

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

European governments still
reeling from currency crisis

— PAGE 8

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 56/NO. 37 October 16, 1992

Machinist delegates back USAir strikers

BY PAUL MAILHOT

MONTREAL — "If it comes down to a strike at USAir," Richard Trumka, president of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), told the more than 1,500 delegates and guests at the International Association of Machinists (IAM) national convention here October 2, "there's a whole lot of UMWA members, in the United States and Canada who are ready, who are willing, and who are able to make your fight our fight, to make your picket line our picket line. The IAM has always stood with the mine workers and we will stand with you."

This fighting solidarity message with machinist union members up against the wall by USAir's massive concession demands brought delegates to their feet in the biggest ovation of the convention. Trumka pledged that members of the UMWA would join IAM mechanics, cleaners, and clerks on picket lines in Pittsburgh and other cities from the first days of the battle.

George Kourpias, president of the IAM, explained to the delegates in his opening address that "the contract the carrier [USAir] has proposed is worse than anything Frank Lorenzo ever put on the table."

On Monday morning, October 5, Kourpias announced that the IAM had been forced to take strike action.

One of the first delegates to the mike was Jim Lyle, from IAM Local 141 in Detroit. He received a big applause as he urged the convention delegates "to give 100 percent support to the workers at USAir."

In an interview later Lyle, who works for Northwest Airlines, explained, "We're in contract negotiations now. Whatever take-backs they get away with at USAir, we know they'll try to implement the same against us. We've got to put a stop to this."

"As soon as I get back to Detroit we're going to start outreach and solidarity. We have a lot of contacts from when we organized support for the Eastern strike. We have to hold rallies, dances, bring in speakers —

Continued on Page 12

Solidarity needed with striking USAir workers

BY EDWIN FRUIT

BALTIMORE — Some 8,500 mechanics, cleaners, and store clerks organized by the International Association of Machinists (IAM) at USAir have overwhelmingly rejected a final contract offer and have gone on strike at the nation's sixth-largest carrier as of Monday morning, October 5.

After the previous contract expired in March, 1990, both USAir and the IAM negotiated within the federal guidelines regulating the transportation industry. During the two and a half years of negotiations, the union agreed to a number of concessions, while at the same time the company withdrew language and proposals objectionable to the union.

In the final proposal offered by the company September 24, the company's withdrawn proposals were put back, in addition to the concessions agreed upon by the union.

More than 3,000 workers are on strike in Pittsburgh. A number of workers on the picket line in the first hours of the strike commented that to accept the company's demands would have "taken us back 17 years" and that they were "forced out on strike" by USAir. They also said that the central issue was not wages, but jobs that would be lost through sub-contracting and other means, as well as health care and pensions.

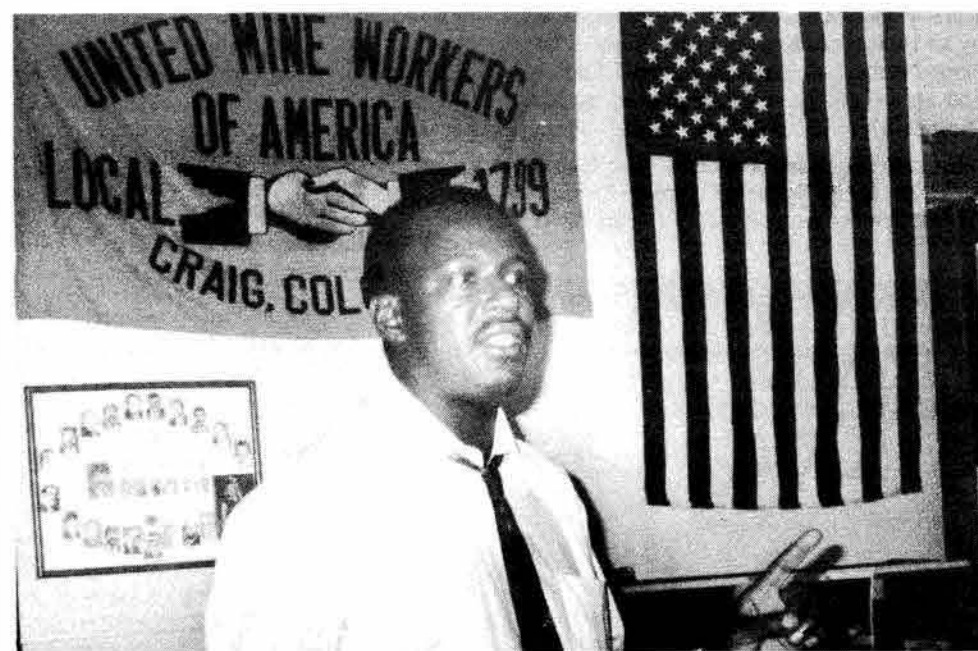
Several workers were arrested on the first morning of the strike for picketing outside

the maintenance hangar. The main road to the hangar is on county property, and the county refused to give the IAM permission to picket, which the union had requested in advance.

