly 30,000 children under the age of five have died in the first four months of 1992. The most common cause of death is malnutrition and dehydration. This follows a Harvard Study Team report, which documented more than 70,000 children under five that died in 1991 as a result of the war and continuing economic sanctions. Infant mortality has risen 310 percent compared to pre-war Iraq.

Iraq's ability to purify water has yet to recover, and the country's electrical system is only at 60 percent of pre-war levels. Much of Iraq's agriculture depends on the electrical system for supplying power for irrigation. A recent U.S. government report revealed that 70 percent of U.S. conventional bombs missed their targets; 20 percent of the 88,500 tons of bombs dropped on Iraq have yet to explode.

El Salvador teachers strike

The National Association of Salvadoran Educators (ANDES) called a strike of 27,000 teachers May 31. Jorge Villegas, general secretary of ANDES, said that teachers' average salary of 1,200 colons (\$150) per month doesn't even meet basic needs. ANDES is seeking a raise of at least 400 colons. The union has just announced that it intends to begin organizing hunger strikes in selected areas to press their demands.

Navy chief resigns

Navy Secretary H. Lawrence Garrett, the U.S. Navy's highest-ranking official since 1989, resigned June 26.

His resignation stems from his attendance at a convention of the Tailhook Association, a private group of Navy pilots held September 7 in Las Vegas. Drunken groups of pilots and officers surrounded women in the hotel and forced them to pass a gauntlet where the men grabbed at their breasts and buttocks and stripped their clothes.

Garrett claimed he was unaware of the mass sexual harassment. But missing interviews that "turned up" in June showed Garrett had passed by the hallway where the main incidents took place.

—DEREK BRACEY

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Pro-choice activists defend abortion clinics in Milwaukee against right-wing

BY RICHARD GAETA

MILWAUKEE—The Milwaukee Clinic Protection Coalition is organizing successful countermobilizations against attempts by Missionaries for the Preborn to close down the city's six clinics that provide abortion services here. The antiabortion group has turned out 750 people who have gathered for a six-week campaign to shut the clinics down.

Protests have taken place at three of the city's clinics. At Summit Women's Health Organization, 300 defenders of abortion rights faced off opponents. At the Affiliated clinic, pro-choice activists outnumbered rightists and at the Wisconsin Women's Health Care Center clinic, defenders numbered 800 to 150 antichoice protesters.

At the Women's Health Care Center, Rick Giombetti, a student from Madison, said, "I came here last November and witnessed a 'rescue' where the cops took three hours to arrest 96 people. There were 35 pro-choicers watching—there was no defense. Two months ago there was no pro-choice coalition. But, today this says it all."

Over the course of the week, 326 anti-abortion protesters were arrested, 116 of them children—some as young as seven years. The children do not pay fines for trespassing or disorderly conduct, and were released to the custody of an adult.

At the Women's Health Care Center, clinic defenders locked arms in rows three or four deep and surrounded the parking lot chanting, "Hey hey; ho ho; we kicked you out of Buffalo. He, ho; he, he; we'll kick you out of Milwaukee."

Applause erupted when two buses with sixty officers arrived. Many credited the police with keeping the clinic open.

The following day abortion rights activists were barred from the clinic. After 30 abortion foes were arrested for charging the doors, police allowed clinic defenders free movement. Stephen Glynn, an attorney

supporting the coalition said, "If they had let us do our job this wouldn't have happened."

According to pro-choice activists, it took 30 cops one hour to arrest the "antis" while 600 choicers watched.

Janet Barisonzi, an activist from Madison, said, "If the antichoice groups try to break our line we're going to stop them."

Joann Maske, a teacher and antiabortion activist, protested across the street with ten others from the Lutheran Pastors for Life. "I don't have a problem with the way they express their opinion," stated Maske. "But, I personally won't do it that way. Abortion goes against what my lord says, thou shall not get pregnant. You have a choice. And if she did not have a choice God will get her through it somehow."

Businessman and Missionary activist David Borchardt said of the actions: "We worry about children protesting but we are not concerned about children getting killed."

A petition to the mayor was circulating among the Missionaries for the Preborn, demanding the release of those arrested for "saving lives." In a cynical attempt to portray themselves as victimized civil rights advocates, the petition states that "at one time Blacks and Jews were non-entities. Now Christians that are saving lives are non-entities." They chanted, "He he ho ho, murder for profit has to go."

Pro-choice advocates retorted, "Freedom is a lot to lose—we'll protect our right to choose."

Clinic defender Josie Osborne said, "It really surprised me to see how many cars would go by and honk for choice. Construction workers, truck drivers—not your stereotypical feminists—they all honk."

Another activist added, "The days of the redneck trucker is dissipating—the truckers keep honking."



Militant/Dennis Chambers

Pro-choice supporters defending abortion clinic in Milwaukee. Antiabortion protesters have been successfully outmobilized at three of the city's clinics.

A few clinic defenders held placards that said, "Pass the Freedom of Choice Act," referring to a congressional bill to legalize abortion if *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court ruling decriminalizing abortion, is overturned. But most clinic defenders didn't know much about the law and placed little hope in it.

An elderly woman said, "The law is

only one tactic. Without action like this—it's meaningless."

Clinic supporters came from all over the country to defend Milwaukee's clinics. Among the activists were members of Buffalo United for Choice, who are teaching pro-choice activists successful techniques used to oust supporters of Operation Rescue in Buffalo.

Outcome of railroad dispute is setback for labor movement

BY PAUL MAILHOT

The outcome of the latest dispute between rail workers and the wealthy owners of the rail industry was a setback for the labor movement.

On June 25 Congress ordered rail workers back on the job for the 18th time since 1963 after employers responded to a strike by 1,500 members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) against CSX with a nationwide rail shutdown.

Three separate rail worker disputes came to a head on June 24—one involving machinists and the entire rail freight industry, another with the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE) against the Conrail freight line, and a third involving six unions and the Amtrak passenger line. Union members in all three disputes, who haven't had a contract since 1988, were legally free to strike on June 24 after having gone through lengthy, federally mandated "cooling off" periods.

Rather than organizing a strike at all the affected lines, union officials decided to set up pickets at CSX, the nation's third largest freight carrier. They rationalized the limited character of the strike by arguing that, since the strike would only affect a regional car-

rier, Congress would not be able to pass back-to-work legislation under the pretext of a "national emergency."

But the tactic backfired when the employers responded in a decisive manner by organizing their own strike against the unions, locking out rail workers within hours at 38 different companies, and thereby causing a slowdown of goods moving across the country. Companies heavily dependent on "on time" delivery of goods by rail, such as the auto manufacturers, began announcing production cutbacks almost immediately. When the rail union officialdom made it clear they had no intention of turning the lockout into a strike, Congress quickly passed legislation ordering a settlement for all the rail unions involved in disputes.

Congress imposed a new 20-day negotiating period for the companies and the unions. If no agreement is reached after that time labor and management are to submit their "last best offer" to an arbitrator who picks one or the other within 15 days. Unless President Bush disapproves of the arbiter's decision it becomes law within three days.

This latest government action brings virtually every rail worker in the country under

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Judge awards funds to Curtis and his attorneys

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Imprisoned unionist and political activist Mark Curtis won a victory in federal district court June 29 in the final settlement of a civil rights case against the Des Moines cops. Judge Charles Wolle ruled that the defendants, police officers Wolf and Dusenberry, must pay to Curtis \$11,000 and to his attorneys \$49,000 plus interest.

The ruling stems from a challenge filed by attorneys for Keith and Denise Morris, the parents of the woman Curtis allegedly raped. The Morris's argued they were entitled to this money as a result of an \$80,000

monetary compensation judgement they had won against Curtis on January 9, 1991. Curtis won his suit against the Des Moines cops a year later on January 31, 1992.

Morris had demanded that money awarded to Curtis's attorneys for costs in taking this civil rights case should instead go to him. The judge ruled against Morris, stating, "The attorney fee contract signed by Curtis operates as a valid assignment to his attorneys of any recovery on this claim."

The court also rejected Morris's claim to the \$11,000 awarded to Curtis because they filed the necessary legal papers too late.

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Conference schedule

Wednesday, August 5:

EVENING FEATURE PRESENTATION: "The Communist Manifesto Today" by Jack Barnes, National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party.

Thursday, August 6:

FEATURE PRESENTATION: "The Communist Foundations of the Fight for Women's Rights" by Mary-Alice Waters, Editor, *New Internationalist*.

- Lunch
- Class and Workshops
- Dinner

MULTI-MEDIA PROGRAM: "Expanding the Arsenal of Revolutionary books and Literature—Reconstruction of the Pathfinder Building."

Friday, August 7:

Feature presentation: "The Struggle in South Africa Today" by Greg McCartan, Editor, *The Militant*.

- Lunch
- Classes and Workshops
- Dinner

International Youth Panel.

Saturday, August 8:

FEATURE PRESENTATION: "The Changing Face of Europe" by Sven Carlson.

- Lunch
- Classes
- Dinner

RALLY: Hear James Warren and Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. President and Vice-President.

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Delegates throughout the Americas attend conference on legacy of Che Guevara

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

ROSARIO, Argentina—"Discussion about political alternatives in Latin America and the Caribbean today must begin from an international perspective," said Germán Sánchez at the opening of an international seminar on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the birth of Ernesto Che Guevara.

"There has been a historic failure of capitalism, which Che explained," Sánchez added. Around the world, and particularly in Latin America, "there can be no development within capitalism. Claims of 'growth' hide the fact that 'there is a dramatic decline in the living standards of working people. It is necessary to look for solutions outside of and in opposition to capitalism," he said.

Sánchez was one of two delegates of the Communist Party of Cuba at the conference, which took place June 12-14 here at the birthplace of Che Guevara—an Argentine who became one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution.

The gathering, hosted by the Argentine Communist Party and a number of other organizations on the left in this country, was entitled, "Debate and Search for a Revolutionary Political Alternative in Latin America and the Caribbean Today: Homage to Ernesto Che Guevara."

Some 300 delegates and observers took part in the conference. Forty-nine of these delegates came from 23 organizations in 13 countries in the Americas other than Argentina.

Participants included representatives of the Workers Party (PT) of Brazil, the Communist Party and the Simón Bolívar Guerrilla Coordinating body of Colombia, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) and the Communist Party of Chile, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), the Revolutionary Democratic Party of Panama, the Communist Party of Paraguay, the Unified Mariateguista Party (PUM) of Peru, several organizations that are part of the Broad Front of Uruguay, and the Socialist Workers Party of the United States.

Besides the Communist Party of Cuba, the only other organizations from the Caribbean that sent representatives were the Lavalas movement from Haiti, and the Communist Party of the Dominican Republic, whose delegate also represented the Dominican Caamaño Revolutionary Front.

Most of the organizations at the Rosario meeting had participated in two previous gatherings of political parties from Latin America and the Caribbean called the São Paulo Forum. The Forum was first convened in São Paulo, Brazil, in July 1990. Its second meeting took place in June 1991 in Mexico City.

The São Paulo gathering, hosted by the



Some 300 participants attended conference in Argentina: 'Debate and Search for a Revolutionary Political Alternative in Latin America and the Caribbean.' Final declaration stated, 'Capitalism has not offered any solutions to crises affecting our societies.'

PT of Brazil, had issued a strong declaration on behalf of the socialist and anti-imperialist left in Latin America and the Caribbean. The final resolution adopted by the Mexico City meeting of the Forum registered a notable retreat from the São Paulo declaration. It reflected the weight of procapitalist forces such as the Revolutionary Democratic Party of Mexico, the host organization, which orients to electoral contests in the hope of taking over the reins of the capitalist government. It also reflected the accelerated rightward shift of organizations such as the FMLN and the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) of Nicaragua, as they increasingly abandoned the vestiges of an anticapitalist program and searched for accommodations with U.S. imperialism.

A third meeting of the São Paulo Forum is scheduled to take place in Managua, Nicaragua, July 16-19.

Many of the organizations and individuals at the Rosario conference had joined the debate as part of the anti-imperialist and pro-socialist forces at the Mexico City gathering last year.

Soviet Union breakup

One of the points of debate at the Rosario

meeting was what caused the breakup of the Soviet Union and its implications for the relationship of forces in the working-class movement internationally.

Grave errors committed during the presidency of Leonid Brezhnev in the former Soviet Union "facilitated the entry of the Trojan horse, perestroika, which destroyed the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe part by part," said Manuel Ramos of the CP from Paraguay, "until it decimated those countries under the political banner of 'more democracy, more socialism'."

Ramos argued that "it was the anti-communist gang headed by [Mikhail] Gorbachev in collaboration with imperialism" that was responsible for the fall of "Eastern European socialism."

The Cuban delegate presented a different view. "It is not our socialism, not the socialism that we aspire for, that died," said Sánchez. What many refer to as the "crisis of socialism" in the former Soviet Union has its roots "in strategic errors committed in the second half of the 1920s."

The late 1920s and the early 1930s was the period, after the death of V.I. Lenin, when a bureaucratic layer headed by Joseph Stalin consolidated control of the leadership of the Bolshevik party and destroyed it as a revolutionary organization.

"We don't think that that kind of old socialism will be reborn nor do we wish that it be reborn. We strive for the socialism that the Cuban revolution fought for," said Sánchez. "Cuba does not just deserve your solidarity, but the course of the revolution that Che advocated serves as an example."

In a written contribution distributed to conference participants, Sánchez explained, "The grave errors and explosive failures of the self-proclaimed real socialism, which in the name of so-called socialist democracy attempted to impose unpopular, anti-democratic and therefore anti-socialist regimes, laid the basis for its self-destruction."

Dozens of delegates and observers took the floor throughout the two-day conference to address some of the same themes. The meeting was organized as a single plenary session, which allowed most of those who spoke to address the gathering only once.

'New world disorder'

"Contrary to what many spokespeople for imperialism argued earlier, we are not faced with a new world order but a new world disorder," said Aaron Ruby of the Socialist Workers Party from the United States. He is a candidate for city council in Washington, D.C. "We live in a period of a world economic depression when the conflicts between Washington, Bonn, Tokyo and other imperialist powers are intensifying."

The U.S.-led war against Iraq, its domestic application in May against the people of

Los Angeles, and the recent threats of imperialist military intervention in Yugoslavia and Haiti show that the capitalist rulers will lead humanity to World War III if they can inflict defeats on the working class, explained the socialist candidate. "The resistance of working people, from South Africa to Thailand, to the onslaught by the wealthy rulers," said Ruby, "show that the working class will get its chance to take the power out of the hands of the warmakers before such a world disaster."

Ruby pointed to a speech in March by former president Richard Nixon, who explained that the U.S. did not win the cold war. "In fact Washington lost the cold war," said Ruby. "The collapse of the bureaucratic regimes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union means that imperialism has to confront workers there directly. There is for the first time in decades the possibility of joint action between workers there and in the capitalist world."

"In today's world, Che's communist perspective and the example of the revolution he helped to lead are more relevant than ever," stated Ruby.

Conference participants were quite interested in discussing politics in the United States, including the recent antipolice riot in Los Angeles. The socialist candidate was interviewed by several radio stations, including a live show, and a local TV station during the course of the conference.

Role of elections

Another point of discussion was the participation in electoral contests and the election to government posts of candidates from some of the parties at the gathering.

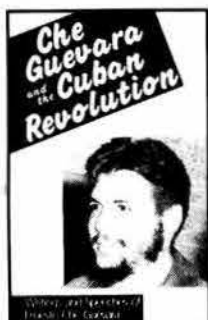
"We want to win governmental elections not to administer the economic crisis, but in order to form popular, national, anti-imperialist policies," said Hugo Cores, parliamentary deputy of the Party for the Victory of the People (PVP) from Uruguay. The PVP is part of the Broad Front, a coalition of parties headed by retired Gen. Liber Seregni, which runs the city government in Montevideo, Uruguay's capital.

Luis Eduardo Greenhalgh, a member of the national directorate of the PT and deputy mayor of São Paulo, recounted recent experiences of the party in winning local governmental posts. "Many comrades who spoke of revolution, who were part of the struggle, after they get elected in office tell workers to be reasonable, patient, and responsible," he said. The PT needs to focus its attention on advancing the interests of the workers, Greenhalgh said.

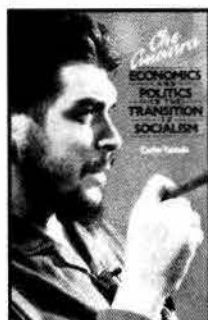
Greenhalgh referred to Cuban president Fidel Castro's June 13 speech at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. "Fidel spoke yesterday for four-and-a-half minutes

Continued on Page 5

further reading from Pathfinder on Che Guevara today



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Argentine students protest government plan to slash funds for public education

BY AARON RUBY

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Huge banners reading "In defense of public education" filled the streets of central Buenos Aires June 19 as more than 10,000 high school and university students marched from the School of Medicine to the National Congress. It was the largest student protest since 1986.

The demonstration capped off a series of rallies, marches, and sit-downs in the streets against proposed government measures to slash federal funding for education. The student protests coincide with a fight by high school and college teachers across the country for higher pay.

"We're marching in defense of public education so that it doesn't become a privilege of the rich," explained Daniel Yasky, a student at the School of Social Communications.

Banners and signs called for "No tuition!" Public university education is currently free. The proposed measures by the government of Carlos Saul Menem will result in monthly tuition fees of up to \$120. Students also carried placards demanding, "No to payment of the foreign debt" and "Don't convert the university into a shopping mall!"

Ariel Rodríguez, president of the Federation of University Students of Argentina (FUA), which called the march, said, "The government is slashing funds for education and other social services to pay the foreign

debt. We can never allow the standard of living of workers and peasants to be destroyed in order to pay the debt."

"We're not willing to pay for a diploma. Education is our right!" said Paula Guersenyvaig, 20, a science major at her first demonstration. Luciano Delaura, an 18-year-old sociology major, asked, "If they don't have the money for education then how can they pay the foreign debt?" Veronica, another sociology student, wasn't sure if the students would win but, "the only thing we can do is to protest."

The protests began in early June with the resignations of 75 teachers at the Bernasconi school over pay inequalities and then rapidly spread to other schools around Buenos Aires. "We're not going to let them privatize the schools even if we have to shut the whole country down," said Leandro Rodríguez, general secretary of the student council at the Carlos Pellegrini High School in Buenos Aires during a 5,000-strong demonstration of high school students June 17. "Students and teachers are together in this fight," he added.

Teachers at federally funded schools receive a monthly base pay 40 percent lower than at municipal schools.

A government-announced pay raise to gradually level salary inequalities between teachers paid by the municipalities and the state was rejected as insufficient by the



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

June 19 march in Buenos Aires was largest student protest since 1986

teachers union, which has called a nationwide 72-hour strike for the last week of June.

Recent government moves to end federal education funding, by transferring financial subsidies currently paid by the federal government over to the cities and provinces by July 1992 are seen as an attack on the right to free public education. Municipal and provincial authorities say they do not have the necessary funds. There is no government proposal as to how educational budgets will be met following the proposed transfers, which leaves open the possibility of massive privatization of schools.

Other workers have also been taking to the streets in protest. On June 10, nearly

3,000 aircraft workers, organized in the Association of State Workers (ATE) occupied the highway to Córdoba, one of the largest cities in Argentina, to protest 15-day layoffs by the company.

In addition, medical center employees in Buenos Aires have organized sit-downs demanding that they be permanently assigned at full pay to their current jobs.

The protests by students and workers are unfolding as the economic and social crisis in Argentina worsens. Thirty children die each day of malnutrition. Illiteracy has now reached 80 percent in some northern regions of the country. Tuberculosis has increased by 40 percent since last year. Cholera has reached epidemic levels with more than 400 officially acknowledged cases this year.

In this situation rightist forces using populist demagoguery are getting a hearing. Military officers who led attempted coups over the last years have formed the Movement for National Dignity (Modin), a rightist party. Modin posters in Buenos Aires call for "Loyalty, stability, and patriotism." By denouncing corruption and the increasingly difficult conditions that the poor face in strident nationalist terms, Modin garnered some 20 percent of the vote in the September 1991 elections in poor working-class sections around Buenos Aires.

Former army colonel Aldo Rico, who is the head of Modin, stated in a recent newspaper interview that Argentina is "on the edge of a conflict with Chile" due to the "imbalance produced by the lack of national power."

Conference discusses Che Guevara

Continued from Page 4

and was applauded for more than five minutes. Fidel told the heads of state what we've tried to explain all along in Rio. That the biggest environmental problem, the animal that faces extinction in Latin America and the world is called 'human being,' he said.

The PT delegation attracted the interest of many participants. Luis Bilbao, director of the magazine *Crítica* published in Buenos Aires, said that the formation of a similar workers party was possible and necessary in Argentina.

Defending Cuba

Defense of Cuba's sovereignty and its right of self-determination was a theme that ran throughout the conference. The final declaration adopted by the meeting called for defending Cuba "from the prescriptions and changes that the United States attempts to impose on it."

"We call for defense of [Cuba's] self-determination and its socialist road, which has permitted it to exhibit gains and values that demonstrate its superiority over the dramatic conditions that face the rest of the continent."

Reflecting the assessment of many delegates that the crisis of capitalism has caused devastating conditions for working people in Latin America and the Caribbean, the final declaration said, "Now more than ever this barbarous capitalist civilization has brought life in our underdeveloped and oppressed part of the continent to the brink of death."

In the United States, the declaration said, "intense racial and social protests, a sharpening of the recession and the questioning of its bipartisan system by broad sectors of that society, exhibit a growing deterioration of its internal situation and its notable decline as an economic power."

"The crisis also affects other capitalist powers and is reflected in strong inter-imperialist contradictions. That points to conflicts for the redivision of the world which result in serious tensions and risks of new confrontations."

"But that is not all... Capitalism has not offered nor can it produce any solutions to the crises affecting our societies."

In the Third World, the declaration continued, "all the models and policies implemented through the structures of dependent capitalism, whether fascist, liberal, populist, neoliberal, or reformist have generated a

tragedy that continues to get worse."

The declaration affirmed the participants' "anti-imperialism." In vague terms it spoke of "the necessity to fight for alternative economic and political models that with the protagonism and participation of the people can produce integral democracies that can guarantee the advance toward an authentic socialism."

Most delegates felt that, even with the ambiguities of the adopted declaration, the gathering would help to increase collaboration of the anti-imperialist forces in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The declaration condemned the suspension of the constitution and democratic rights by president Alberto Fujimori and the

armed forces of Peru.

A separate resolution was adopted calling for an end to the repression by the military regime in Haiti and the return of deposed president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Another resolution demanded the freeing of political prisoners throughout the Americas.

At the end of the conference, a meeting of representatives of all the parties present decided to continue the discussion begun at the Rosario gathering. The magazine's editorial board will include representatives of the PT; the PRD of Panama; the Communist Parties of Cuba, Argentina, and the Dominican Republic; and the magazine *Crítica*.

Supreme Court strikes down 'hate crimes' law

BY GREG ROSE

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously struck down as unconstitutional a St. Paul "hate crimes" ordinance on June 23. Similar laws have been adopted in dozens of cities across the United States and at public universities.

The St. Paul law states, "Whoever places on public or private property a symbol, object, appellation, characterization, or graffiti, including, but not limited to, a burning cross or Nazi swastika, which one knows or has reasonable grounds to know arouses anger, alarm or resentment on the basis of race, color, creed, religion or gender commits disorderly conduct and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

The challenge to the law was brought by Robert Viktora, a self-proclaimed white separatist. On June 21, 1990, Viktora and some friends were drinking and talking about causing some "skinhead trouble," and "burning some niggers." The four teenagers constructed a cross, took it into the yard of Russ and Laura Jones, a Black family that had recently moved into that east St. Paul neighborhood, and set it on fire.

Both Viktora and his friend Arthur Miller were charged under the "hate crimes" law. Miller pleaded guilty and was sentenced to thirty days in jail. But Viktora challenged the ordinance as unconstitutional. Viktora still faces assault charges, which city officials

have done little to press.

Court Justice Antonin Scalia, writing the majority opinion, was joined by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, and Justices Anthony Kennedy, David Souter, and Clarence Thomas. Scalia concluded that "the ordinance is facially unconstitutional in that it prohibits otherwise permitted speech solely on the basis of the subjects the speech addresses." Scalia said that the "First Amendment does not permit St. Paul to impose special prohibitions on those speakers who express views on disfavored subjects."

Scalia wrote, "Let there be no mistake about our belief that burning a cross in someone's front yard is reprehensible. But St. Paul has sufficient means at its disposal to prevent such behavior without adding the First Amendment to the fire." Several liberal commentators wondered aloud whether the court's ruling inferred that cross burning is an act of free expression.

Since the city of St. Paul brought charges on the basis of such "speech," it allowed Robert Viktora to claim that he was simply exercising "freedom of expression" by burning the cross on the Jones's lawn.

Justices Byron White, Harry Blackmun, and John Paul Stevens concurred with the majority opinion, but were critical of its breadth, arguing that more narrowly worded hate laws might be consistent with First Amendment protections.

Civil liberties and civil rights groups took opposing positions on the law. The NAACP, Asian American Legal Defense Fund, and B'nai Brith supported it, while the American Civil Liberties Union argued against it.

Thomas Zachary, youth coordinator for St. Paul's NAACP, told a press conference "if a person burns a cross on my yard, I'm going to shoot him. There's no ifs, there's no ands, and there's no buts about it. The Supreme Court will never get a chance to do any of that if you burn a cross on my yard."

Russ Jones, whose family was targeted in the cross burning, told the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, "The people who did this will think of it as a victory. That's where I have a problem when I think of the constitution."

Rev. Oliver White said, "This ruling by the Supreme Court now provides 100 percent octane of horror."

Chris Nisan and Jo Rothenberg, Socialist Workers candidates for Congress from Minneapolis and St. Paul, respectively, denounced city officials and the cops for not doing enough to convict the teen thugs under ordinary legislation.

"The problem with the law," said Rothenberg, "is that it is so vague and general it can be used to deny freedom of speech, not just terrorist and threatening actions like cross burnings. Under a law like

Continued on Page 16

'Militant' gets good response from rail workers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The *Militant* has been part of the discussions about how to respond to the bosses' offensive against the rights and living standard of rail workers. As these discussions have unfolded over the past several weeks, socialists active in the United Transportation Union have sold 65 *Militant* subscriptions to rail workers — 108 percent of their goal.

Sales to rail workers have been brisk leading up to the contract deadline and what turned into a national lockout by the rail bosses. In Los Angeles, campaign supporters have been organizing special teams to reach rail workers with the *Militant*. During the past week more than 60 papers have been sold to rail workers in the Los Angeles area and at a rail center located in Barstow, California, where socialist campaigners sold 4 papers at the rail yard and another 16 at a nearby shopping center.

In New York, sales teams visiting several rail yards sold 15 papers last week in addition to some 15 papers sold by socialist rail workers on the job during the past several weeks.

As petitioning drives to place the Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot have moved into high gear in a number of states, socialist campaigners have been meeting and introducing the *Militant* to thousands of working people and youth.

In Chicago, where a drive to collect 30,000 signatures has just been successfully completed, supporters sold 25 *Militant* subscriptions over the course of the three-and-a-half-week petitioning effort. Pat Smith reports: "Most of these were sold from campaign tables set up by the petitioning teams.

Many bought the *Militant* because it is the campaign newspaper and the way to follow what the campaign has to say. Of great interest was the *Militant's* coverage on Rodney King and the demand to stop the frame-ups in Los Angeles."

Many of the participants in the June 12-14 conference on the legacy of Che Guevara held in Rosario, Argentina, eagerly signed up to receive the Spanish monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*. A total of 45 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions and one to the *Militant* were sold to those attending this gathering.

As the circulation campaign heads into the final stretch towards the July 25 deadline, a number of cities have raised their *Militant* goals. These include: Los Angeles, New Haven, Connecticut, Vancouver, British Columbia, and Auckland and Wellington, New Zealand. Supporters in Sweden have already reached 100 percent of their goal.



'Militant' sales at Newark, New Jersey, protest to condemn cop shooting of Howard Caesar.

Massive antiwar protest in Belgrade

Continued from front page

world — not only the alliance, but Central and Eastern Europe."

The *New York Times* and *Washington Post* have repeatedly called on Washington to intervene sooner rather than later. In a June 24 editorial, the *Times* argues that fears about "a bloody Balkan quagmire" should be put aside and decisive action taken.

The debate over intervention is often

framed as a question of how to stop the Serbian "aggressor." The United States insists that any intervention take place under United Nations cover or with the support of other European governments.

But underlying the discussion is Washington's desire to defend its military and political dominance and strike a preemptive blow against its potential rivals in Europe, especially Germany.

From the beginning of the war between rival regimes in the various former regions of Yugoslavia the goals of the rulers of the United States, along with its junior partner in Britain, have collided with those of Germany. Bonn backed early recognition of Croatia as an independent state, forcing Washington to reluctantly follow suit.

Washington's fears of Bonn's intentions to play an increasingly dominant role in Europe were further heightened by the May announcement of a new joint French-German military corps that by its very existence calls into question U.S. leadership in the region.

The German government has begun supplying modern arms to the regime of Franjo Tudjman in Zagreb, Croatia. An article in the June 24 *Washington Post* states that 150 German-made 205 millimeter Messerschmitt howitzers, with computerized targeting systems and a 17-mile range, were sold by Bonn to the Croatian government four months ago along with tanks. A Bosnian artillery specialist described the guns as "the best howitzer in the world."

The Croatian government, after losing one-third of its territory to Serbia in earlier fighting, has begun to take the counteroffensive both in Croatia and Bosnia with the aid of its newly acquired German weapons.

The new armaments allowed the previously outgunned Croats to push Serb forces out of one part of Bosnia-Herzegovina last week and place it under Croatian control.

The French government meanwhile, according to the *Post*, refused a U.S. request to fly U-2 spy planes headed for the Balkans over French territory.

Paris told Washington to obtain United Nations authorization first. The *Post* claims that France is "soft on Serbia."

Not an ethnic war

Muslim, Croat, Serb, and other residents of the Bosnian region have a long history of living and working together. Inter-marriage is common and in many neighborhoods the various ethnic groups are intertwined.

Iso Papo, a 70-year-old retiree, told the *New York Times* that the Belgrade-backed forces that have been reducing Sarajevo to rubble "are fascists."

"Look at the people here," he said pointing to those sharing a Sarajevo basement shelter. "This gentleman is a Serb. So is this one. I am a Jew, he is a Croat and this lady here is a Muslim. So what is this nonsense about an ethnic war."

"They try to say that what is going on here is a war between Serbs and Muslims and Croats, but it is not true" he explained. "It is a war between terrorist killers and ordinary people."

The Serbian rightists in Bosnia are backed with heavy arms and in some cases, air power, from the Belgrade-based Yugoslav army, giving the lie to Milosevic's claims that he has no control over them.

One of the main groups behind the fighting is Radovan Karadzic's Serbian Democratic Party, the sister party in Bosnia of Milosevic's Socialist Party. Other armed groups tied to rightist political parties that back the campaign of Karadzic, for "an ethnically pure" Bosnia purged of non-Serbs have names like the Tigers, White Eagles, and Chetniks.

According to news reports, the Serbian rightists have some support among Serbs in the Bosnian countryside. But in the cities, they have relied entirely on terror, not just against Muslims and Croats but also against Serbs. Serbs who refuse to join the rightist forces have been beaten.

Selling the socialist press to unionists

Union	% Sold (Goal)	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES				
ACTWU	53%	55	29	5
IAM	63%	110	69	8
ILGWU	70%	46	32	6
OCAW	92%	39	36	3
UAW	93%	75	70	3
UFCW	68%	90	61	10
USWA	78%	85	66	1
UTU**	108%	60	65	15
TOTAL	76%	560	428	51
SHOULD BE	75%		420	112
AUSTRALIA				
MTFU	120%	5	6	0
SHOULD BE	75%		4	2
BRITAIN				
AEU	10%	10	1	1
NUM	30%	10	3	0
RMT	100%	17	17	3
TGWU	73%	15	11	0
TOTAL	62%	52	32	4
SHOULD BE	75%		39	18
CANADA				
ACTWU	75%	8	6	3
CAW	46%	15	7	2
IAM	80%	5	4	1
USWA	50%	16	8	4
TOTAL	57%	44	25	8
SHOULD BE	75%		33	11
SWEDEN				
FOOD WORKERS	50%	4	2	3
METAL WORKERS	118%	11	13	3
TOTAL	100%	15	15	6
SHOULD BE	75%		11	5

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEEU — Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union; CAW — Canadian Auto Workers; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MFTU — Metal Trades Federation of Unions; NUM — National Union of Mineworkers; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT — Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers' Union; TGWU — Transport and General Workers' Union; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; USWA — United Steelworkers of America.

* Includes subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

** Raised goal

Sales Drive Scoreboard

Areas	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		L'inter-nationale		New International		Total	
	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Seattle	120	107	89%	35	20	3	3	25	22	183	152
Des Moines, IA	130	105	81%	25	20	2	1	40	16	197	142
Los Angeles*	200	150	75%	110	87	4	1	110	66	424	304
Washington DC	130	96	74%	20	23	10	3	55	35	215	157
Salt Lake City	130	94	72%	20	8	2	0	30	9	182	111
Philadelphia	85	61	72%	20	22	3	0	30	12	138	95
Birmingham, AL	80	57	71%	5	2	2	0	40	2	127	61
Chicago	150	104	69%	35	19	5	0	70	25	260	148
Twin Cities, MN	140	97	69%	20	12	2	0	30	15	192	124
Pittsburgh	90	60	67%	5	5	2	0	30	3	127	68
Greensboro, NC	80	52	65%	8	8	2	1	15	6	105	67
San Francisco	150	96	64%	50	12	8	0	70	45	278	153
Atlanta	90	57	63%	8	8	2	1	30	14	130	80
Houston	80	50	63%	20	13	2	0	20	6	122	69
Newark, NJ	160	100	63%	50	23	15	9	70	22	295	154
Morgantown, WV	80	49	61%	3	3	2	0	30	20	115	72
St. Louis	100	60	60%	5	1	2	0	25	1	132	62
Portland	10	6	60%	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	6
Boston	135	78	58%	40	39	15	2	50	24	240	143
Baltimore	110	62	56%	12	8	3	2	30	5	155	77
Detroit	140	69	49%	10	3	2	0	30	18	182	90
Miami	110	48	44%	30	20	15	15	45	27	200	110
New York	250	103	41%	100	17	20	6	110	39	480	165
Cleveland	90	33	37%	10	1	2	1	20	11	122	46
New Haven, CT*	20	7	35%	4	1	0	0	6	3	30	11
Cincinnati*	39	13	33%	3	0	0	0	5	2	47	15
Wilmington, DE	10	2	20%	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2
Ft. Madison, IA	5	1	20%	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
U.S. TOTAL	2,914	1,817	62%	648	375	125	45	1,016	448	4,703	2,685
AUSTRALIA*											
BELGIUM*	45	32	71%	14	9	1	0	20	12	80	53
BRITAIN	6	5	83%	2	1	12	1	8	4	16	11
London	80	58	73%	6	2	2	2	40	17	128	79
Manchester	50	36	72%	2	1	1	1	30	20	83	58
Sheffield	50	36	72%	3	1	2	0	25	15	80	52
BRITAIN TOTAL	180	130	72%	11	4	5	3	95	52	291	189
CANADA											
Vancouver*	130	97	75%	15	10	8	3	30	15	183	125
Montreal*	75	50	67%	20	20	30	12	60	30	185	112
Toronto	90	58	64%	20	15	5	2	45	34	160	109
CANADA TOTAL	295	205	69%	55	45	43	17	135	79	528	346
FRANCE											
ICELAND	5	1	20%	2	1	15	11	5	14	27	27
MEXICO	20	13	65%	1	0	1	0	5	2	27	15
NEW ZEALAND	1	1	100%	5	4	0	0	0	0	6	5
Wellington*	50	48	96%	1	1	1	0	10	9	62	58
Auckland*	65	57	88%	5	4	1	0	13	11	84	72
Christchurch	40	35	88%	1	0	1	0	10	2	52	37
Other N.Z.	4	4	100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
N.Z. TOTAL	159	144	91%	7	5	3	0	33	22	202	171
PUERTO RICO											
SWEDEN*	1	0	0%	5	6	0	0	2	2	8	8
TOTAL	3,690	2,413	65%	780	482	208	80	1,334	653	6,006	3,633
SHOULD BE		2,625	75%		563		150		938		4,275
DRIVE GOALS	3,500			750		200		1,250		5,700	

* raised goal

Boston campaign against jailed unionist tries to bolster cop, prosecution frame-up

This is a case about politics, not about rape, Curtis supporters explain

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ
AND ANDREA MORELL

BOSTON — New England has become an important battleground in the Mark Curtis fight. Curtis is serving a 25-year sentence in Iowa after being framed-up on rape and burglary charges in 1988.

A union and political activist, he was involved at the time in a fight to defend immigrant coworkers jailed by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) after a raid at the Swift-Monfort meat-packing plant where he worked in Des Moines, Iowa.

Since his arrest Curtis has rallied international support to prevent the Des Moines cops and prosecution from achieving their aims. They want to close down political space for rank-and-file unionists and political activists who seek to resist employer and government attacks on the labor movement and democratic rights and oppose moves toward war abroad.

A vitriolic campaign against Curtis has been underway here for months. A key component is an article by *On the Issues* contributing editor Fred Pelka titled, "The Strange Case of Mark Curtis: Victim or Victimizer?" It appeared in the spring 1991 edition of the magazine. Pelka, who is based here, and other forces opposing Curtis's fight began to circulate this attack.

In January 1992 Curtis won an important victory for all opponents of cop brutality when a federal judge ruled that Des Moines cops violated Curtis's civil rights when they beat him brutally the night he was arrested. The judge awarded Curtis \$11,000 in damages and attorney's fees. The ruling confirmed that the cops, who four years ago conducted their own investigation of Curtis's beating and declared themselves innocent, lied about what happened that night.

Curtis's victory on this score is important because he maintains that the arresting officers' story about finding him with his pants down in the midst of an assault on a 15-year-old Black woman is a lie as well.

Many who learned of Curtis's civil rights victory were persuaded that, at a minimum, Curtis did not receive fair treatment at the hands of the cops and that his fight for justice deserves attention and perhaps support.

Opponents of Curtis here reacted quite differently. Within weeks of Curtis's victory the campaign against Curtis escalated. On March 14 Mary Bertin, civil rights committee chairperson of the Boston branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), addressed a letter to Curtis supporters and others. Bertin's letter was also signed by Boston NAACP president Louis Elisa.

Claiming she had "thoroughly investigated the Mark Curtis matter," Bertin asserted she had discovered "some disturbing information."

She accused the Mark Curtis Defense Committee (MCDC) of a "campaign of misinformation." Curtis's party, the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), was perpetuating "lies and distortions" in order to defend a member, she claims.

"The efforts of the Defense committee are both racist and sexist," asserted Bertin. "They perpetuate the worst falsehoods about

rape, namely that (1) persons of certain class or political stature could not possibly commit rape and (2) the rights of the rapist dwarf those of the victim — especially if the victim is a person of color."

"**MARK CURTIS IS A VIOLENT RAPIST!**", Bertin concluded with emphasis as she urged all Curtis supporters to "dis-endorse" the Curtis fight.

In fact Bertin has "discovered" nothing new. She simply boldly advances the police and prosecution case against Curtis, attempting to give it new credibility.

Bertin's letter was accompanied by a raft of additional material, chief among it Pelka's article. Also included was a piece produced by an outfit called the Workers League entitled, "Reject [the] Mark Curtis Hoax. A warning to all trade union and civil rights organizations." In addition, readers found a letter to Bertin from Des Moines NAACP president Larry Carter backing Curtis's conviction.

Bertin is also a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. She serves on the board of the Haymarket Foundation which provides funding to a number of different projects in Boston and elsewhere.

Bertin has followed up her letter with a full-time phone-calling campaign demanding to know whether Curtis supporters have sent their "disendorsement" letters. As of this writing 20 individuals have done so, including John Roberts of the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts and professors Howard Zinn and Mel King.

Bertin and Pelka, who in addition to being a writer is an activist in an organization called Men to End Sexual Assault (MESA) joined forces further during the spring. On April 29 they participated in a Cambridge, Massachusetts, cable television show, "55 Alive." Interviewed by a sympathetic moderator for 30 minutes, they promoted the cop-prosecution frame-up of Curtis.

Bertin, MESA, and others produced a flier headlined, "Stop Racism in Your Own Backyard," which deepens their attack on Curtis and the SWP. At a demonstration here protesting the acquittal of the Los Angeles cops who beat Rodney King, Bertin and some of her supporters occupied their time distributing this leaflet.

Bertin and Pelka have also been aided by Barry Shuchter who is associated with the *Labor Page*, a now defunct newsletter. In the spring and summer of 1990 Shuchter engaged in a polemic with New England Curtis supporter Russell Davis in the pages of that publication.

Picket line

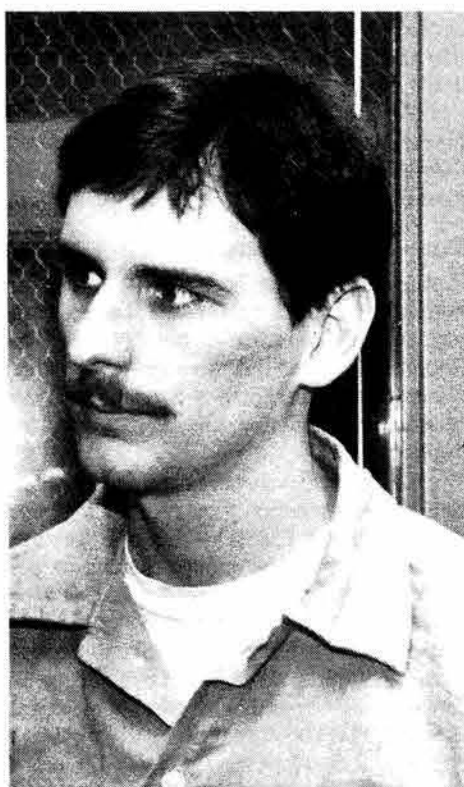
On May 16 Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter led a picket line with five others in front of the Pathfinder Bookstore here in an attempt to disrupt a Militant Labor Forum. The forum, which went ahead as planned, featured a panel discussion on, "Indict the guilty cops now: Justice for Rodney King." Outside, the picketers chanted, "Racist, sexist SWP!" and "Keep Mark Curtis in jail!"

The three opponents of Curtis's fight for justice use the name of the NAACP in particular to try to give their campaign some progressive coloration. The political content

of the arguments put forward by Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter require close examination by all defenders of democratic rights.

Literature distributed by anti-Curtis forces takes direct aim at two democratic conquests of working people: the presumption of innocence and the right to due process. In addition their arguments are laced with a generous dose of anti-communist redbaiting, insisting that most Curtis supporters have been "duped" by the SWP.

In response to this assault on the Curtis fight, New England supporters of the imprisoned unionist have stepped up their efforts to reach out, win new endorsers for the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, and answer this campaign. In an interview, Curtis supporter



Militant/Stu Singer
Mark Curtis in Anamosa prison in 1989. He was sentenced to 25 years on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

Davis singled out some key features of the Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter campaign.

Curtis's political activity

Davis notes that Curtis opponents must deny or shunt aside as insignificant Curtis's record as a political fighter. They seek to minimize the importance of the fight to defend immigrant coworkers that he was involved in at the time of his arrest. This is because many people are aware that the cops frame activists like Curtis.

Like other packinghouse workers in the Midwest, Curtis was under attack before he was ever arrested as the employers and the government drove steadily against wages, health, safety, and other working conditions as well as workers' rights.

Federal immigration cops, in collaboration with Swift-Monfort management, arrested 16 Salvadoran and one Mexican worker on charges of working without legal papers. They hoped to take advantage of the divisions along lines of nationality and language in the plant to deal the workers a fresh blow.

But they miscalculated. In response they got a reaction, a fight. As a rank-and-file worker who had worked day by day to promote working-class unity, Mark Curtis joined in that fight.

Enough support was mobilized to force the cops to drop or lower the charges against the Swift 17, as they were known. But in the course of the battle the cops got their hands on Curtis and were successful in framing him up.

"He's not that important a person," Marti Anderson, the Polk County Victim Services director at the time of Curtis's trial, told Pelka, who quotes her approvingly.

On the television show with Bertin, Pelka takes his slander of Curtis one outlandish step further. Referring to a protest meeting held following the arrest of the Swift 17 and Curtis's participation in it Pelka baldly states,

"The conclusion I reached is that he simply wasn't there and that he made up the entire incident."

Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter hope to convert the Curtis fight into a simple "case" of rape where the only issue is whose word is to be accepted: the accused or the alleged victim.

Just as Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter try to do now, from the beginning the cops tried to use the rape charges to make the frame-up stick, deflect support for the unionist, and justify putting him in prison.

Turning fighters into criminals

Campaigns like the one against Curtis are not unknown in political struggles.

In Des Moines itself Dudley Allison, who led pickets against cop brutality at city hall earlier this year, was arrested as the protests abated. Another example is that of Larry Milton, a Black worker brutally beaten by Des Moines cops last December. After protests against his beating, Milton and his wife were framed up on "theft" charges.

The cop beatings of both Larry Milton and Rodney King were justified by the police on the grounds that both were either "drunk" or "drug-crazed." This is routine procedure in every city, and backed by the big-business media and the courts.

Striking workers often receive similar treatment when they are tagged as "violent" and dragged into court on trumped-up charges.

Another recent example can be seen in Minnesota. Chris Nisan, a young worker with more than a half decade of experience already under his belt leading struggles against racism and police brutality, was a central leader of a demonstration of 6,000 in Minneapolis May 2 called to protest the acquittal of the Los Angeles cops. Nisan is also the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress there.

Within days Nisan received a series of death threats. Subsequently a newspaper popped up running an article titled, "We Say Fuck the SWP."

Every such fight that develops helps to unify working people. It works against the efforts of the employers to play on the competition among workers. The rulers seek to deepen divisions among working people in order to keep them from organizing more effective resistance.

It is fighters like ordinary working people and youth at Caterpillar and in Buffalo who pose the greatest threat to the employer's assault on the unions and democratic rights. These fighters, many of whom are becoming politically active for the first time, develop into the leadership that will be required in the future. Today they are leading by acting politically.

Curtis opponents try to turn activists' eyes away from this reality onto other issues. Pelka, for example, quotes and takes sharp issue with "an SWP supporter" who states, "This is not a case about rape."

The source of this comment is not "an SWP supporter" — one of the countless lies, distortions and unattributed quotes liberally larded throughout Pelka's piece — but Edna Griffin, a veteran of decades in the civil rights struggle in Des Moines. Griffin, an 82-year-old woman who is Black, has defended other frame-up victims in the past, including Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. Since looking into the fight following Curtis's arrest she has been a solid supporter of his defense committee.

Curtis 'a dangerous man'

Griffin said more than, "This is not a case about rape." She continued, "It is about the issue of immigrant workers."

"Mark Curtis is a dangerous man, in my opinion," said Griffin, "because he speaks Spanish and can communicate with the immigrant workers and worked side by side with them in the Swift plant."

Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter decline to identify Griffin because her credentials as a fighter are unquestioned and her entire comment accurately captures the conclusion that so many other fighters have reached.

Continued on Page 8

Literature available from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee

The Stakes in the Worldwide Political Campaign to Defend Mark Curtis by John Gaige. A pamphlet that explains the political background to Curtis's case, the frame-up, and unfair trial. 25 pp. \$1.

On Trial, video of a 21-minute segment on the trial of Mark Curtis from broadcast in 1988 on this nationally syndicated TV show. \$15. Available on VHS, Beta, and PAL.

State of Iowa v. Mark Stanton Curtis. Transcript of September 1988 jury trial proceedings that found Curtis guilty of rape and burglary. 446 pp. \$30.

For these and other materials (including in Spanish) write or call the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311. Phone (515) 246-1695. Payments should accompany orders and checks can be made out to Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Boston campaign against jailed unionist

Continued from Page 7

When the cops got their hands on Curtis they took the keys to his car. If they didn't know who Curtis was before that point they did when they opened the car and found political leaflets publicizing protests against the victimization of the Swift 17, police racism, as well as a meeting to celebrate the victory of the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance in their successful lawsuit against FBI spying and disruption.

Curtis opponents to the contrary, Curtis's political activity was anything but irrelevant to the cops. They confirmed Edna Griffin's point when they called Curtis, "a Mexican-lover just like you love those coloreds," while they shattered his cheekbone as they beat him in jail.



Militant/Arnold Weissberg
Dudley Allison, leader of anti-police brutality fight, at rally celebrating Curtis victory in lawsuit against Des Moines cops.

It is these facts and the politics of the Curtis fight that have led to the worldwide support Curtis has won. Curtis was setting a valuable example in his political activity, but he was not that exceptional. He was and is part of a layer of vanguard workers and youth who want to fight against the attacks on working people. Many other fighters and defenders of democratic rights identify with him.

Presumption of innocence

A component of the campaign against Curtis has been an assault on democratic rights, beginning with the presumption of innocence.

This was signaled shortly after his arrest when Des Moines mayor John Dorrian wrote to a UAW official who had inquired about Curtis's arrest.

"Mr. Curtis was attempting to rape a 15-year-old female. Charges have been filed, and the evidence is quite clear," Dorrian wrote. Dorrian then repeated the police story that Curtis assaulted the cops and defended the beating Curtis received.

In his article, Pelka quotes Des Moines NAACP president Carter who said he "believed from day one that [Curtis] was guilty as sin."

Carter told Pelka that the Des Moines NAACP "told the county attorney's office from the start that we wanted this man prosecuted just as strenuously as we imagine they would prosecute a Black man charged with raping a white teenager."

This is perhaps not so surprising in light of the fact — another one Pelka chooses not to report — that in 1991 Carter presented an award to Des Moines police chief William Moulder for Moulder's "crime fighting efforts."

While not defending the right to the presumption of innocence for Curtis or Blacks accused of a similar crime, Carter was more inclined to defend the presumption of innocence for the Des Moines cops who beat Larry Milton. He was booed on two occasions at mass meetings there when he urged opponents of the beating not to act until all investigations were completed.

Pelka also quotes former Iowa Socialist Party chair Linda Nelson who incredulously told him she had asked Curtis supporters "face to face, 'Do you think he's innocent or guilty?' and they'd say, 'I don't really know, but he was framed.'"

Pelka cannot stomach this but a key point is involved. Supporters of Curtis do not try to, or have to, prove he is "innocent." They point out Curtis's record of political activity, the struggle he was involved in at the time of his arrest, the unfair trial he received, and the fact that he was beaten by the cops.

Curtis supporter Davis notes that Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter's arguments have much in common with recent rulings by the Supreme Court that deny prisoners the right to due process and habeas corpus, the ability to receive a review of new evidence, or to seek other court action. The Court, in its rush to make sure that deadlines for the execution of prisoners are met by the states, has trampled on all these rights.

Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter — like the Supreme Court justices — hold the view that once "convicted," working people like Curtis have had their "day in court." Possibility of a frame-up, violation of due process, or similar actions are set aside.

The full danger of this course was demonstrated this May when both the Supreme Court and Virginia governor Douglas Wilder denied clemency for Roger Coleman, a former coal miner convicted of rape and murder.

Coleman affirmed his innocence and pointed to new evidence but Wilder ignored the pleas to halt the execution and sent Coleman to his death.

Race- and sex-baiting

Arguments advanced by Curtis opponents here are also laden with race- and sex-baiting. On the picket line in front of the Pathfinder Bookstore, Bertin reduced the entire Curtis fight to a choice between the "word of a white man" and that of "an African-American girl."

This is exactly what the cops and prosecution hoped for when they pressed the rape charge against Curtis — that the charges themselves would be enough to scare people away from supporting his defense. The cops hoped fighters for social justice would abandon Curtis for fear of dividing the movement.

Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter claim to speak for "victims." In particular they try to appeal to women whom they portray as powerless and voiceless. Appealing above all to emotion and the fear of sexist violence, they urge women to look to the cops, the courts, and the prosecutors who will work with rape crisis centers to get convictions. These forces are put forward as the real defenders of women's rights and physical safety today.

They counterpose this to a course where women rely on their own united strength and look to other working-class fighters. They urge women not to look in the direction of the working class and its vanguard fighters today, who Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter misname "the left" and describe as "sexist."

They point to a "stop rape movement" which does not exist. Blows that advance the dignity, fighting capacity, and social standing of women in society are being struck today — in front of abortion clinics from Buffalo to Boston — by women and men who are winning victories against right-wing opponents of women's rights.

Violence against women is a part of class society. It grows out of the second-class status of women enforced by capitalism and the terrible distorted relations between men and women that result, as well as the daily, growing brutality of a system that recently produced the mass slaughter of tens of thousands of Iraqis.

Fighters demand that the government take action against those who commit violence against women. But that is different from charting a political course that calls for increased reliance on the cops, prosecutors, and courts to defend women's rights or the rights of any working person.

In his article Pelka attacks the "left" or "progressives" seven different times.

In a particularly revealing moment Pelka refers to the 1930s case of the Scottsboro defendants, young Black men falsely accused of rape by white women and convicted. Pelka points to a similarity with the Curtis case.

"In both cases," Pelka asserts, "the prosecution witnesses, women without access to power and unable to tell their stories, were vilified by the left. In 60 years that much, at least, hasn't changed."

"The Mark Curtis case," Pelka concludes, "is about the insidious and pernicious myths that work to silence rape survivors and pro-

tect their abusers. It is about backlash against the stop-rape movement.

"It is about how easy it is," says Pelka, "for a rapist and his friends to recruit allies in their attack on a courageous young woman who dared to speak out against her abuser."

It is race- and sex-baiting, the purpose of which is to numb objective political thinking. This is the opposite of what all fighters, women, workers, and members of oppressed nationalities must do if they are to think and act clearly.

A piece of literature called "Rape Myths and the Mark Curtis Case," states, "In fact, more than ninety-eight percent of all rapes reported to the police actually occurred as described by the victim. Women and children rape survivors don't lie about their experiences."

What is the source of this remarkable discovery? The flier does not say nor does it offer any evidence to back it up.

Presumably the source — if there is one at all — is the police themselves, who do most of whatever investigating is done of "rapes reported to the police."

This argument is an attempt to appeal to emotion and guilt-bait those who are willing to give consideration to other evidence that might be brought forward in rape cases.

It is a gain of previous struggles for women's rights that more women come forward when they are attacked. And it remains necessary to fight to insure that every woman or child who says they have been attacked gets a fair and adequate hearing of their charges.

In rape cases, like all others, the accused must still have the right to the presumption of innocence and the state must be required to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt.

The notion that any section of the population provide information to the cops with 98 percent accuracy is more than mistaken — it is dangerous.

The murder of Carol Stuart in Boston in October 1989 is a case in point. The murder was reported by Stuart's husband, Charles, who told the cops that he and his wife had been shot by a Black man.

Subsequently an "anonymous" source led the cops to a Black man named William Bennett. The cops proceeded to railroad Bennett relying on the testimony of several young

individual based on such testimony, the odds are at least 98 percent that the accused is guilty. Thus the prosecution need not prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The accused must prove innocence.

This is exactly what Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter demand of Curtis. Any efforts by Curtis to counter the testimony of the alleged victim and her younger brother — 11 years old at the time of the trial — by pointing to facts that reveal the frame-up nature of the prosecution are decreed as "racist and sexist" as well as a "vilification" of the alleged victim.

Right of due process

The anti-Curtis forces are equally willing to gut the right to due process.

Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter lash out at Curtis's contention that he did not get a jury of his peers including those workers who are Black or Latino. The Curtis Defense Committee has explained, "Workers, especially Blacks and Hispanics, are more aware of police lies, beatings, and frame-ups from their own life experiences."

A badly misnamed "Fact Sheet on the Mark Curtis Case" that reshapes arguments from Pelka's article replies, "Curtis, a college-educated white male from a middle class background, was tried by an all white jury. The judge was white, as were both prosecuting and defense attorneys. For Curtis to identify himself with people of color, Latinos and farm workers is condescending and arrogant."

Like their attempts to define Curtis solely as a "white man," the anti-Curtis forces try to deny that he is a worker.

For the better part of his adult life Curtis has been a factory worker. Like many workers today, his family may have been somewhat better off economically than he is now. What has that to do with a working person receiving a fair trial? Nothing.

Like millions of other workers, Curtis has some college education. That too changes nothing about the class he belongs to.

The cops who arrested Curtis knew exactly who he was and acted accordingly. Neither the color of his skin nor his educational level mattered to them. The "background" that did matter was that Curtis is a



Militant
March 12, 1988, protest against deportation of Swift 17 in Des Moines, Iowa. Mark Curtis was framed because of his activities in defense of his immigrant coworkers.

people who are Black including some who testified before a grand jury that Bennett had reenacted the murder in front of them.

This attempted frame-up unraveled when Charles Stuart jumped off a bridge to his death when he feared that his own role as the actual murderer of his wife was about to become known.

In the wake of this explosive development the U.S. Attorney's office here was pressured to conduct a probe of the cops' attempted frame-up of Bennett. Although no charges have ever been brought against a single cop, the investigation revealed that the cops pressured their witnesses into testifying against Bennett with threats of beatings, imprisonment, and frame-ups on false drug charges.

Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter's intention is equally clear — and dangerous. If women and children never lie about their experiences and 98 percent are never even mistaken about any detail of what they report, once the cops bring rape charges against an

worker who was involved in struggle.

Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter's attempt to deny the facts about who Curtis is and to divide him from other workers and fighters is another sign of the notions their arguments are laced with.

"Skin color doesn't mean a damn thing today when it comes to the battle for justice," Edna Griffin told a September 1988 rally backing Curtis in Des Moines. Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter argue otherwise.

No worker gets a fair trial in the capitalist courts. The odds are stacked against working people from the beginning. Rather than the presumption of innocence, the courts rely on juries and the public at large presuming that the police tell the truth when giving testimony in court. Twisting of facts or straight-out frame-ups are not uncommon, but a fact of life for working people caught up by the cops and the courts.

Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter argue that Curtis's guilt was established by the testi-

mony of the alleged victim and her younger brother. But that testimony was inconsistent with Mark Curtis being the attacker.

The alleged victim, Demetria Morris, testified she could place the time of the attack she says occurred because it began just after one of her favorite TV shows, "Video Soul," began. The broadcast log shows that program began at 8:00 p.m.

From a little after 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Mark Curtis was with dozens of other people at Los Compadres bar where he went following the meeting to protest the arrest of the Swift 17. One of his coworkers testified to this at the trial and the prosecution did not dispute it.

Demetria Morris told the doctor who examined her that her attacker was 5 feet 6 inches, about her own height. Mark Curtis is over 6 feet tall. She said her attacker had smoke on his breath. Mark Curtis has never smoked. She insisted her attacker had a belt. Both Curtis and the police testified he had no belt.

What about the testimony of the alleged victim's brother who was 11 years old at the time? Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter say that children "never lie." They should tell this to Benny Powell and Clarence Chance, two Black men released from prison March 25 after 17 years. Powell and Chance were framed by the Los Angeles police for murder. A key witness was an 11-year-old "eyewitness" to the alleged crime who, it was later learned, testified under relentless cop pressure.

Demetria Morris's brother Jason was asked by the prosecutor what time the stranger who allegedly attacked Demetria Morris knocked on the door of the Morris home.

"Probably around 9:08," he answered. This is some 15 minutes after Curtis was arrested and more than an hour later than his sister said the attack began.

Where did he get such a precise time? He wasn't asked. But whether it is what he truly believes or what he thought he was supposed to say, it does not confirm the other testimony against Curtis.

As is most often the case in court the testimony that was decisive at the Curtis trial was that of the arresting officer, Joseph Gonzalez, who claimed he found Curtis with his pants down.

The jury never learned that Gonzalez, far from being a reliable witness, is an established liar. Ten years before he arrested Curtis he was suspended from the police force for lying and brutality in another case. Curtis was denied the right to cross-examine Gonzalez on exactly this point.

Pelka continues to defend and make excuses for the cops when he admits in his article that Gonzalez, "had been suspended 10 years before the Curtis trial for fudging an arrest report."

What Gonzalez actually did, according to the May 24, 1978, *Des Moines Register*, was beat up someone he had helped arrest and then lied about it.

The jury was not allowed to learn that Curtis had been beaten. He was not allowed to testify that the cops called him, "a Mexican lover just like you love those coloreds," as they beat him.

Curtis was not allowed to present the facts concerning the files the FBI maintained on him as a result of his earlier activity in the Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. Thus the jury did not know that the cops would have found out more about who Curtis was as soon as they punched his name into a police computer. It is precisely Curtis's background as a socialist, unionist, and political activist that gave the cops a reason to frame him.

Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter ridicule Curtis's explanation of how he got to the Morris porch. But it is consistent with the other established facts about where Curtis was, and at what times, that night.

What is really fantastic is the prosecution story accepted by Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter. It contends that Curtis stopped at random at the home of someone he never met before and immediately attacked a young woman who came to the door despite knowing that her younger brother was home and not knowing who else might be inside the house!

Without a motive as to why Curtis would turn up at the Morris house, the prosecution introduced an equally unbelievable explanation: Curtis was looking to buy drugs from a former neighbor and mistakenly turned up on the Morris's front porch. But this doesn't hold much water — beyond lacking proof

— because members of the SWP are known for the fact that they do not use illegal drugs and encourage other activists to follow their example to avoid government victimization.

In carrying out this course against Curtis and his supporters, Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter use the technique of the "big lie" supplemented by any number of other distortions all aimed at discrediting the Curtis fight and scaring away support.

They accuse the Curtis Defense Committee of not telling the truth about the charges against Curtis including the rape accusation and the age and nationality of the alleged victim.

They can back none of this with references to the basic material put out by the committee, which is a matter of public record. The information they charge the defense committee "hides" is all included there. Moreover, when Keith Morris, the father of the alleged victim, addressed an open letter to Curtis supporters in October 1988 in which he repeated all the prosecution charges and added some lies of his own, the committee not only released a detailed reply but has circulated Morris's letter itself in thousands of copies so others can read it for themselves.

Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter falsely charge the committee and the SWP with using names that are not authorized as public Curtis supporters. In her letter Bertin wrote, "Be advised that some individuals have asked to have their names removed from the Defense Committee's list to no avail."

Bertin deepened this charge on the television show with Pelka. "Some of the people I've spoken to in the Boston area were just literally incensed with anger upon learning they were on the list. The Rev. Graylan Ellis-Hagler kind of like had a conniption," Bertin claimed.

"He had heard he was on the list," Bertin continued. "He had asked them not to utilize his name, that he had not authorized them to do so, and had assumed that they had done the honorable thing, the right thing to do. Someone says don't use my name, you say 'OK, thank you.'"

The facts are these: Rev. Ellis-Hagler signed an endorser card that is on file in Des Moines. At some point thereafter he told a Curtis supporter in Boston he no longer wanted his name used publicly as a supporter. Boston supporters stopped circulating the only piece of material that included Ellis-Hagler's name. Curtis supporters acted honestly. It is Bertin who today acts otherwise.

She further disputes the support offered to the defense committee by James Bond, an NAACP member in Atlanta. On the television show she charges, "There is no James Bond in the branch at all." She accuses the MCDC of attempting to give the impression that Julian Bond, who she says is the Atlanta NAACP president, is a Curtis Defense Committee endorser when he is not.

No one has used Julian Bond's name as an MCDC endorser. An individual named James Bond signed an endorser card. He identified himself — for identification purposes only — as a member of the NAACP.

Targeting the SWP

The attack on Curtis and his supporters launched by Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter leads them to a direct assault on the SWP as well. Their intention is to close down the political space for this vanguard communist organization to carry out politics.

Pelka tries to belittle the SWP as "a Marxist party with a seemingly unequal propensity for internal squabble and mass defection."

Pelka adds this because he is compelled to concede that, "what adds credibility to the SWP pitch [that Curtis was framed], is a long history of actual FBI harassment, virtually from the party's founding in 1938."

He briefly acknowledges the historic lawsuit waged by the SWP against the FBI and the U.S. government for illegal spying, harassment, and disruption. The suit won broad support in the labor movement and among defenders of Black, women's, and democratic rights. After well over a decade the SWP won an injunction against such illegal government activity as well as a monetary award.

This successful struggle sticks like a bone in Pelka's throat. In the first place, what it proved adds credibility to the charge that Curtis was framed. Why? Because the suit demonstrated that the government goes after the



Militant/Yvonne Hayes
'Curtis is a dangerous man,' says Edna Griffin (above), a veteran civil rights fighter, 'because he speaks Spanish and communicates with immigrant workers.'

SWP as part of the working-class vanguard.

The party and its members are seen as dangerous to the wealthy rulers. That is why they launched a 50-year attack against the party, documented in "Washington's 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation," by Larry Seigle, which appears in the magazine, *New Internationalist* No. 6.

In addition, the SWP's record in its fight against the FBI demonstrated the vanguard role it plays in fighting for the democratic rights of all fighters, not only itself and its members.

Collaboration with the Workers League

Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter's decision to join forces with the Workers League in the attack on Curtis is revealing. Bertin sent out Workers League material in her mailing. Pelka makes substantial use of their material and interviews with their leaders as a credible source of information throughout his article. He inaccurately describes this outfit as "a socialist group which is an ideological foe of the SWP."

Workers League provocations

The *Bulletin* article featuring the interview with Mary Bertin argues that her campaign in the name of the Boston NAACP, "completely vindicates the Workers League's protracted struggle to expose the Curtis campaign as a political hoax."

This has led, the article claims, to "considerable interest in the political exposure of the SWP which the Workers League has carried out for nearly two decades."

Writer Martin McLaughlin directs readers to copies of the documents of a lawsuit filed by Alan Gelfand against the Socialist Workers Party. "These documents," McLaughlin writes, "establish the origins of the present SWP leadership in the police disruption of the workers movement."

What was Gelfand's lawsuit? In 1979 Gelfand, an attorney in Los Angeles and a supporter of the Workers League, infiltrated the SWP. At the time, the SWP was involved in a historic battle against government spying and disruption, and its lawsuit against the FBI and other government agencies was preparing to go to trial.

The Workers League had opposed the SWP suit — standing against the broad support for the fight that was won by the SWP.

Gelfand took another step supported by the Workers League. He went into federal court and challenged the SWP suit saying that the SWP could not sue the FBI because he claimed the SWP was run by the FBI. He urged the court to take control of the SWP and make decisions about who its members and leaders could be.

Striking workers from copper miners in Arizona and meat-packers in Austin, Minnesota, to paperworkers in Maine and Pennsylvania have had their own experiences with the Workers League. They know this group specializes in provocative actions in the midst of sharp battles with the employers and cops, attempting to divide the union membership when unity is needed the most.

The Workers League has carried out a campaign against the SWP for nearly two decades. They claim the party is controlled by FBI agents and is an enemy of workers' struggles. It is no surprise that early on they became active agents of the prosecution case against Curtis.

In the article featuring the interview with Bertin, Workers Leaguer Martin McLaughlin, a main Pelka source, writes, "For years the Socialist Workers Party's interventions in the working class have had a sinister and bizarre character."

"What is new in the Curtis campaign," McLaughlin charges, "is that the SWP has been caught in lies so vicious that they take on a virtually criminal character."

"The SWP leadership is not engaged in the mistaken defense of a party member whom they believe to be innocent," McLaughlin asserts. "The SWP leadership is deliberately promoting as a martyr of the labor movement a man whom they know is guilty. There are two crimes involved in the Curtis campaign — the rape of Demetria Morris by Mark Curtis, and the tremendous injustice carried out against the Morris family by the Socialist Workers Party."

All of these charges and anti-communist slanders find their way into the argumentation presented by Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter.

"No doubt Curtis will be out on parole in a year or two," Pelka wrote in his article. That is false — unfortunately. The parole board has made it clear that they have no intention now of releasing Curtis although he is an excellent candidate for parole based on time served, conduct in prison, and the support he will receive when he is released.

Winning Curtis's release on parole will not be easy.

This is another reminder of the high political stakes that are involved in this fight. Those who oppose Curtis have escalated their efforts. But Curtis supporters are not backing down either, and they welcome fresh forces in the effort to defend this framed-up working-class fighter.

Geoff Mirelowitz is a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 187.

Gelfand also dragged the SWP into a long court battle in which he demanded to be reinstated as a party member.

But, like the issues in the SWP's suit against government spying and disruption of union and political activists, the SWP's fight against the Gelfand suit involved key issues of importance to all defenders of democratic rights.

At issue was the basic right of voluntary political associations — such as unions and Black, women's, or other political organizations — to run their own affairs. If Gelfand had won it would have encouraged more government intervention in unions and in civil rights and political groups.

Gelfand's operation failed. After many years, the court ruled there was no evidence whatsoever for his charges. Instead, Judge Mariana Pfaelzer wrote on an Aug. 15, 1989, decision, the purpose of the suit "was to disrupt the SWP."

This victory could not have been won without substantial support from union and political activists who denounced the Workers League provocation aimed at the SWP.

Despite being discredited through these and other activities, the Workers League continues its drive against Curtis and the SWP. This is the outfit that Bertin, Pelka, and Shuchter make common cause with as they too join the assault on Curtis.

Workers who have had any experience with the Workers League are not so quick to accept their dangerous political conclusions.

30,000 sign election petitions in Illinois to place socialist candidates on the ballot

BY ELIZABETH KEALY, RICHARD SORRENTINO, AND PAT SMITH

CHICAGO — Supporters of the Socialist Workers 1992 campaign wrapped up a successful three-and-a-half-week drive June 19 to collect 30,000 signatures and put the Socialist Workers presidential slate of James Warren and Estelle DeBates on the ballot in Illinois. Also on the ballot will be Kate Kaku for Senate, and Pat Smith, Margaret Savage, and John Votava for University of Illinois Board of Trustees.

A team of ten full-time volunteers participated in the effort along with many other supporters from Illinois.

Socialist campaigners met some young people who wanted to help and began collecting signatures right on the spot. One young man collected 80 signatures in an hour and returned to petition later in the drive.

Nearly 100 people signed campaign endorser cards. Some offered to set up meetings with candidates. And three people joined the Socialist Workers Party during the petitioning effort.

Campaign supporters petitioned at subway stops, shopping centers, union meet-

ings, plant gates, and on campuses in Chicago. Supporters also took the campaign to coal fields in southern Illinois and campuses throughout the state. At the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana 100 students signed petitions and 15 issues of the *Militant* were sold.

Discussions with Caterpillar workers in Aurora about the campaign and the conditions they are facing since returning to work led to the sale of 7 *Militants* and 35 signatures. After similar discussion with Caterpillar workers in Decatur and Peoria 88 signatures were collected. One United Auto Workers member bought a subscription to the *Militant*.

Supporters campaigned on the job, selling subscriptions and collecting signatures in railyards, steel mills, and factories in Chicago and southern Illinois. Fifty members of the United Steelworkers of America at Castle Metals and Precision Scientific signed to get their coworkers, James Warren and Kate Kaku, on the ballot.

One petitioner collected 113 signatures in an hour at a victory rally for the champion Chicago Bulls basketball team.

The night the Chicago Bulls won the NBA championship, 1,000 people were arrested and an 18-year-old was killed when police fired into a crowd near where looting had occurred. The next day, petitioners got a good response at campaign literature tables set up where the arrests were made.

Each morning the full-time volunteers met to share their experiences from the day before, assess their progress, and chart

The fight to put socialists on the ballot in 1992



Supporters of the Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign are petitioning to put James Warren for U.S. president and Estelle DeBates for vice-president on the ballot in 23 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, efforts are underway to place on the ballot socialist candidates for Congress and Senate in many of those states plus Florida, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, where anti-democratic restrictions have made petitioning for the socialist presidential candidates prohibitive for the 1992 elections.

Militant map by Eric Simpson

* District of Columbia: petitioning is underway
Rhode Island: Will petition in near future

Will petition in near future
Petitioning is underway
Petitioning is completed
On the ballot

Socialists ask for volunteers to help Alabama petition effort

BY JOHN HAWKINS

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — Supporters of the Socialist Workers 1992 campaign here launched an ambitious effort June 20 to place the party's candidates for U.S. president and vice-president, James Warren and Estelle DeBates, on the ballot in Alabama.

In a little over three days of petitioning campaign volunteers collected more than 1,200 signatures. Five thousand valid signatures are needed to win ballot status for the socialist candidates. Campaign supporters plan to gather 7,500 signatures — half again as many as required by law.

If the first full day of petitioning is any indication, getting the socialists on the ballot here will be easier than ever.

Half a dozen campaign supporters staffed campaign tables for about five hours at two shopping centers and at "City Stages" — an annual entertainment extravaganza here. By day's end 424 signatures had been gathered.

Of those who signed to place the socialists on the ballot 15 also bought copies of the campaign newspaper the *Militant* and 13 signed up as endorsers of the campaign.

Many of those who stopped to sign engaged campaign supporters in lengthy discussions on the economic and social crisis gripping the United States, and the developing political polarization engendered by it.

Many young people who signed were attracted to the campaign's active involvement in the fight to defend women's right to abortion, the fight against cop brutality and to win justice for Rodney King, and the struggle against racist and fascist violence like the recent murder here of Benny Rembert, a Black homeless worker, by neo-Nazi skinheads.

One group of white teenagers gathered around the campaign table at City Stages to talk about Malcolm X and the relevance of his ideas.

The most common discussion, however, was on the significance of billionaire Ross Perot's candidacy for president.

Although a good number of those who declined to sign petitions cited their support for Perot's presidential ambitions, a surprising number readily agreed that much of what Perot promised was simply demagoguery.

The campaign to get the socialist candidates on the ballot in Alabama runs through July 18. Anyone interested in helping petition can contact the Alabama Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign Committee, 111 21st St. South, Birmingham, Alabama 34233 or phone (205) 323-3079.

On Philadelphia tour, Warren explains socialist alternative to war, depression

BY KATHY MICKELLS

PHILADELPHIA — A fast-paced and successful tour of James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president, in the Philadelphia and Delaware region June 9-12 registered gains for the socialist alternative in the 1992 elections.

In interviews on the major Black radio station and at house meetings and plant gates, Warren stated that what the socialist campaign offers is a working-class voice and a perspective to fight the effects of the world capitalist economic crisis. "I'm not like these people who present themselves as a savior of people who are oppressed and exploited. People who are oppressed and exploited can struggle against the wars and economic catastrophe today only through massive political action that advances our interests as working and young people," he said.

"Any leaders who tell you they have a solution to your problems, just follow them and 'Do what I say,' — they're not leaders at all," Warren said.

"What we offer is a perspective that working people can fight for, but it can only be implemented by us — working people — fighting to carry the perspective out."

This idea brought nods of agreement and questions for the socialist candidate at the Pincus Brothers and Maxwell plant gate. As hundreds of garment workers from Haiti, Korea, China, India, Italy, Portugal, Puerto Rico, and the United States streamed out of the employee door, Warren and campaign supporters greeted them. A group of Chinese workers stood around one young woman who translated the campaign leaflet for them. One came over and signed the petition to put Mark Wyatt, the socialist candidate for U.S. Congress District 2, on the ballot.

Supporters of the campaign working at Pincus Brothers brought a tape of a radio

locations for sales of the *Militant* and petitioning.

Collective studies were organized of "The Action Program," a pamphlet providing working-class solutions to confront the economic and social crisis, articles from the *Militant* newspaper, and speeches by Malcolm X. This, coupled with daily discussions with workers and students, bolstered the petitioners' confidence in presenting the socialist alternative to war, racism, and economic depression.

interview with Warren, which had been broadcast on WRTI, the Temple University radio station. Since many workers wear Walkmans, the tape is currently circulating along with a tape of Warren's speech at a local campaign rally.

Petitioning drive in Delaware

In Delaware, Warren met with new supporters of the socialist campaign who are helping to organize the effort to get the presidential slate on the ballot. They have already printed a leaflet to promote the signature drive and are organizing to build meetings for the campaign during the petitioning effort.

Socialist Workers candidates have not been on the ballot in Delaware since 1976. The election laws were changed after that election to exclude independent candidates. Signature requirements were raised and required for each candidate. After meeting with Warren, three students and four other supporters concluded that it is possible to organize a petitioning campaign to get the socialist alternative to war, racism, and economic depression on the ballot there.

Warren was a guest on the Irv Homer show on WWDB talk radio. WWDB, a major Black station, has more than a million listeners in the Philadelphia region. In the course of the hour-long interview, Warren took calls from the radio audience. One woman caller said she agreed with the socialist candidate and liked what he said, but added, "We're just too unorganized. This country's just too big." In the past, she said, things were easier because the country was smaller and a small group of people could make a difference. "I just don't think we can make a difference today."

'We can make a difference'

"That's a good question: is the country

too big and can we make a difference?"

Warren said. "This country isn't too big and neither is the world. It's not a question of geography. We're the most organized society in the history of the world. We have thousands of organizations."

"There are unions, women's rights organizations, Black rights organizations, immigrant rights organizations, and youth organizations," Warren explained. "The problem isn't organizations. The problem is leadership. The leadership of our organizations doesn't offer a view of the world and a perspective of struggle that working people can act on to make a difference."

"That's what our campaign offers: a perspective in the interest of our class — the working class — an international class. A class that can act in its own interest and change the world," said Warren.

The socialist candidate was also interviewed on WDAS, the major Black radio station in the Delaware Valley. The tour culminated in a rally where \$1,250 was raised for the national campaign fund. Socialists then hit the streets in the Philadelphia area on the following two days and were able to collect 1,440 signatures toward a goal of 4,000 for placing socialist congressional candidate Wyatt on the ballot.

Order a bundle of campaign brochures

Copies of a four-page brochure on the campaign of James Warren and Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidates for president and vice-president, are now available for 10 cents each.

Send your pre-paid order to: Socialist Workers 1992 National Campaign, 191 7th Ave., New York, NY 10011.

Warren to Haitians in Miami: U.S. policy is criminal behavior

BY JANET POST

MIAMI — On tour here June 14-16, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president James Warren campaigned with workers and youth to expose and counter the perspective of war, racism, and economic depression presented by the twin parties of the ruling rich.

In discussions, speeches, and interviews Warren hammered home the need to "practice politics in a period when there are more openings for revolutionary fighters to do so than we've seen in the world since World War I."

Warren said that working people are interested in world events but get no clarity from the Democrats, Republicans, or Ross Perot.

Warren laid out the political situation workers face in the aftermath of the war against Iraq. He explained that the war, in combination with fragmenting of the former Soviet Union and the world economic crisis, has made problems facing imperialism worse and has heightened competition between the major capitalist powers.

The competition between the major industrial powers for domination of the world market "is a reflection of what working people faced going into World War II as well," Warren stated. "That is why we say that the war against Iraq was the opening guns of World War III and that the challenge for the vast majority of humanity begins with fighting against such a catastrophe."

The way capitalism works

During his tour Warren emphasized that "this current economic crisis is not an episodic problem that can be solved with a little time, a new commodity, or 'balancing the budget.' This economic picture is what those

who run the system have nightmares about.

"This is capitalism at work and is the way it really works as opposed to the period of relative expansion during the last forty years."

For the capitalists the decisive factor, he said, is that they will attempt to force working people to pay for the crisis of their system. "Worldwide, they want us to pay and sacrifice. The ruling rich do not have any 'favorite working people' in any particular country."

While in Florida, Warren visited immigrant workers waiting for processing outside the Immigration and Naturalization Service Florida headquarters. He spoke with workers from Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Haiti, including a reporter for *Le Nation-aliste*, a newspaper in Haiti.

Warren was later interviewed on a Haitian-American radio program where he stated, "The U.S. government is having a discussion about using military force in Haiti. If that happens Washington's military power will not be used against the Haitian military but against the Haitian people, just as they use the Coast Guard to kidnap people, imprison them, and deliver them to the military dictators. We consider this criminal behavior and international piracy."

"All Haitians who attempt to come to this country should be allowed in without exception. Unions, civil rights groups, students and youth need to fight for this," he said.

The socialist presidential candidate was warmly received by more than 100 people at a meeting of Veye-Yo, a Haitian solidarity organization. He told the audience, "The force and violence perspective that the ruling rich carry out in Haiti and in the world will not change unless we protest and place



Socialist presidential candidate James Warren campaigning among immigrant workers in Miami. At a meeting of Veye-Yo, a Haitian solidarity group, Warren said, 'Your fight advances the entire struggle in this country by those who are oppressed.' Protesting, meeting, and discussing is 'the most important thing that we can do,' Warren added.

demands on the government. They have no morals. They have no humanity."

To resounding applause Warren said that wherever he spoke between now and the November elections he would be raising solidarity with the people of Haiti, including support for the refugees.

"I just want to encourage you to do one thing," he added. "While what you are fighting for is completely connected to the struggle in Haiti, also consider it as an example for working people throughout this country. Your fight advances the entire struggle in this country by those who are oppressed."

"I want to encourage you not to despair, even though at times it seems like you just

march and protest, and meet and discuss, and it looks like nothing is being accomplished. But don't ever believe it. This is the most important thing that we can do — moving into action, practicing politics."

The Miami tour was covered in a brief *Miami Herald* article. Warren had been interviewed extensively by reporter Dan Holly.

The *Herald* reporter also asked Warren about the socialist's stance on health care.

"We are for universal health care. The health care industry is a corrupt, rotten, dehumanizing business. Medicaid, which is supposed to help poor people on welfare, spends very little money on health care, on taking care of people who are sick," said Warren.

"By far, the vast majority of Medicaid funds go directly into the pockets of the medical industry. I want to take the profit out of medicine and health care and make it free for everyone."

The presidential candidate and campaign supporters joined a June 16 picket line of AT&T workers, members of Communication Workers of America (CWA) Local 3122. The unionists have been working without a national contract since the beginning of June. The picketers also protested company plans to replace thousands of telephone operators with voice robot technology. The union estimates that 500 jobs would be eliminated in the South Florida telephone exchange alone.

CWA members told Warren that they simply could not continue to go along with all of the takebacks and that there was increasing tension at the workplace between the bosses and workers.

Socialists, Greens challenge Florida ballot law

BY JANET POST

MIAMI — The Socialist Workers Party and the Florida Green Party filed a lawsuit against the State of Florida June 22 challenging two laws that restrict the ability of alternative political parties to participate in electoral politics.

"At stake in the lawsuit are the rights of millions of people, not simply the two parties which have started this lawsuit," said Tom Fiske, treasurer of the SWP state campaign and one of the plaintiffs at the press conference announcing the suit. "This is a fight about the right of common people — working people, youth, and many others — to participate in politics to defend their interests."

The two laws are designed to keep working-class parties off the ballot. One law requires that political parties post a \$10,000 insurance bond with the state. While this is a small amount for the Republican and Democratic parties, it is an undue burden and an obstacle for others.

The second law requires parties not on the ballot to pay ten cents for each signature collected on nominating petitions required to place a candidate's name on the ballot. For example, supporters of the SWP campaign have collected 8,600 signatures to put congressional candidate Laura Garza on the ballot requiring a \$860 payment to the state. This is a large proportion of the money supporters are spending on campaign leaflets, telephone calls, and travel needed to get out the message of her campaign. The Florida Green Party is petitioning in the Tallahassee area to collect over 5,600 signatures to put Barbara Ann Rogers-Hendricks on the ballot and would have to pay a similar amount.

While these sums are an undue burden on the SWP and the Greens, they are only pocket change for candidates like Ross Perot and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Garza's Republican opponent in the election. In fact, both Perot and Ros-Lehtinen can legally avoid paying the fee while Garza and Rogers-Hendricks cannot!

To place a full slate of candidates on the ballot in the November elections, a new political party is required to collect 120,000 signatures of registered voters and pay well over \$12,000 to have the signatures checked.

The impact of these laws is demonstrated in the fact that since 1931 only two candidates of third parties have been on the Florida ballot for a position other than president.

"These are laws especially designed to keep working people and rebel youth out of politics in a time of social crisis," Fiske said at the news conference. "Thousands of working people signed the petitions for Garza to demand an end to Washington's war moves against Haiti and Yugoslavia. Thousands signed to demand justice for Rodney King and to demand that the cops who beat him be indicted. Thousands signed to demand a halt to sending back the Haitian refugees. Many signed to stop the embargo of Cuba. At issue is whether or not working people can organize around issues like these in politics. At the time of growing social crisis, this right is more and more important."

The news conference was covered by the *Miami Herald*, a radio news station, and Miami's two Spanish-language TV stations. Florida Network News carried a brief interview with Fiske on radio affiliates state-wide.

Also appearing at the news conference were attorneys Randall C. Berg Jr., Julie A. Moxley, and two representatives of the Libertarian Party. At the news conference, statements in support of the lawsuit were released from the Miami chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the heads of the National Lawyers Guild and the Haitian democratic organization Veye Yo.

The SCLC said the ballot access requirements "are a violation of the U.S. Constitution similar to the old poll tax." The poll taxes were used throughout the South to prevent Blacks from voting until the victories of the civil rights fight in the 1960s.

When asked why these restrictive laws exist, lead attorney Berg replied, "Obviously the laws in Florida and in the country have been written by the Democrats and Republicans who have been in power in their own interests. They want to keep alternative parties off the ballot so they won't have any competition."

In 1972 the U.S. District Court in Miami ruled against the State of Florida and its requirement of ten cents per signature. The case, *Jenness vs. Miller*, was brought by Socialist Workers Party campaigners who had collected 25,000 signatures for 1972

SWP presidential candidate Linda Jenness. In 1989 the same court ruled against a similar case brought by New Alliance presidential candidate Lenora Fulani.

The lawsuit filed in Miami challenges the rightward push by the federal courts to close up political access to all citizens. This was most recently exemplified by the U.S. Supreme Court decision that permits states to prohibit write-in votes.

Supporters of the SWP campaign have initiated a nonpartisan effort to gain publicity and support for the lawsuit. Campaigners are organizing to collect letters of support from civil rights organizations, civil liberties figures, fighters against police brutality and for abortion rights, local trade union leaders, teachers, and others.

Contribute today to the \$75,000 socialist campaign fund

Funds and volunteers are needed to help put the Socialist Workers presidential campaign on the ballot in 23 states. Contributions to the \$75,000 fund will help expand press coverage of the campaign, cover travel for the candidates, and

produce national campaign literature.

Those interested in helping to petition or to make a contribution to the campaign should write to the Socialist Workers 1992 National Campaign, 191 7th Ave., New York, NY 10011. Tel: (212) 675-6740

Contributions to the 1992 Socialist Campaign As of June 25

City	Goal	Received	City	Goal	Received
Atlanta	\$2,800	\$860	New Haven	\$700	\$30
Baltimore	2,300	80	Newark	7,000	1,075
Birmingham	2,200	740	New York	9,000	2,960
Boston	3,000	445	Philadelphia	2,500	0
Chicago	3,500	500	Pittsburgh	2,100	1,470
Cincinnati	700	0	Portland	600	500
Cleveland	2,600	450	Salt Lake City	3,000	1,760
Des Moines	2,000	965	San Francisco	6,000	3,380
Detroit	2,200	0	Seattle	2,000	300
Greensboro	1,600	50	St. Louis	2,500	2005
Houston	2,700	1,217	Twin Cities	3,600	2,150
Los Angeles	5,500	1,551	Wash., DC	2,300	1310
Miami	2,000	230	Other		115
Morgantown	1,800	550	TOTALS:	\$75,600	\$24,693

Court upholds 'Roe v. Wade' decision, backs restrictions in Pennsylvania law

BY ESTELLE DeBATES

The June 29 Supreme Court decision on the Pennsylvania law restricting abortion sparked protests by both defenders of a woman's right to choose abortion and opponents. The 5-to-4 decision reaffirmed the basic underpinnings of the historic 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion, while also upholding several restrictions encompassed in the Pennsylvania law.

The Court's majority decision, written by justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Anthony Kennedy, and David Souter, rejected Bush administration demands to use this ruling to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. It also did not agree with the parties challenging the statute who argued "that none of the enactments can be upheld without overruling *Roe v. Wade*. We disagree with that analysis." The Court acknowledged that "our decisions after *Roe* cast doubt upon the meaning and reach of its holding."

The decision reaffirms the three pillars of the 1973 decision:

- "A recognition of the right of the woman to choose to have an abortion before viability... without undue interference from the state";
- "A confirmation of the state's power to restrict abortions after fetal viability, if the law contains exceptions for pregnancies which endanger a woman's life or health";
- "The principle that the state has legitimate interests from the outset of the pregnancy in protecting the health of the woman and the life of the fetus that may become a child."

'Undue burden'

In handing down its opinion, the Court majority imposed a new criterion for determining whether or not state laws that restrict abortion rights pass constitutional muster. While states cannot place a "substantial obstacle in the path of a woman seeking abortion before the fetus obtains viability," restrictions that do not pose an "undue burden" were upheld.

The Court ruled that one portion of the Pennsylvania law requiring a woman to notify her husband prior to obtaining an abor-



Militant/Brian Williams
Defending abortion clinic in Buffalo, New York, against Operation Rescue last April. Young people have been in forefront of battle to defend women's right to choose.

tion "constitutes an undue burden and is therefore invalid. A significant number of women will likely be prevented from obtaining an abortion just as surely as if Pennsylvania had outlawed the procedure entirely."

The restrictive provisions upheld include a 24-hour waiting period between a woman's first visit to a doctor or clinic and when the abortion is performed. Pennsylvania also requires clinics to inform women about fetal development as a means to dissuade them from going ahead with the operation, and that minors seeking abortion get consent of one parent or a judge.

The Pennsylvania law is an example of the government drive to whittle away at the scope of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. Since 1973 there have been constant probes into curbing and, if possible, eliminating abor-

tion rights. An example is the 1976 Hyde Amendment, which bars the use of Medicaid funds for abortions. An increasing number of states have adopted legislation limiting access to abortion. All combined, this has hit working women the hardest.

While the Supreme Court decision codified the accomplishments of this offensive against women's rights, it delivered a stinging rebuke to the Bush administration and antiabortion forces such as Operation Rescue. Fundamentally, it was a political decision that took into account the fact that simply declaring abortion illegal does not settle the question. The majority opinion clearly takes into account the ongoing battle taking place concerning a woman's right to choose.

The Court pointed out that for 20 years "people have organized intimate relation-

ships and made choices that define their views of themselves and their places in society, in reliance on the availability of abortion," and that "the ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives."

"The societal costs of overruling *Roe* at this late date would be enormous," wrote Justice John Paul Stevens in his opinion. "Roe is an integral part of a correct understanding of both the concept of liberty and the basic equality of men and women."

The recent months leading up to the decision have seen sharp conflicts between pro-choice forces and opponents of abortion. For 15 days in April, hundreds of pro-choice advocates took to the streets in front of clinics in Buffalo, New York, successfully thwarting Operation Rescue's national campaign to close that city's clinics. Only days before the decision, abortion rights defenders emulated the Buffalo experience in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The decision pointed out that only in one other case, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, has the Court ever been asked to rule to resolve a national controversy. "But when the Court does act in this way," said the majority, "its decision requires an equally rare precedential force to counter the inevitable efforts to overturn it and to thwart its implementation... to overrule under fire in the absence of the most compelling reason to reexamine a watershed decision would subvert the Court's legitimacy beyond any serious question."

Randall Terry, leader of the antiabortion group Operation Rescue, rejected the Court decision. "Three Reagan-Bush appointees stabbed the pro-life movement in the back," he said. "It is inconceivable to me that Justice Souter would have the gall to say that the legitimacy of this body is more important than the lives of innocent children and the protection of mothers." He said the three justices "should be ashamed of their cowardice and their betrayal of the children and of justice."

Terry promised "a lot of unrest in the streets" by Operation Rescue in response to the decision.

Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women, said, "*Roe v. Wade* is dead despite the flimsy stay of execution that the Court issued today," adding that the decision gives further momentum to NOW's strategy to elect candidates who say they are in favor of abortion rights, and in particular women candidates. Ireland also urged people to lobby in Congress for passage of the Freedom of Choice Act.

Socialist candidates: Defend abortion rights!

Continued from front page

host of other regulations that make it most difficult for poor and working women to get an abortion.

But the Supreme Court majority also rejected calls by the Bush administration and antiabortion forces to overturn *Roe*. Instead the Court majority — despite the fact that most are opposed to abortion rights — recognized that tens of millions hold as a right the ability of women to control their own bodies. They know that simply "declaring" that abortion is not protected under the Constitution will not settle the question nor end the fight. In that they had to take into account the resistance mounted over the past months to determined attacks on clinics that provide abortion by outfits such as Operation Rescue.

Fighting to defend abortion rights is central to the forward march of the labor movement. It is an international fight for working people — from Ireland to Germany to South Africa and elsewhere.

Without the right to control their own bodies, women cannot become equal in social and political life. The growth in the number of women in the work force over the past decades and the advances scored through the civil rights and women's rights movements have made the labor movement stronger. It has made it more possible for working people to break down the divisions imposed by class society and reproduced under capitalism — divisions that aid the employers and the government in their drive to make us pay for the economic crisis.

Fighting to defend and extend abortion rights is part and parcel of the need to unite working people and youth in a common struggle against exploitation and oppression the world over. This is why the issue has such explosive consequences, and why reversing the gains won is central to the all-around assault by the wealthy rulers against

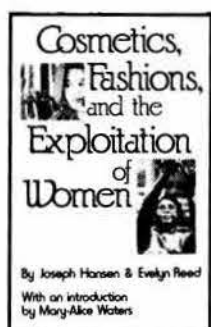
the rights, standard of living, and organizations of working people.

The victory codified in the *Roe v. Wade* decision was the result of struggles that came out of profound social, economic, and political shifts taking place in the United States and around the world. The women's liberation movement emerged because of the changing role of women in U.S. society and

the influence of other social movements that preceded it.

The Supreme Court decision will not stop the attacks on abortion rights — only mobilizations in the streets and the participation of the ranks of labor in the fight can turn that around. The Socialist Workers Campaign and its supporters pledge our full participation in that fight!

Titles on the fight for women's rights



By Joseph Hansen & Evelyn Reed
With an introduction by Mary-Alice Waters
surrounding women, beauty, and oppression"
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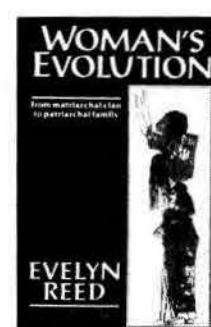
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New Zealand restricts democratic rights

Government 'law and order' campaign scapegoats Maoris for crime

BY MIKE TREEN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — The government has been spearheading a major "law-and-order" campaign here designed to lay the basis for further attacks on the democratic rights of working people. A central feature of this campaign has been scapegoating the indigenous Maori people, accusing them with being responsible for most crime.

Seizing on public concern at a series of brutal murders in January, Prime Minister James Bolger called a "Crime Summit" of government ministers, officials from the Justice Department, and the police. This was followed by a special meeting of the National Party parliamentary caucus, which endorsed a range of antidemocratic policies including:

- strengthening laws which allow courts to prohibit people from "consorting with known criminals";
- a broader use of preventative detention;
- making it more difficult to be released from prison on bail;
- stricter conditions that prisoners must meet before becoming eligible for parole or home leave;
- passage of the Arms Amendment Bill, which makes it more difficult for citizens to own weapons.

Since September 1990, when the National government came to power, working people have faced severe restrictions on the legal rights of unions, migrants, and refugees, as well as savage cutbacks in health, education, and welfare services.

Even further restrictions on democratic

rights have been demanded by the police hierarchy led by the Police Officers Association. They have aimed their fire at the Bill of Rights Act and the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act, which protects working people against arbitrary search and seizure and allows for the right to consult a lawyer if detained.

In late January Sir Peter Quilliam, the one-person Police Complaints Authority who rarely upholds a complaint against the police, admitted that cops are acting illegally when they stop cars for "suspected" involvement in general criminal activity. This tactic, known as "turnovers" is commonly used by police to harass young workers who, if they object, will end up in court on a charge of "resisting the police."

As the debate on crime has unfolded, government ministers and the police have sought to blame criminal activity and violence on working people, the unemployed, and the indigenous Maori people in particular.

"Let's be frank about it [there is a] high level of violent offending in the Maori community," stated Prime Minister Bolger.

Bolger's statement was quickly backed up by other National Party members of parliament. Ross Muerant, a former cop, called for measures to target the Polynesian family because "that is where 90 percent of the criminals are. The eight-year-old Polynesian kid out stealing milk in Mangere tonight to buy a hamburger becomes tomorrow's criminal. If it's a girl, she gets pregnant at 13 and repeats the problem. If it's a boy he's locked up by the time he's 18."

However it's not just the more outspoken

racists among the National Party members of Parliament that support Bolger. A number of middle-class Maori leaders and liberal academics also agree with Race Relations conciliator Chris Laidlaw who charges that "there are a high number of Maori involved in violent crime."

These charges are aimed at turning the victim into the criminal. The Maoris and Pacific Islanders who live in New Zealand are victims of a racist police and judicial system. Maoris were not even allowed to

serve on juries until the 1960s. Official figures confirm that they are more often stopped by the police, suffer higher rates of arrest if stopped, higher rates of conviction once before the courts, and higher rates of custodial detention when sentenced.

According to a 1985 Justice Department report, Maoris comprise 12 percent of New Zealand's population, but 50 percent of its prison population. Five percent of 15- to 24-year-old Maoris go to prison, which is ten times the rate for non-Maoris.



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

RICH STUART

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders who have made central contributions to the forward march of humanity against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 16.

In 1992 Pathfinder Press has considerably expanded worldwide awareness of Pathfinder books by participating in major bookfairs and booksellers conventions in Havana, Cuba; London, England; Tehran, Iran; Prince Edward Island, Canada; and Sydney, Australia. This fall, Pathfinder will have booths at the Frankfurt Bookfair in Germany, the largest bookfair in the world, and the Gothenberg Bookfair in Sweden.

In the United States, Pathfinder has exhibited its titles this year at national conferences of the American Booksellers Association in Los Angeles, California, the Association of College and Research Libraries in Salt Lake City, Utah, the American Library Association in San Francisco, California, and the National Women's Studies Association in Austin, Texas.

black!Republican News from Ireland includes an ad for the Sinn Fein Bookshop featuring four Pathfinder titles: *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis* by Margaret Jayko; *Democracy and Revolution* by George Novack; *Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism* (New International magazine); and *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*.

YSB magazine, "the magazine for young sisters and brothers" distributed nationwide in the United States, includes a feature section in the May issue on Malcolm X. The spread has a full page of excerpts from *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* by Pathfinder Press. *YSB* also lists the book in "Your Malcolm X Study Guide."

In a feature section "We Remember Malcolm X" in its May issue, *Spare Rib* magazine, a widely circulated monthly in Britain, prints seven pages of quotes by Malcolm X from books published by Pathfinder. All seven Pathfinder books on Malcolm X are included in *Spare Rib's* "Malcolm X reading list." The issue also contains an advertisement for the Pathfinder bookshops in London, Manchester, and Sheffield, England.

The recently published Pathfinder book, *Workers and Oppressed Peoples of the World Unite!* got a boost when the May issue of *Choice Magazine*, a major library review journal, concluded its review by saying this book "Should be in all academic libraries." Referring to Pathfinder's four-volume series that this book is part of, the review says "Anyone interested in 20th-century political history is in the debt of those who made them possible."

Pathfinder bookstores in Boston, Toronto, and Vancouver recently celebrated opening new storefront locations. And the Pathfinder bookstore in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, just completed a major renovation.

During the Gulf War in 1991, orders for Pathfinder books from U.S. soldiers around the world increased dramatically. This year Pathfinder continues to get a steady flow of orders for books and catalogs from soldiers on bases, ships-at-sea, and in military prisons.

Orders for Pathfinder books including *Woman's Evolution* by Evelyn Reed, *My Life* by Leon Trotsky, books by Malcolm X, and others have come from Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Ord, California; Camp Pendleton, California; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey; the U.S. Navy's USS *Wainwright*, USS *Suribachi*, and USS *Eisenhower*; and soldiers from Germany, Panama, and other U.S. bases around the world.

The May 28 issue of *An Pho-*

'Art and Revolution' reissued by Pathfinder

Art and Revolution by Leon Trotsky. 252 pp. New York: Pathfinder Press, 1992. \$19.95.

BY DAVE PRINCE

Pathfinder's publication of *Art and Revolution* by Leon Trotsky (formerly *Leon Trotsky on Literature and Art*), edited and with an introduction by Paul Siegel, is a welcome event, after being out of print for over a year.

The magnificent new cover is a photo detail of the Mexican artist Diego Rivera's mural "Literacy," painted in Mexico City in the mid-1920s. The cover was designed by Eric Simpson as part of Pathfinder's program to upgrade the appearance and presentation of already published works of revolutionary and communist leaders in new editions.

The selection of reviews and articles span the years 1908 to 1939. They give the reader an excellent presentation of the Marxist approach to art and culture by one of the outstanding revolutionary leaders of the 20th century. Trotsky was a central leader of the Russian Revolution of 1917 and a defender of the revolution and communism against the counterrevolution led by Joseph Stalin.

Trotsky's lifelong interest and knowledge of literature — novels, plays, and poetry — and currents of cultural thought comes through in all the selections.

The book also contains a 1938 manifesto that Trotsky contributed to, "Towards A Free and Revolutionary Art," signed by the internationally known artist Diego Rivera and Andre Breton, a poet and leader of the French surrealist movement. Written on the eve of World War II, the manifesto is a powerful call to fight against capitalism's perspective of war and social catastrophe, and presents a revolutionary perspective for artists.

Three of the selections, "Literature and Revolution" (1922-23), "Class and Art" (1924), and "Culture and Socialism" (1926), take up the place of culture in class society. These articles discuss the crisis of culture that has developed under capitalism, and the prospects for a new flowering of culture opened by the socialist revolution. Trotsky argues against, as did Lenin and other leaders of the Bolsheviks, advocates of "proletarian culture." The three items document



Pathfinder's new edition of Trotsky book

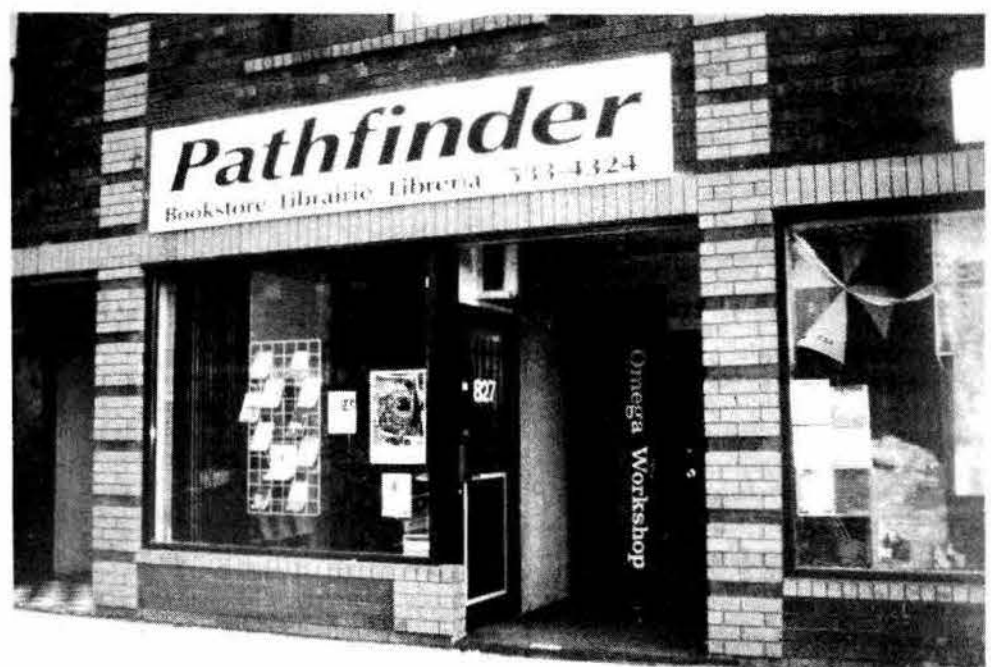
the rich debate and discussion opened on culture by the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Other articles include Trotsky's defense of the Bolshevik policy of encouraging culture in the early years of the revolution against the Stalinist bureaucracy's strangulation of culture.

Writing about that period he said, "While the [proletarian] dictatorship had a seething mass basis and a prospect of world revolution, it had no fear of experiments, searchings, the struggle of schools, for it understood that only in this way could a new cultural epoch be prepared. The popular masses were still quivering in every fiber, and were thinking aloud for the first time in a thousand years. All the best youthful forces of art were touched to the quick."

Trotsky also discusses the importance of the fight against illiteracy launched by the Bolsheviks immediately after the revolution and steps taken to expand and make libraries accessible to workers and peasants.

The book also contains articles, reviews, and comments on Tolstoy, Jack London, Dante, Maxim Gorky, and a broad range of writers, playwrights, and poets of the 1920s and 1930s from around the world.



New Pathfinder storefront bookstore in Toronto, Canada.

Mass protests sweep across South Africa

Continued from front page
assault in the area.

Hostels were constructed as single-sex temporary living quarters for workers brought in from rural Bantustans. These "homelands" were set up under apartheid, which millions of Blacks were driven into as the regime sought to uproot peasants and create a landless, migratory pool of cheap labor.

The hostel at Iscor, as with others across the country, has become a center for organizing of the Inkatha Freedom Party, an organization that opposes the policies of the ANC and has a tradition of collaboration with the regime. Many Inkatha members are from Natal province and are Zulu-speaking.

The government has taken advantage of the relative isolation of these workers to lure some into participating in attacks against ANC supporters. Police have routinely refused to investigate or prosecute those responsible for the attacks and the regime has used the situation to try to portray the fighting as a conflict between the ANC and Inkatha.

After clearing the barricades in Boipatong, residents say, police ferried hostel residents to the area in transports, whereupon the Inkatha supporters went from house to house killing men, women, and children. White men were reportedly seen firing at fleeing residents and police armored vehicles were used to smash openings in some township homes.

Police and security forces participation in similar attacks, and their collaboration with training Inkatha hit squads, has been widely exposed over the past several months. One outfit, the army's elite 32 Battalion, has been so discredited that a judicial commission headed by Supreme Court Justice Richard Goldstone recommended that the unit be barred from any domestic policing role.

ANC breaks off negotiations

Following the massacre, the ANC held an emergency National Executive Committee meeting. The body decided the events had left the organization "no option but to break off bilateral and Codesa negotiations. A June 23 statement placed a number of demands on the regime. (See text of statement on this page.)

"This subversion of political processes to destroy the democratic movement in South Africa led by the ANC," the statement said, "cannot be allowed to prevail any longer."

"We all, black and white together, share the responsibility to stop the regime from plunging our country into chaos and anarchy," the statement said. "Unity and disciplined struggle remain the surest basis for realizing peace and stability."

The ANC called on the United Nations

Security Council to "undertake measures which will help stop the violence and reinforce our efforts aimed at bringing about a democratic order."

Mandela told reporters that the ANC is "convinced that his [de Klerk's] method of bringing about a solution to this country is war. We are going to respond to that."

"The gulf between the oppressed and the oppressor has become unbreachable," he said. "Mr. de Klerk owes his loyalty not to the people of South Africa but to the National Party. He wants to keep it in power by brute force."

For its part, the South African regime blamed the ANC mass action campaign for the violence.

"It is now quite obvious that the political temperature has been pushed unacceptably high by 'mass action' and has created a climate which can make incidents such as these much easier to happen," Ministry of

Law and Order spokesperson Capt. Craig Kotze said.

De Klerk suggested that a renewed state of emergency might be imposed, to which Mandela responded: "The introduction of anti-democratic measures will result in a defiance campaign, with me leading that campaign."

A new turning point

These events mark a new turning point in the revolutionary struggle to establish a democratic South African republic, as the major class forces in the country mobilize in a test of strength.

The regime hopes it can divide the ANC, close down space for political action on the part of working people, and impose a social order that, while stripped of the legal structure of apartheid, retains economic and social power in the hands of a wealthy few.

It hopes the course set by Mandela and

other ANC leaders — that of drawing in the broadest millions of people, both Black and white, into a united and disciplined struggle that fights to establish a republic and open up the possibility to address the needs of the vast majority — can be derailed through a combination of intimidation and offers of co-optation.

The success of the mass action campaign so far shows the extent to which the process of political education — in the aims and goals of the revolutionary movement and the need for the disciplined organization of a mass social movement that does not prematurely challenge the government for power but instead builds the self-confidence and experiences of the largest numbers possible — has put the regime in a weakened position. It has exposed its true colors not only to masses of people in South Africa but to world opinion as a whole.

ANC statement places demands on regime, launches international action campaign

Statement of the emergency meeting of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress, June 23, 1992:

The National Party regime of F.W. de Klerk has brought our country to the brink of disaster. Riddled with corruption and mismanagement, the regime is determined to block any advance to democracy. It pursues a strategy which embraces negotiations, together with systematic covert actions, including murder, involving its security forces and surrogates. This subversion of political processes to destroy the democratic movement in South Africa led by the ANC cannot be allowed to prevail any longer.

We cannot tolerate a situation where the regime's control of state power allows it the space to deny and cover up its role in fostering and fomenting violence.

The Boipatong massacre is one of the most chilling instances of the consequences of the actions of the F.W. de Klerk regime. Before the people of South Africa and the bar of international opinion it cannot escape culpability.

What is at issue is more than the crisis of the negotiations process. The fundamental reason for the deadlock is whether there is to be democratic change, or white minority veto powers. There is only one way forward. It is a road which must unmistakably and unequivocally lead to the establishment of a democratic South Africa.

To this end it is necessary that the De Klerk regime agrees to:

- The creation of a democratically elected and sovereign Constituent Assembly to draft and adopt a new constitution; and
- The establishment of an Interim Government of National Unity which is the only way all South Africans will recognise that the country shall have moved decisively to end white minority rule.

Demands on the Regime

The regime must immediately end its campaign of terror against the people and the democratic movement. In this regard it must immediately carry out the following measures:

- Terminate all covert operations including hit squad activity.
- Disarm, disband and confine to barracks all special forces as well as detachments made up of foreign nationals.
- Suspend and prosecute all officers and security force personnel involved in the violence.
- Ensure that all repression in some of the self-governing states, and in the so-called independent states, is ended forthwith.

Our people are compelled to live in a perpetual state of fear — be it in their homes, on their way to work, in trains and taxis, at funerals and vigils, at their places of work and entertainment. This is the stark reality. Between July 1990 and April 1992 there have been 261 attacks on township residents by hostel inmates, which led to 1,207 deaths and 3,697 injuries.

We further demand that the regime implements agreements on curbing violence



South African police gun down Blacks protesting F.W. de Klerk's visit to Boipatong. ANC statement condemns government role in fomenting violence.

reached with the ANC almost a year ago. In particular:

- The immediate implementation of the program to phase out of the hostels and convert them into family unit accommodation.
- Installation of fences around these establishments.
- Guarding of these hostels by security forces on a permanent basis, monitored by multi-lateral peace structures, and the expulsion of those who occupy the hostels illegally.
- Regular searches of hostels with the participation of multi-lateral peace structures.
- Banning the carrying of all dangerous weapons in public on all occasions, including so-called cultural weapons.
- We insist that the regime agree to:
- The implementation of the universal demand requiring at least the establishment of an International Commission of Inquiry into the Boipatong Massacre and all acts of violence as well as international monitoring of the violence.
- Release all political prisoners forthwith.
- Repeal all repressive legislation, including those laws which were so hastily passed during the last days of the recent session of parliament.

Call to the People of South Africa

The crisis caused by the regime constitutes a challenge to all South Africans to unite in a broad movement for democracy, peace and justice now. We all, black and white together, share the responsibility to stop the regime from plunging our country into chaos and anarchy. The ANC shall consult all formations with a view to holding a summit to unite and mobilise our people against continued white minority rule and for democracy. Unity and disciplined struggle remain the surest basis for realising peace and stability.

We call on the entire people of our country, including the business community, to join in observing 29 June as a National Day of Mourning

and solidarity with the victims of the Boipatong massacre as the dead are buried.

Appeal to the International Community

The National Party regime is acting in contempt of the wishes of the international community for a speedy end to apartheid.

Now, more than ever, the international community is required to compel the De Klerk regime to bring violence to an end and to commit itself to solutions based on internationally accepted democratic principles.

In consultation with sporting bodies, we shall be reviewing the forthcoming international sports engagements involving South Africa.

We appeal to the United Nations Security Council to convene as a matter of urgency to undertake measures which will help stop the violence and reinforce our efforts aimed at bringing about a democratic order.

We call on the international community to act in solidarity with our people on the day of the funeral for the victims of the Boipatong massacre, June 29. In particular we appeal to all workers throughout the world not to handle South African carriers and goods on this day.

On Negotiations

The ANC reaffirms its commitment to a negotiated resolution of the conflict in our country which would bring about democracy, peace and justice. The refusal of the regime to accept such a settlement compelled the NEC to review the current negotiations process.

The ANC has no option but to break off bilateral and Codesa negotiations. The NEC will be keeping the situation under continuous review. The response and practical steps taken by the De Klerk regime to these demands will play a critical role in determining the direction and speed with which bona fide negotiations can take place.

The decisions taken today will be conveyed to the regime by ANC President Nelson Mandela as soon as possible.

From Pathfinder Further reading on South Africa New International no. 5



Special issue on southern Africa

The revolutionary struggle to overthrow apartheid in South Africa, the Freedom Charter, Cuba's role in Angola. 198 pp. \$9

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Add \$3 shipping and handling.

Outcome in U.S. rail dispute is setback for labor movement

Continued from Page 3

a contract either negotiated or imposed by Congress. In April 1991 Congress voted to cut off a nationwide strike after just 18 hours. A government-imposed contract set major work rule changes and modest wage increases that favored the bosses.

Rail workers involved in the current dispute have been demanding back pay dating back to 1988 and a hefty wage increase than the bosses are offering. They also hope to push back company demands for continued cuts in the size of the work force which have led to drastic work rule changes and declining safety in the industry. The increased cost of health care was also in dispute.

Company lockout

After shutting down most railroads, Edwin Harper, president of the Association of American Railroads, said the carriers had no choice. "Because of the seamless nature of the nation's freight rail system," he said, "a strike that begins in one region of the country affects service in the entire nation. Thus, the freight railroads are taking steps to proceed with a safe and orderly shutdown."

An article in the June 15 issue of the *Journal of Commerce*, though, sheds more light on the employers' action — fear of the enormous potential power of rail workers and their ability to seriously disrupt the economy through effective strike action. James Hagen, president of Conrail, the article reports, held a conference call a week earlier with chief executives of other major railroads. He urged them to take united action against any strike. Hagen appealed to the other railroad execs that it may be difficult to get Congress to act if only one railroad were out.

Conrail's appeal for bosses' unity is sim-

ilar to a letter sent out to railroad executives last year by Robert Schmiede, chief executive of the Chicago and NorthWestern line. In pointing out that individual railroads were not able to withstand a prolonged strike and needed to coordinate their strategies, he wrote, "Railroads need a legal framework which makes it difficult for unions to create economic tests of strength."

"Railroads need a framework that permits us to tactically manage the sequencing of the bargaining and mediation phases," Schmiede said. "Without the threat that a labor crisis will affect the national economy, our companies are at a terrible disadvantage."

'We need class solidarity'

No actions were organized by the union officialdom to counter the companies' actions against the IAM strike. Rail workers across the country report that officials urged them not to set up picket lines or hold picket signs near any rail yards. As a result, hundreds of thousands of rail workers became spectators of the events. In some areas, however, rail workers showed up for work to make it clear that the companies were responsible for the nationwide rail shutdown and the difficulties and hardships it was causing.

John Flanders, a member of the IAM at Conrail's Selkirk Yard, said that "when workers saw management explaining on TV that we were on strike, about 100 of us showed up at the yard to report for work since we were locked out, not on strike. Although we were trying to make a point and counter the company's actions, it unfortunately didn't have the dynamic of solidarity with other IAM members who were on strike."

"The employers had the class solidarity and they moved decisively to get the upper



Militant/Lisa Hickler

Protest in Sheridan, Wyoming, during April 1991 rail strike. Congress ordered unionists back to work 18 hours after stoppage began. In current dispute, rail bosses locked out workers.

hand," Flanders said. "We need to build our class solidarity if we're ever going to beat them."

At the Oak Island Yard in Newark, New Jersey, a dozen union members came down to the yard and held up signs condemning the lockout. Joel Morecraft, another IAM member, told a *Newark Star Ledger* reporter, "If we're so important to the country, then they ought to give us a decent wage."

In Oakland, California, about 25 rail workers rallied at the Union Pacific Oakland terminal. A picket line was set up and workers carried signs that read, "LOCKED OUT by the Railroad Bosses." The action was called by Local 1730 of the United Transportation Union (UTU) and Division 239 of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE).

Bosses' conspiracy

Brian Lewis, chairman of UTU Local 1730 echoed the public statements of many

rail union officials. "There is a conspiracy of the large railroad corporations to further demolish any vestige of power left in the railroad labor movement. In what amounted to a thoroughly illegal maneuver, they held the American public hostage to a 'national rail crisis' of their own making."

"Congress fell right in line and provided the railroads with the exact solution they had desired, to end the strike and to impose a settlement."

Denny Dollahon, an Amtrak engineer and BLE member who was at the picket line in Oakland, said it was important, "to show support for fellow workers, and to let them know that they're not alone in this. They've been working four years without an agreement, with management demanding too many concessions. We are losing ground that we had fought long and hard to gain."

In Seattle, 30 rail workers showed up at the federal building for a noon-time picket line to protest the lockout and pass out information about the issues that rail workers are fighting for.

Joel Britton, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from California, campaigned among rail workers and was invited into the lunchroom at Amtrak's maintenance facility in Los Angeles. A half-dozen Amtrak workers told Britton that one of the basic issues they are fighting for is wage parity with the freight train mechanics who repair the same type of big diesel engines.

Britton told the workers that massive federal government funding should be put into a big expansion of passenger rail service and meet the demands of the unions. "The money is there," he said. "It's in the huge war budget. Instead of providing the money to pay working people a decent wage, Washington is preparing new military interventions, none of which will be in the interest of working people in the U.S. or any other countries."

Working people have power

Although some of the news media falsely portrayed the rail shutdown as a nationwide labor strike instead of a company lockout, the shutdown did demonstrate once again the potential power of railroad workers. With farms and industry dependent on the railroads and many factories operating with just-in-time inventories, a shutdown of the rail system for even a short duration has a big impact on the economic life of the country.

Many rail workers saw the employers' action, the government's quick response, and the union movement's failure to act in its own interests as another setback for labor. "I knew it was going to happen," said Paul Kennedy, a machinist at the Selkirk yard in New York, "and I'm very dismayed by it. It's a very bitter pill to swallow."

"We have to realize that they can only put us back to work if we let them. Working people have power in this country, we just don't know it yet."

Jon Flanders is a member of IAM Local 1145 at Conrail. Larry Lane is a member of Millwright Local 370 in Albany, N.Y.

Cops arrest New York rail worker for 'trespassing' during lockout

BY JON FLANDERS
AND LARRY LANE

SELKIRK, New York — Some 100 second-shift workers at Conrail's sprawling yard here were involved in a sharp confrontation with Conrail management when they reported for work June 24.

The rail workers, representing a cross-section of all the shop crafts employed at

the yard, were told by railroad police that the yard was closed and that they were temporarily suspended.

The workers, demanding the right to go to work, marched as a group up to the main gate of the yard where police cars were parked across the driveway.

A young machinist, Paul Kennedy, proceeded a little further and was told that he was

trespassing on railroad property and would be arrested. He then attempted to sit down.

He was grabbed by police, slammed into a cop car, and had his hands cuffed behind him so tightly that he screamed. He was placed in the back of the cop car, which was then surrounded by a number of coworkers demanding that the handcuffs be loosened and that police say where they were taking him. The cuffs were loosened and the workers were told the police were only going to the onsite security shack. With this, the car was allowed to leave. Kennedy was given a court appearance ticket and released.

The confrontation here was widely aired by two local TV stations. It took place as the railroad bosses locked out rail workers across the country. The lockout was started after 1,400 members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) struck the CSX rail line.

Rail workers see the companies' actions as setting the stage for government intervention, which would result in a "back to work, cooling off" order under the terms of the old contract.

Asked on Channel 6 WRGB TV during the confrontation, what he thought of the arrest of one of his members, IAM Local 1145 president Joe O'Leary said, "This man is no criminal. All he was trying to do was to go to work to feed his family and the railroad won't let him."

Machinist Paul Kennedy told the reporters, "It is a sorry day in this country when workers get beat up for trying to go to work by the employers' own cops."

Shortly after the confrontation, there was a mass show of force by New York state, county, local and railroad police at the main gate.

Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay

by Leon Trotsky, Karl Marx. Two outstanding revolutionary leaders discuss the tasks of trade unions under capitalism. 156 pp. \$13.95

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by Jack Barnes. Examines the process of building a party of socialist workers in today's world of imperialist wars and economic crisis. 346 pp. \$18.95

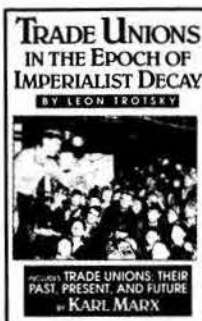
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by Farrell Dobbs. The story of the strikers and organizing drives in the 1930s that transformed the Teamsters union in Minneapolis and the Midwest into a fighting industrial union movement. 195 pp. \$14.95

Labor's Giant Step.

Twenty Years of the CIO by Art Preis. The story of the labor battles in the 1930s and 40s that helped forge the CIO. 538 pp. \$23.95.

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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 to best advance the interests of workers and farmers the world over.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Haiti: The Crisis Deepens. Open U.S. Borders to Haitian Refugees! Speaker: representative, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., July 11, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. (corner Mass Ave.) Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Defend Rail Workers Jobs and Safety. Fri., July 3, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808

Support the Protests Against the War in Yugoslavia. No U.S. Intervention! Speaker: spokesperson, Socialist Workers Campaign. Sat., July 11, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Rail Workers Discuss the Recent Strike and Lockout. Sat., July 4, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Support the Freedom Struggle in South Af-

rica! A panel discussion. Sat., July 11, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

The Socialist Alternative to the Two Parties of War, Racism, and Economic Depression. Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president. Sun., July 19, 4 p.m. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Haiti Under the Gun. Speaker: Linda Joyce, Socialist Workers Party, member International Union of Electronic Workers Local 627, visited Haiti twice in 1989. Sun., July 12, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Homestead Strike: Lessons for the Labor Movement Today. Speakers: Steffi Domike, currently making a film on the 1892 strike; Matilde

Zimmerman, Socialist Workers Party, member International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; others. Sun., July 19, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

Come Celebrate 33 Years of the Cuban Revolution! Sun., July 26, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch

Yugoslavia, Haiti, North Korea, Libya, and the U.S. Drive to War. Sat., July 4, 7 p.m. 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Tel: (3) 656-055.

Wellington

The Employment Contracts Act and the Employers' Offensive. Speakers: A panel of union activists. Sat., July 4, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

The Fight to Bring Down Apartheid. Speaker from the Communist League. Sat., July 11, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Swedish Imperialism and Trade Wars in Europe. Speaker: Carl-Erik Isaksson, Communist League. Sat., July 4, 4 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

Socialist candidate visits Cuba, pledges solidarity

BY SELVA NEBBIA

MIAMI—"My visit to Cuba will allow me to better explain what is at stake in the defense of the Cuban revolution and the road forward it points for working people throughout the world," said James Warren in an interview hours after arriving back in Miami. Warren is the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president. He spent six days in Cuba at the end of June.

"The reason I went to Cuba was to get a first-hand idea of how the Cuban people are meeting the challenges before them today in light of the continuing U.S. blockade and massive loss of trade since with the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries," he said.

Warren was accompanied by Selva Nebbia, editor of the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*.

"What I found in Cuba is a situation where the combined effects of these two developments are having a devastating impact on the conditions of life for the people in that country," Warren pointed out. "At the same time I saw that the government, the Communist Party, and the people in Cuba are doing everything they can to meet the challenge posed by this situation—especially on the level of energy and food—to the best of their ability."

While in Cuba, Warren was able to meet and talk with workers in a voluntary work brigade at the Alquizar agricultural farm as well as with youth at El Paraíso agricultural camp run by the Union of Young Communists (UJC). The young communists were harvesting banana, plantain, sweet potato, cucumber, and other vegetables, as part of the effort to rapidly expand the production of basic food items.

"The food plan was introduced in Cuba to meet the special period they are in today," explained the socialist candidate. "Its aim is

to produce in Cuba itself as much food as possible to meet the needs of the people. This work is organized primarily through voluntary efforts on the part of all the institutions in Cuban society. People join work brigades for periods of time anywhere from a week, to 15 days, to several months. They are even growing food on land inside the city of Havana, in collective gardens in the communities."

The urgency of achieving the goal of food self-sufficiency reached crisis proportions last year as previously imported vital supplies ceased arriving from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Mobilization of volunteer work brigades and contingents to meet the labor shortage in agriculture is at the heart of the program.

The socialist candidate also met with representatives of the Peoples Council's, the Federation of Cuban Women, and the Cuban Workers Federation (CTC). Warren visited the Institute of Biotechnology, and learned about the building up of the tourist industry being developed as a source of hard currency.

Visit to Cubana de Acero

One of the high points of the fact-finding tour was a visit by Warren, a steelworker in Chicago, to the Cubana de Acero steel plant in Havana. Pedro Ross, general secretary of the CTC, gave Warren a tour of the plant and introduced him to the workers there.

"We met workers of all generations inside the steel facility who are joining the efforts of the special period," said Warren, "they included a 73-year-old retired steel worker who has been carrying out volunteer work in the plant for the past six years."

Most of the production of Cubana de Acero is geared to producing equipment for use in Cuba's biotechnological industry.

"Workers at the plant are doing much of this work with stainless steel, an expensive

material. They work with care to make sure there is as little waste as possible and maximize the resources they have," noted the socialist candidate.

During his visit, Warren was asked many questions from everyone he met about U.S. politics and the 1992 elections.

"People follow events in the United States very closely because they realize the direct role played by Washington in the conditions they face as a result of its criminal embargo of Cuba," said Warren. "So the biggest question people had for us had to do with the 1992 U.S. elections and the place of developments like the Ross Perot campaign. The second biggest question on peoples' minds was the significance of the Los Angeles explosion. And the third thing we got the most questions on were the prospects for building a revolutionary movement in the United States and the place of raising solidarity with the Cuban revolution."

"We pointed out that the possibilities for building solidarity with Cuba in the United States are greater today than they have been for many years," he said. "We pointed to the efforts we carried out in Miami to get socialist candidates on the ballot—the fact that we ran into no obstacles in the streets to being able to do that—as an example of the political space that exists today in the United States, and the willingness of a layer of young fighters to join in the effort and become part of the communist movement."

"Coming out of my experience in Cuba this week," the socialist candidate pointed out, "I thought that if any other country in Latin America was faced from one day to the next with the hardships experienced by the Cuban people, we would see thousands more in the streets begging, going hungry, and homeless. And while the Cuban people are facing tremendous shortages, the possibility of such a thing happening in Cuba is unimaginable."

Court rules on 'hate crimes'

Continued from Page 5

this one union militants could be prosecuted for leading an effective strike, which might be considered 'hateful' by a boss."

"We're for the prosecution of these thugs," said Nisan, "but we don't need any new laws to do it. When a law like this one is used against fascists and rightists once, it will be used a thousandfold against communists, the labor movement, fighters for Black and women's rights, and opponents of Washington's criminal wars."

Cross burning is not an act of free speech, Nisan explained, but of threatening and violent behavior. Furthermore, he said, the St. Paul ordinance lumps such crimes together with actions by working people and youth against exploitation, wars, and oppression. "What about the 'hatred' workers can express for a brutal employer during a strike?" he asked, "or for cops like those who beat Rodney King? Is this equal to the racist hatred of the cops for working people, especially those of us who are Black? Or the hatred of the boss for workers who wage an effective fight to defend their union?"

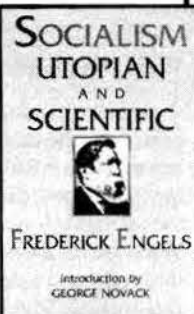
Nisan noted that while Scalia called the cross burning "reprehensible," he did not call for the prosecution of Viktora on existing laws.

Youth and political activists here are planning a meeting to discuss what steps to take next in demanding the prosecution of Viktora.

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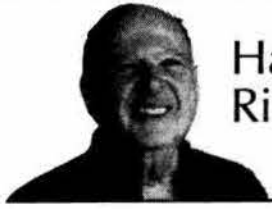
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"A few bad apples..." — Frank Rossi, a quadriplegic with artificial



Harry Ring

limbs, is suing the Miami Beach police. Arresting him at a bus stop, the cops demanded his artificial arms, shoved him in a squad car, hit him, and demanded his artificial legs. One cop joked about not having "a leg to stand on in court."

Didn't want free advertising — In Puerto Rico, five people died

when an American Eagle commuter plane crashed. The company is a subsidiary of American Airlines. Rescue workers were dispatched to the scene, as well as a maintenance worker to paint over the American Eagle logo.

Then again, maybe he is as dumb as he looks — If he weren't so despicable, we could almost sympathize with a vice-president who doesn't know how to spell potato.

Aid to the needy — Washington's disaster agency, the Federal Emergency Management Administration, sent \$16.7 million to Los Angeles to pay the overtime racked up by city cops dur-

ing the recent outbreak.

Barefoot — Imelda Marcos's New Society Movement has demanded that the government return the 1,200 pairs of shoes she left behind when she and her late spouse, dictator Ferdinand Marcos, split the country in 1986. Apparently she is not demanding other wardrobe items, not even her bulletproof bra.

Sounds real — Fox's TV police-reality show "Cops" happened to have its cameras on the scene when Seattle-area cops smashed into a suspected crack house, storming a sleeping couple and their children before they realized they were in the wrong house. Fox

decided not to air the episode.

But you're free to choose — While brooding over the prospect of tomatoes genetically engineered to extend their shelf life, we learned that currently most tomatoes are picked green and turned red with ethylene gas.

The enforcers — After bringing in some two million pounds of contaminated fish over a seven-year period, a Food and Drug inspection supervisor and four importers were busted for bribery and fraud. The Customs Service said it's continually investigating "ingrained, pervasive corruption among inspectors and importers." We didn't realize you

have to bribe someone to bring in contaminated fish.

The greatest — According to a recent report, the United States has 100 billionaires — more than any other country. And, not unrelated, among the major industrialized nations, it's also tops in the number of children and elderly living in poverty.

A deal — A collector's edition of MONOPOLY®. The game board features houses, hotels, etc., accented with touches of gold and silver. Plus, twice as much paper money as you get with the cheapo edition. Only \$495, payable in monthly installments.

Twelve-year-old gunned down by Chicago police

BY ROSALINDE HOWELL AND RICHARD SORRENTINO

CHICAGO — Neighbors, friends, and family of 12-year-old Joey Chlopek, killed by Officer David Jarmusz, held a vigil and march in Brighton Park. The majority of those who participated were children, many were Joey's classmates.

According to Richard Wedgebury, acting assistant deputy superintendent, two undercover officers were circling the playground

at the Davis School seeking a burglary suspect at 3:15 p.m., June 6. Joey had been playing basketball with friends. The police claim Joey turned away as if trying to hide something. As Jarmusz, a "gang crimes" specialist, left the car, Joey started to run and the officer chased him. Joey ran into an alleyway where he was killed. Police claim the boy aimed a gun at the officer, who ordered him to drop the weapon. Jarmusz then fired three shots from his 9mm semi-

automatic and ducked behind the building.

Friends who were with Joey said he was leaving the area to check in with his father. He walked north in the alleyway across from the school, and one officer stepped from the squad car to begin chasing him. Joey was afraid of police because of two previous incidents in which he was falsely accused, slapped around, and hit in the head with a flashlight. Neighborhood children say police harassment is common.

The coroner reported that three bullets struck Joey, one in the right ankle, one in the buttocks, and one in the right arm which deflected into his chest. Although police claimed Chlopek held the gun in his right hand, the 12-year old is left handed. Smear fingerprints on the gun the boy was allegedly carrying do not match that of the victim's. Tony Pontarelli, Joey's uncle, said the family was not surprised that the boy's fingerprints weren't found on the gun. "That throwaway gun they had belonged to the cop. It didn't belong to Joey," Jarmusz, a 19-year veteran and South Side resident, is still on active duty and "has no history of using excessive force in previous cases; however, he was involved in two previous shootings of suspects," authorities said.

Police have harassed and threatened the family. After the killing, police patrolled the neighborhood, and encountered Joey's uncle, Richard Agee. Agee asked, "Why did you have to kill my nephew?" The police slammed him into a car, removed a pocket knife from his belt, and clubbed him three times on the forehead. It took 10 stitches to close the wound. Agee was charged with aggravated assault and unlawful use of a weapon. Chlopek's grandmother, Carol, was told by police, "We have a license to kill. We'll kill you next."

The media and police have gone on a campaign to slander Chlopek, claiming he's a gang member.

Canadian cops attack miners in Yellowknife

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Wearing bullet proof vests, helmets, and carrying shields, over 50 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) charged a rally of 50 strikers and their supporters at the Royal Oak Mine in Yellowknife, North West Territories (NWT).

The police fired tear gas and discharged firearms in the air. Several strikers suffered minor injuries. Agnes Christensen, wife of striking miner Steve Christensen, was hospitalized overnight. Agnes, who is pregnant, was holding a 17-month-old baby when the cop assault took place.

Since May 22, 240 gold miners, members of the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers (CASAW) Local 4, have been waging a militant fight against company attempts to run the mine with scab labor. The main issues are health and safety, and job security. Between January and April of this year there have been 81 accidents at the mine.

The president of Royal Oak, Peggy Witte, has stated that she is following the example of Caterpillar, which threatened to use scabs when United Auto Workers members struck the company.

Wayne Campbell, a striking miner and jumbo roller operator for 3 years at Royal Oak, said in an interview, "This attack was a case of police entrapment and union busting." As the rally started, he recounted, the Pinkerton guards "started insulting people and throwing rocks at them. Our members took steps to defend themselves and their families and took measures to disarm the security guards. Then, from three points in the area, over 50 RCMP riot cops appeared wielding batons and lobbing tear gas and concussion grenades. Thirty members of CASAW were arrested for mischief, assault, possession of dangerous weapons (sticks and bats), and willful damage." No Pinkerton cops were charged.

Bill Schram, president of Local 4, explained to the *Militant* that the union has written a letter to Doug Lewis, the Solicitor General of Canada, demanding a public inquiry into the conduct of the RCMP in Yellowknife.

A 58 member "tactical team" of RCMP was flown in from Edmonton, Alberta, May 26 by the Department of National Defense to bolster the Pinkerton security forces already on site. The NWT government is footing 70 percent

of the RCMP bill — \$58,000 a day — with Ottawa paying the rest.

On June 21 a successful motorcade for Father's Day and in solidarity with miners was organized by United Steelworkers of America Local 802, which organizes the gold miners at nearby Nerco-Con mine. One hundred fifty vehicles in the caravan wove their way through town.

On June 23, over 50 members and supporters of CASAW Local 4 packed a city council meeting to oppose the company application for a development permit to continue to house the replacement workers.

Messages of Solidarity can be sent to CASAW Local 4, P.O. Box 1628, Yellowknife NWT, X1A 2P2.

Pathfinder Mural Bookstore scheduled to open July 18

BY TAMAR ROSENFELD

NEW YORK — On July 18, the list of Pathfinder bookstores around the world grows by one with the grand opening of the Pathfinder Mural Bookstore in Manhattan's Greenwich Village.

The store will stock a full selection of titles distributed by the publisher, as well as other books on history and current social struggles.

At the corner of Charles and West streets, the site is adjacent to the internationally known Pathfinder Mural. This six-story work of art was painted by more than 80 artists from around the world. There are some 150 portraits of fighters depicted on the wall, many of whose writings will be available in the new store.

Visitors and admirers come to see the mural every day. Many stop for long periods of time, picking out figures they recognize. The portraits include Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Malcolm X, Che Guevara, and V.I. Lenin.

"The interest has always been there. Even as the mural was being painted, people of all ages and walks of life were attracted to the project," explained Meryl Lynn Farber,

director of Friends of the Pathfinder Mural. Up until now, these people have walked away empty-handed. With the opening of the bookstore, passersby can come in, buy books, and get information on political events going on in the area.

Volunteers have set out on a fund-raising drive to raise the substantial resources needed to launch the storefront operation. They are taking to heart the slogan emblazoned on the centerpiece of the mural, "The truth must not only be the truth, it must also be told."

A raffle is on to raise money for both the opening of the Pathfinder Mural Bookstore and the rebuilding of the Pathfinder Bookstore in Los Angeles that was destroyed in the recent antipolice riot.

First prize is a 25-inch color TV with remote. A \$100 gift certificate from the store is second prize and third prize is a framed poster of the mural. Anyone wishing to help sell raffle tickets can call (212) 727-8421.

Donations to help get the bookstore's doors open by the target date are needed. Checks made out to Pathfinder Bookstore can be sent to Pathfinder, 191 Seventh Ave., 2nd Floor, New York, NY, 10011.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

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

The Committee to Defend the Rights of Pfc. Howard Petrick has more than 300 prominent sponsors. The committee was formed to defend the constitutional rights of a 21-year-old GI at Fort Hood, Texas, who has been threatened with court-martial merely for expressing antiwar and socialist views and for distributing antiwar literature.

Petrick's literature was confiscated April 1 by Military Intelligence. The Army refuses to return it because they say Petrick is under a continuing investigation. His case is now in the hands of the Pentagon.

At Fort Hood, Howard Petrick reports that many GIs are interested in his case and support his rights. Several soldiers have written to the defense committee expressing their support, with such comments as: "I've known Howard since I've come into the Army, and his defense against the Army's persecution is of great importance to me . . . I too have begun to talk to other GIs about their opinions of the Vietnam war. Most soldiers are against the war, but are afraid to voice their opinions for fear of being punished . . ." Some GIs request more literature on the case. "The faster the public learns of the case the stronger Howard's defense will be," was one comment.

Howard has been invited to speak for several antiwar groups in Texas. On June 23 he spoke on his case for the University of Texas' Committee to End the War in Vietnam. The antiwar committee described the meeting in

a press release as follows: "Before a full house, he, Howard Petrick, discussed his reasons for opposing the Vietnam war (he is not a pacifist) and the dilemma of his fellow servicemen who are forced to subdue native Vietnamese in revolt against the corrupt and oppressive Saigon regime. . . . Although the audience was somewhat disconcerted by the presence of Austin detectives, two FBI agents and an army officer in civilian clothes, spunky Petrick could not be intimidated. He wore a freshly starched uniform with shiny brass and shoes, his Good Conduct Ribbon and training proficiency badges. . . ."

In Madison, Wisc., the local Howard Petrick defense committee has been handing out leaflets on the case to thousands of GIs who stop at the University of Wisconsin cafeterias on their way to maneuvers.

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

July 11, 1942

Why, when the British are shouting about a crusade for "democracy," do the oppressed masses in the British Empire show so little enthusiasm for the war [World War II]? Is it perhaps because they want the Axis to win—as so many lying propagandists have claimed?

The answer to these questions was recently given by none other than an officer commanding British forces in the Far East, General Arnold.

At a press interview in New Delhi, he described the attitude of the Burmese people to the war in Burma as follows:

"The Burmese were 10 percent pro-British, 10 percent pro-Japanese, 80 percent pro-Burmese and therefore indifferent."

Join South Africa protests!

Millions of workers, rural toilers, and youth in South Africa are going on strike, taking to the streets, and holding rallies to press forward their fight for a democratic South African republic. The de Klerk regime's resistance to majority rule based on one person, one vote is an attempt by the old order — which held power by the boot, the whip, and the gallows — to block the aspirations of the overwhelming majority of South Africans.

Responding to the call by the African National Congress (ANC) for worldwide protests is an important way unionists, students and other youth, and all democratically minded individuals can condemn the continued massacres committed by the regime's security forces, such as that in the township of Boipatong. They can add a necessary voice to the call on the de Klerk regime to immediately step aside in favor of an interim government and an elected constituent assembly. Solidarity actions at this important turning point in the decades-long battle against apartheid can show the white-minority regime — and its backers in Washington, London, Paris, and Bonn — the breadth of support the revolutionary struggle holds around the world.

The struggle in South Africa is at the forefront of the fight against oppression, for the expansion of democratic rights, and for the forward march of humanity. It is an example of the power of working people and their allies to build a social and political movement that uncompromisingly advances these interests.

The revolutionary-democratic movement has long in-

sisted that the legal structure of apartheid is a crime against humanity. Moreover, it has pointed to the need to carry out far-reaching measures necessary to uproot the legacy of apartheid in the country: denial of land to Blacks; lack of housing, education, and medical care; extreme segregation and low wages; and more.

Central to advancing these aims is the establishment of a government in which the majority can determine the future of the country. This is why the conflict in South Africa remains a sharp one, and one in which working people and youth around the world can have an impact.

"We are determined that the minority in this country is not going to dictate to the majority," ANC president Nelson Mandela said when announcing the suspension of negotiations with the regime in the wake of the Boipatong massacre. "We are prepared to pay any price for that decision." Open to continuing negotiations if the government meets its demands, the revolutionary-democratic movement has shown its determination to fight to achieve its goal — the establishment of a democratic, nonsexist, and nonracial South Africa.

The overwhelming response inside South Africa to the ANC-initiated call for mobilizations is a reflection of the progress made in the organization of a massive social and political movement that advances its interests through disciplined and united action.

Millions around the world can join in that fight and bring closer the end of the apartheid regime.

Challenges facing rail workers

Another blow has been struck against rail workers and their fight for safe working conditions and a decent standard of living. Instead of turning the railroad bosses' lockout into a national strike that could have brought the power of workers to bear in the current dispute, union officials allowed the companies to cause a "national emergency" and give Congress a handle to intervene.

A limited strike by 1,500 members of the International Association of Machinists against the CSX rail line was met by united action on the part of the wealthy owners of the nation's rail industry. The Association of American Railroads was willing to disrupt the economy and the lives of millions of working people because the employers in a "bargaining group must shut down in defense of their struck member . . . not solely to protect the struck member but also to protect the bargaining group itself from the ultimate result of exorbitant and costly settlements."

Congress, going along with the rail owners defense of their profits, acted quickly to order workers back on the job.

Rail workers have just demands. In the past years, wages have been cut drastically for many; jobs have been eliminated, making the railroads less safe for workers and the public; and union members are having to pay a greater share of their wages for health care.

Rail union officials say that the actions of the carriers and government make it virtually impossible for rail work-

ers to use the strike weapon to win their demands. But the rail unions don't have to face the actions of the employers and Congress with such impotence. It is precisely because rail workers have the power to shut down the country and win the support of other working people — those who ride trains to work and those who depend on the goods that trains haul across the country — that the government acts so quickly in defense of the bosses.

In 1978 when President James Carter declared a "national health and safety" emergency in order to force coal miners back to work after nearly 100 days on strike, members of the United Mine Workers of America ignored the order and organized demonstrations and protests to win working people to their side. Their actions made it possible to beat back the combined assault of the companies and the government.

Railroad machinist Paul Kennedy recently explained, "We have to realize that they can only put us back to work if we let them."

By the beginning of August President Bush will sign a contract forced on the rail workers by Congress. If the pact imposed on rail workers after being ordered back to work in April 1991 is any example, this new contract will contain major work rule changes and stingy wage increases. The imposed agreement will only postpone the inevitable fight that rail workers will have to find a way to mount against the employers. In that struggle they deserve the support of all working people.

Solidarity with Canada strikes

An important shift on the part of employers and their governments in Canada has developed in recent weeks: the use of scabs backed up by police violence against a number of important strikes, in a new attempt to push back the labor movement.

This is the first such concerted effort since fighting unionists defeated similar attempts in the period starting with the strike at the Edmonton Gainers meat-packing plant in 1986 through to the letter carriers' battle against Canada Post in 1987.

Now, as then, the task of the hour for the labor movement across the country is to mobilize solidarity with striking union members.

From gold miners at Royal Oak Inc.'s giant gold mine in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, to fish plant workers in Arichat, Nova Scotia, unionists have fought pitched battles in an effort to defend union rights. They have faced Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers with M-16s, Pinkerton cops with attack dogs, and the companies' use of helicopters to fly scabs and supplies over their picket lines.

Elsewhere across the country unionists are fighting the use of scabs to break their strikes — from the 1,600 workers on strike at the Toronto Star newspaper to the 450 flight attendants at Canada's third largest airline, Nationair.

The combination of these strikes and the get-tough tactics of the employers raise the stakes for both the bosses and the labor movement. The wealthy owners of industry will see if they can take advantage of the continued economic crisis — and resultant rise in unemployment — to set their sights on major unions in central industries in Canada.

Unionists in Nova Scotia won a powerful victory at the Arichat Clearwater Fine Foods lobster plant June 11 that helps show the way forward and the fact that working people can effectively respond to strike-breaking moves

by corporations. Determined to regain the offensive in their strike, unionists mobilized to retake the factory, forcing the cops, goons, scabs, and company managers out.

It was a similar mobilization that led to the victory over Gainers in 1986 and Canada Post in 1987. Until recently, the employers in Canada have not again attempted to establish the use of scabs or the threat of hiring what they call "replacement workers" as the norm in union disputes.

This practice has been more widely utilized in the United States, and the employers in Canada are now hoping to follow suit. An important test came earlier this year when 13,000 United Auto Workers (UAW) members at the earth-moving equipment giant, Caterpillar, went on strike. When the company threatened to bring in scabs, the strikers' determination stiffened and they won solidarity from fellow unionists across the country. But the Achilles' heel of the labor movement proved to be the strike's undoing — Owen Bieber and other UAW officials organized to end the developing battle and sent the strikers back to work.

Bosses on both sides of the border gloated over their defeat of the UAW. In Canada, employers openly discussed that the time was ripe to deal similar defeats to unions there.

However, as in 1986-87, what remains to be tested is the level of working-class resistance to new attacks and the potential of the rank and file of the labor movement to join in battles that develop. In that test of strength, the unionists in Nova Scotia are leading the way.

Unionists everywhere can discuss ways to come to the aid of those now on strike. A combination of effective picket lines and widespread solidarity can show the employers as a whole that their attempts to deal the labor movement some serious setbacks will not only be defeated, but will result in a stronger labor movement.

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

A reader's letter in the June 26 issue raised several questions about Korea, including the possible effects reunification would have on the regimes in the South and North; any lessons from reunification of Germany that might apply to Korea; and communists' relationship to the regime in North Korea.

The fight for Korean reunification is completely bound

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

up with all the struggles waged by Korean working people over the past five decades. Division of the Korean peninsula, a step taken without any consultation with Koreans, was first imposed in 1945 by the imperialist victors in World War II, with the collusion of Moscow. It was reinforced by the Korean War, which was imperialism's attempt to get rid of the conquests of the people of the North and fasten a puppet government that would do the bidding of Washington and its allies on the whole of Korea.

Millions of Korean workers, peasants, and students have waged mighty struggles from the Korean War down to today to get rid of the Washington-imposed regime in the South.

In the Korean War, which began 42 years ago this June, the peninsula was invaded by forces from several imperialist countries, including Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, as well as the United States. Between 2 and 3 million Koreans were casualties of the war. Their main fighting ally was the force of more than 1 million Chinese peasant and worker volunteers, who threw themselves into the battle to defend Korea.

Threats continue

The end of the fighting in 1953 did not see the end of the imperialist effort to get rid of the workers state in North Korea. Some 40,000 U.S. troops remain in South Korea to this day, armed with chemical, "conventional," and nuclear weapons — all aimed at North Korea. Each year they have carried out extensive practice invasions of the North — until a decision in December last year by the South Korean government put an end to this operation, following last year's big wave of student protests against police brutality and U.S. domination.

Today Washington — the only government in the world ever to have used nuclear weapons on people — is making a hue and cry with its charges that North Korea might be building atomic bombs, while it aims hundreds of its own nuclear weapons at the heads of the North Korean people. This hypocritical campaign is part of the continuing imperialist aggression against the people of Korea.

In this situation it is the elementary duty of communists — first and foremost those living in countries whose governments take part in the relentless drive to wall off, threaten, and bring to heel the government of North Korea — to stand shoulder to shoulder with the government and people of North Korea in opposing this imperialist campaign.

The outcome of the fight for Korean reunification, and the results of any significant steps in that direction, will be determined in the course of this ongoing struggle. It is beside the point to speculate on what the results of some abstract "unification" of Korea would produce.

For example, many South Korean business people have eyed up North Korea as a possible "cheap labor zone" — a source of great profits for South Korean capital if they could secure unification on terms favorable to them. They overlook the entire dynamic of the five-decade long reunification struggle against the capitalist-imposed division of Korea.

Struggles raise confidence

Every such struggle, and every serious step towards reunification (such as the abandonment of the annual practice invasions of the North), raises the confidence of working people throughout Korea and brings them closer together as workers capable of fighting to advance their interests, not as tools for more efficient exploitation. This is precisely why the regime in South Korea, with Washington standing at its shoulder, has bitterly fought to maintain the division of Korea, with Seoul's National Security Law forbidding any contact by southerners with North Koreans as its centerpiece of repressive legislation.

There are substantial differences in the German situation. In that case it was the East German Stalinist regime that walled off its people, while the imperialists were able to pose as champions of freedom and openness. The crumbling of the Berlin wall accompanied the fall of the hated police-state regime there.

The German capitalists, like their counterparts in South Korea, hoped to gain through unification of their country a docile and low-paid workforce and a big expansion of their internal market, and thereby to greatly strengthen German capitalism. More and more of them are now admitting they have gained more problems than benefits.

They have not been able to impose a new capitalist class of exploiters as the owners of industry in the East; they are faced more and more with demands from workers in the east insisting on their right to equal wages with their western counterparts; and they also confront a new combativity on the part of workers in the west who are unprepared to make bigger and bigger sacrifices to finance German capitalism's attempts to take over the east.

Strikers picket New Zealand steel company

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

We invite you to contribute short

ON THE PICKET LINE

items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles.

Workers at Pacific Steel in Auckland, New Zealand, have maintained a 24-hour picket line since voting to strike June 4. They are fighting the bosses' demands for flexible work hours, including 12-hour shifts with no overtime pay.

The picket area, where the 170 strikers take turns on 12-hour shifts, has a look of permanence. A trailer, portable toilets, and tents have been set up. At night those on picket duty warm themselves over fires in oil drums. At the plant gate a big sign with pictures of several of the managers hangs with the question, "Would you trust this lot?" A large mirror has also been set up in response to one of the manager's often repeated phrases, "I'll look into it."

A second picket line is occasionally set up at the head office of Fletcher Challenge, New Zealand's largest company, which owns Pacific Steel.

Support for the strike is growing. A meeting of wives and girlfriends of the strikers drew 60 participants. Workers from other factories have dropped by and financial support from other steelworkers has started to come in.

The strike has also gained some coverage in the news media. An item appeared on one national television program and the strike has been featured on the front page of the main Auckland newspaper. A television crew from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) spent two hours filming for a program on attempts by Australian bosses to follow the example of their New Zealand counterparts in stepping up anti-union attacks.

One worker summed up the spirit of the strikers when he was asked by an ABC reporter how they could

win against a company the size of Fletcher Challenge. He explained that winning or losing was in some ways irrelevant because "when you are attacked, for your own self-respect you have to fight back."

Paperworkers end strike in Tasmania, Australia

At a mass meeting June 9 in Brunie, an industrial town on the north coast of the island of Tasmania, Australia, more than 850 pulp and paper workers voted to end their month-long strike against Associated Pulp and Paper Mills (APPM).

The attack by APPM management on union rights and conditions at the Brunie plant provoked the strike and escalated it into one of the most fiercely fought industrial disputes in Tasmanian history. It achieved national prominence as a test case on the future role of unions in defending workers' basic rights.

During the course of the strike, well organized pickets braved near-freezing conditions at 13 gates and one rail line on the 300-acre site of the mill. Production was brought to a halt. Company management attempted to ram trucks through the picket line, turned firehoses on unionists, and brought in security thugs trained in martial arts. The strike achieved national headlines after a mass picket blockaded a government train. In the last week 300 pickets confronted up to 150 police in a pitched battle as the cops tried to escort a handful of "replacement workers" through the main gate of the plant. One striker and one cop were hospitalized, several others were injured, and 43 pickets were arrested.

The strikers were winning national and international solidarity. A 24-hour solidarity work stoppage by miners around the country and fellow pulp mill workers in Tasmania was being planned. A nationwide boycott on APPM products was threatened by truck drivers from the Transport Workers Union. Local farmers donated food and wood to the strikers.

The prospect of this strike producing a wider and deeper union re-

sponse brought a rapid reaction from both the bosses' courts of the Industrial Relations Commission and from the top leadership of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU). Working overtime during a long holiday weekend, they sought — and got — nominal agreement from the company on a "peace package."

At a mass meeting, strikers voted for the agreement by a large majority, if reluctantly, as the basis of a return to work. ACTU president Martin Ferguson told the meeting that the agreement was "a clear victory" since it reestablished the right

eted the Cone Mills plant early in the morning on May 18.

The one-day strike was called to pressure Cone management during contract negotiations, which began that day, affecting 2,400 workers who are covered by union contracts in Salisbury, Greensboro, and Haw River. Cone Mills in Salisbury employs 700 workers.

Workers are demanding that "junior preferred stock," which they hold under an employee stock ownership plan, be changed to common stock — which is worth more — and that they receive a bonus when



Striking workers at the Associated Pulp and Paper Mills facility in Tasmania, Australia. Mass pickets stopped trains from taking rolls of paper out of the mill.

of union representation at the APPM plant.

Ferguson indicated that the unanswered questions and continuing conflict anticipated by many strikers after the vote to return to work would be fought out "inside the workplace." Many pickets on the eve of going back to work felt that this was just another round in the battle with the company over management's attempts to drive against union rights and conditions.

Textile workers mount one-day protest strike

Chants of "Strike! Strike! Strike!" filled the air over the town of Salisbury, North Carolina, as some 50 workers, members of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 1584, pick-

the company goes back on the stock market.

Strikers persuaded a number of workers to take the day off and join the picketing. Those on probation or who had no excused-absence days left were told by union members to continue working. These employees reported that the plant was unable to operate as normal. Management called in non-bargaining-unit employees in an attempt to keep production going.

Although the police did not interfere with the early morning picketing, the city manager and the police chief showed up afterward and harassed union members. Six pickets were given citations for demonstrating without a permit and were threatened with arrest if they did not stop.

The union succeeded in obtain-

ing a permit for pickets to continue through the afternoon. Strikers took turns walking in front of the plant gates, while others stood on the corner in front of the union hall holding signs.

Cone singled out 19 workers, saying they would be "replaced." Fifteen are now back at work, although at different jobs. The union is fighting to get jobs back for the other four workers.

Auto workers in Belgium protest layoffs

Ninety temporary workers on the afternoon shift at the Renault auto assembly plant in Vilvoorde, near Brussels, refused to go back to work after their lunch break June 11. They stayed in the lunchroom for an extra half hour, causing "holes" on one of two assembly lines.

The workers were protesting a decision by Renault to lay them off at the end of their contracts. Of 3,400 manual workers, 10 percent are employed in temporary positions. Until now, young workers hired at Renault would first get several six- or seven-month contracts and then, in most cases, a "permanent" one.

The strike began after management broke off negotiations, stating they would enforce their decision on the layoffs. In response to the protest action, management promised to reopen negotiations, but reaffirmed their intention to cut overall employment in the plant for the second half of the year.

The fact that young, temporary workers organized a work stoppage was a surprise to everyone in the plant. Many "permanent" workers expressed support for the right of those working temporary jobs to strike.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Tony Gibson, member of the New Zealand Engineers Workers Union at Pacific Steel, in Auckland, New Zealand; Manuele Lasalo and Ron Poulsen from Burnie, Australia; Devin Oldendick, member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 1113T in Haw River, North Carolina; and Eric Wils in Brussels, Belgium.

LETTERS

Family values

The *Militant* editorial "Quayle scapegoats the poor" rightly nailed the central political aim of the vice-president's "Murphy Brown" speech — a demagogic effort to turn the victims of the crisis of disintegrating capitalism into its cause.

Something else, however, was operating in Quayle's message.

"When families fail, society fails," the vice-president stated. "The anarchy and lack of structure in our inner cities are testament to how quickly civilization falls apart when the family foundation crumbles." Quayle's reference to Murphy Brown, an "unwed" mother, was not simply, as the *Militant* states, to make sure his speech got "maximum attention."

Quayle's speech was a straight up appropriation of key themes of Patrick Buchanan's self-proclaimed "revolution" based on "faith, family and country."

Fascist elements, who emerge in the tumult of "breakdowns" with their own aggressive action agenda and scapegoat solutions make special use of the "crisis of the family."

Given the limits of analogy, the similarity of Quayle's Buchananite remarks and those of the 1932 National Socialist German Workers Party election platform on the fam-

ily is noteworthy.

"... [I]t is the highest task to make the founding of a family possible to the mates in life and companions in work. Its final destruction would mean the end of every form of higher humanity. No matter how far woman's sphere of activity can be stretched, the ultimate aim of a truly organic and logical development must always be the creation of a family. It is the smallest but most valuable unit in the complete structure of the state." (Adolf Hitler: *Mein Programm*, emphasis added).

Jon Hillson
St. Paul, Minnesota

Haiti Sanctions

The issue of the *Militant* I recently received had excellent analyses of two vexing and tragic situations for the world's working class: the debacles of Afghanistan and Yugoslavia.

However, your analysis of the situation in Haiti left me wondering: do Haitians truly want an economic boycott of their country?

We no doubt agree that socialists need to examine each country's situation individually. While an economic boycott helped the South African's struggle, for example it may not be right for Haiti, where so many people are on the brink of starvation and are suffering horri-

bly. An economic stranglehold may hurt the ruling class of Haiti, but the rich will never go hungry. Of course, an economic boycott will have some positive influence: it may stimulate unpaid soldiers to overthrow their dictator.

But it seems to me that the *Militant* should ask: What do the people of Haiti want done by the outside world? If indeed, the common sentiment supports a boycott, even with all of its attendant hardships, then it deserves support. But if the boycott is a tactic supported only by Aristide and his supporters then let us think twice.

A boycott is only one tactic among many. I think we should review all of the options before endorsing a tactic that may visit further horror on a people who have already suffered so much.

Albert Fried-Cassorla
Melrose Park, Pennsylvania

Life-long fighter

A celebration of the life and accomplishments of Bob Hansen was held in San Diego June 7. Bob was a life-long fighter for social justice and a supporter of the Socialist Workers Party. He died May 19th from leukemia.

As a supporter of the SWP he had been active in the party's election campaigns. He defended the revo-

lutions of Nicaragua, Grenada and Cuba. He enthusiastically participated in marches and rallies from San Diego to San Francisco defending the rights of workers nationally and internationally. Bob was a regular attendee of Militant Labor Forums and a reader of the *Militant*.

The Pathfinder Bookstore had a special significance for Bob. It was a center of education for communist thought and action. Hearing that the Los Angeles bookstore had been destroyed during the anti-police riots, Bob, during the last weeks of his life, requested that contributions be made to rebuild the Pathfinder Bookstore.

The memorial celebration was attended by 22 people and at this time a total of \$800 has been donated. More contributions are expected.

Sylvia Hansen
Santee, California

Don Boynton

Don Boynton, a longtime friend of the Socialist Workers Party, died in Los Angeles on May 1. A skilled automotive mechanic, Don is probably best remembered for his generous contribution of labor during more than four decades in repairing and maintaining cars used in party work.

Don was born in Ohio in 1914. As an ambulance driver during the

Spanish Civil War in the 1930s, Don came to the aid of the workers and peasants fighting Franco. During the following decade Don was an active member of the Socialist Workers Party in California. Although he resigned sometime in the late forties, he remained a *Militant* reader and supporter, often attending meetings over the years. Don worked for the state as a truck mechanic before retiring in the 1980s.

Don was a strong supporter of Mark Curtis. Shortly before he died, Don attended a meeting on behalf of the imprisoned meat-packer at the home of film director Nick Castle. Although he had recently undergone surgery for a broken hip, Don was in fine spirits and stayed throughout the afternoon event, listening closely as Curtis's wife, Kate Kaku, told how the Curtis case had become part of the new larger fight against police brutality.

Nelson Blackstock
Lost Angeles, California.

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

Protest condemns U.S. stand on Haiti

BY MIKE FITZSIMONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nearly 400 protesters, mostly Haitians, marched from the U.S. Capitol to the Organization of American States June 27. The march and rally were called to demand the immediate and unconditional return of Haiti's elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, whose government was overthrown by a military coup in September 1991.

Demonstrators also demanded that the U.S. government grant Temporary Protective Status to Haitian refugees, that an international embargo of oil and other strategic goods be carried out against the military government in Haiti, and that there be no military intervention there.

A number of organizations sponsored the action, including the Washington Office on Haiti and Komite Mete Men, an organization of Haitian immigrants in Washington active in support of the struggle for democracy in Haiti.

Groups in the Haitian communities of Philadelphia, Boston, and Quebec, Canada, also organized participation in the protest. Members of Komite Resistance in Boston came in three buses as well as cars and vans.

After gathering to hear messages of solidarity, the march stepped off with songs and chants of "George Bush, Dan Quayle: Haiti's not for sale!" and "We want Aristide!" Protesters carried signs that read, "Tighten the Embargo," and "Asylum for Refugees." Banners also demanded, "Bush out, Bazin out, Titid in." Marc Bazin is a former Aristide aide who has agreed to administer the government under military control. Titid is the name Aristide's supporters have given him.

One Haitian woman from Maryland said, "American Airlines still flies to Haiti. So there is no embargo. The United States can stop the small boats of Haitian refugees fleeing the island, but why can't it stop the ships bringing goods to the regime in power?" She said most Haitians favor the embargo, which is aimed at bringing down the repressive government there.

Her husband, a shop steward in the Communication Workers of America at C&P



Demonstrators in Washington, D.C., demanded that Haitian refugees, such as those above, be granted asylum in the United States.

Telephone, thinks the U.S. government is complicit with the Haitian government in its attacks on the people. "Would you hand over refugees for identification and finger-printing to a government you don't recognize?"

he said.

Joe Razza, a student at Swarthmore College who marched in the protest, said that it inspired him to see people from another country standing up and demanding action

from the U.S. government. "Haitian immigrants know the parallel histories of racism and oppression of both countries," he said.

Representatives from several Haitian organizations, including Jean Vanel of the Coordination of Haitian Students in Boston, gave greetings to the rally. Many messages of solidarity were also sent. Speakers included Hilda Mason, at-large member of the D.C. Council; Bill Callahan of Witness for Peace; Mike Dupuy, a candidate for Congress in Maryland; and Ron Daniels, candidate for U.S. president.

Ellen Whitt, the Socialist Workers candidate for D.C. Council, also spoke. She said that Washington is afraid that the Haitian struggle for democracy will spread and become an inspiring example to U.S. workers. For that reason, she said, "Youth and working people must call for a halt to the forced repatriation of Haitian refugees." She also demanded an end to police brutality including against participants in the demonstration.

D.C. cops had refused to allow the march to continue to the State Department and forced protesters to turn and stop at the Organization of American States. Cops injured a Haitian woman and charged her with assaulting a police officer when she protested their redirecting of the march.

'Toronto Star' strikers rally support

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO — At a mass meeting June 25 at the Toronto Exhibition grounds, 1,600 *Toronto Star* strikers voted by a substantial majority to reject the company's latest offer and continue their 17-day strike. The *Star* is Canada's largest circulation daily newspaper.

The members of the Southern Ontario Newspaper Guild (SONG) walked out June 8. The strike involves truck drivers, loaders, porters, mechanics, clerical workers in the circulation and advertising departments, editorial writers, and others. The central issue

in the strike has been the drive by the *Star* bosses to contract out jobs. Many workers, such as the drivers, will lose their jobs through contracting out.

Pressmen, who belong to another union and whose leadership has just signed a tentative agreement, continue to work. Management has hired scab drivers to deliver the paper to stores and newspaper boxes. One daily edition, instead of the usual three, is being published.

"For the second time in the Guild's history the company has forced us out on strike," explained the *Star* guild strike bul-

letin. "During its 100th anniversary the *Star*, founded by striking union members in 1892, is putting its own workers out of jobs and on the street."

Over 700 strikers and supporters turned out to a rally June 12 to confront the scabs and try to stop the delivery of the Saturday edition. Unionists from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Canadian Automobile Workers, Canadian Union of Education Workers, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, United Steelworkers of America, and others participated.

In spite of threats by the cops, strikers held up scab drivers entering and leaving the plant for 15 minutes before releasing them. The rally dispersed in the early afternoon after 150 riot-equipped cops threatened to attack several dozen strikers who had sat down in the street to prevent delivery trucks from coming out of the plant.

The strikers have pressured the Toronto City Council to pull advertising from the paper until the strike is over and a similar motion is before the Metro Toronto Council. The Ontario New Democratic Party government has also withdrawn \$40,000 a week in advertising.

Newly elected Canadian Labor Congress president Robert White spoke to about 100 strikers on the picket line June 18 along with Leo Gerrard, the Canadian Director of the United Steelworkers of America.

On June 23, guild representatives reported that agreement had been reached on the contracting out issue. However, the *Star* bosses are insisting on the right to discipline workers they say damaged company property. They also want guarantees the guild won't take any action against workers who have crossed the picket lines. The company is also refusing retroactive pay in any settlement. That would mean a loss of \$1,000 for each guild member.

Pickets are still up. To avoid an injunction limiting pickets and a threatened \$10 million lawsuit by the *Star*, the guild has agreed to let more scab delivery trucks enter and leave the plant. However, delivery is late and sporadic, and the most recent guild strike bulletin reported that the *Star* has lost 28 percent of its readers.

John Steele is a member of Local 836 of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union at the Coats Patons textile mill.

Minnesotans build event on cop violence

BY GREG ROSE

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Leaders of the fight against police brutality in the Twin Cities announced plans for a July 11 planning meeting in Minneapolis to discuss the next steps in the fight to win federal prosecution of the cops who beat Rodney King.

The news conference announcing the meeting was covered by Twin Cities newspapers, TV, and radio stations. Spokespeople also slammed new laws aimed at severely restricting democratic rights.

Norvell Laurent, director of the Inner City Youth League and member of the St. Paul Police/Community Relations Task Force, explained that "people still want justice for Rodney King." With this fact in mind meeting organizers expect a solid turnout of youth and political activists from throughout the Twin Cities area. In addition, activists from several other cities are making plans to attend.

Called by the leadership of a May 2 march of 6,000 in Minneapolis demanding justice for Rodney King, the July 11 meeting will be an opportunity to draw more youth and working people into a discussion on the fight against police brutality. It will be a chance to share experiences and political conclusions on how to mount effective struggles aimed at prosecuting cops who are guilty of brutality.

Meeting organizers explained at the news conference that several recent moves by the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis in the wake of the Simi Valley verdict be vigorously opposed because they are aimed at narrowing political activity here, including actions against police brutality.

The Minneapolis Police Department has recently mass distributed a flyer aimed at restricting democratic rights. It states "NOTICE. The following is illegal in Minneapolis and you will be arrested for... begging, trespassing on state property... unlawful assembly (gathering in groups of 3 or more)... interfering with pedestrians or vehicular traffic."

This law, pushed by the "Community Crime/SAFE" unit of the police, has been used to roust homeless working people from public areas, young Blacks from street corners, and political activists from public areas.

Following protests, the police issued a new leaflet reaffirming the ordinance but stated it was not meant to interfere with First Amendment rights.

The St. Paul City Council considered a new law that would allow cops to "ban" people from the city's skyways for up to twenty-four hours. The skyways are walkways and shopping areas that connect buildings downtown, and are especially popular in the severe Minnesota winters. The new version of the law came in the wake of the city's defeat in a lawsuit filed by Eugene Brown, a Black teenager, who was "banned" from the areas by police.

In addition, council member Paula Maccabee introduced legislation that would allow banning people from libraries or any public areas for as little as the crime of body odor, kneeling on the floor, staring, or mumbling.

Within hours of introducing these pieces of legislation, the city council backed down as public protest mounted, including a dem-

onstration in council chambers during debate over the laws.

Keith Ellison, from the Coalition for Police Accountability and an organizer of the July 11 meeting, told the press conference that "the governments of Minneapolis and St. Paul, within weeks of each other, have served notice that they intend to usurp the democratic rights of the poor, the minority, and the young," in the wake of the Los Angeles events.

Chris Nisan, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress, said that "supporters of my campaign are joining together with other activists involved in the fight against police brutality to organize a campaign against this attempt by Minneapolis and St. Paul police to trample on the Bill of Rights."

Nisan described a June 11 incident where Officer Farrel of the Minneapolis police ordered Nisan's campaign supporters to take down a socialist campaign table in that city, threatening them with a citation.

"I demand that this harassment of my election campaign cease immediately," he said. "On July 7 my campaign will launch an intensive two-week effort to petition to get on the ballot in Minnesota. We expect to have our constitutional rights respected — including by the Minneapolis police."

Vernon Bellecourt of the International Indian Treaty Council also spoke, citing the poverty and homelessness faced by many Native Americans in the state and denouncing the skyway banning bill as an attempt to further deny the humanity of Indian people.