A striking mechanic at Newark Airport remarked, "We screwed up during the Eastern strike; we should have all gone out. In fact, everyone under the Railway Labor Act should have gone out." Another striker, who had also been on strike at Eastern Airlines, agreed, adding, "They're trying to bust all the unions. If they keep going, there will be an insurrection in this country in the next year."

The Eastern strike, which began in
Continued on Page 6

In discussions with Colorado miners, Warren points to history of resistance



Socialist presidential candidate James Warren in Craig, Colorado.

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

CRAIG, Colorado — With only five weeks left in his busy fall campaign schedule, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president James Warren made a two-day campaign stop in this coal-mining town of about 6,000 in the mountains of northwestern Colorado. He was invited here to address a meeting of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1799.

Local 1799 carried out a bitter, year-long strike against the Cyprus Empire Mine which was settled in May, 1992. Although the mine owners failed in their effort to bust the union, only 55 of the 160 original strikers have been called back so far.

"The only way to describe what is going on in this country is a depression," Warren told 20 miners in the UMWA union hall. "We are in the beginning stages of a depression, and neither George Bush nor Bill Clinton will solve the problems workers face."

"Franklin Roosevelt didn't solve the problems of the last depression," he went on. "It was millions of working men and women, linked up with the unemployed, who demanded that their concerns be addressed." Gigantic labor battles during the 1930s depression led to the creation of the mass industrial unions, as well as to Social Security, unemployment compensation, and other social gains that the government was forced to concede.

Warren explained the two different directions for the labor movement had been charted at the end of the 1970s, when the employers began their current offensive against the unions. One was represented by the concession deal that Chrysler extracted from the auto workers' union. This approach was followed by the leadership of most unions and resulted in real wages being driven down for the first time since the Great Depression, back to the level of the early 1960s.

The other course for the labor movement was represented by the 110-day coal strike of 1977-78, where miners defeated the coal bosses' concession demands. "The ones who resisted are in better shape today," Warren noted.

"Your strike is part of this tradition," he told the Craig workers. Other workers today
Continued on Page 6

Miami meeting hears Cuban youth leaders; rightists fail to prevent democratic discussion

BY TOM FISKE

MIAMI — "The Cuban people will continue to resist. In 33 years the United States government has not brought the Cuban people to their knees and they will not be able to."

This was the message two Cuban youth leaders brought to a public meeting in Miami, the first such event in many years. The two speakers were Ibis Alvisa González and José Antonio Concepción Rangel, in Miami for the last stop of their nine-city visit to the United States.

The meeting marked a big advance in establishing the right to defend and debate the Cuban revolution publicly in Miami. Some 225 people, mainly students, heard a presentation by Ibis Alvisa and participated in a heated discussion for a total of two hours at Florida International University (FIU), University Park campus, on Thursday, October 1.

The two Cuban revolutionary youths were able to get their views across despite

the repeated efforts of Cuban counterrevolutionary activists to set a tone where Alvisa and Concepción could not express their views and have them considered objectively.

The event was organized through the Student Program Council and had the backing of the College Democrats, FIU National Organization for Women, Stonewall Students Organization, Student Organization Council (SOC), Student Government Association (SGA), and the Women's Studies Department.

Introductory remarks stressing the importance of free speech were given by Zachary Burton, SGA president; Max Rameau, president of the Black Student Union; Inaki Rezola, a Cuban student who is chair of SOC; and Rafael Morel, vice-chair of SOC. History professor Brian Peterson sat on the podium to back the right of everyone present to hear the speakers.

Chairing the meeting were Maggie Mc-
Continued on Page 4



Ibis Alvisa González

Militant



Brazilian president impeached

President Fernando Collor de Mello was impeached September 29 by the lower house of the Brazilian Congress. The 441-to-38 vote came after weeks of protests demanding his ouster. Collor now faces a trial in the Senate on charges of corruption. Collor will be stripped of his powers for 180 days. If he is convicted, the impeachment will become permanent. Collor has overseen inflation of 8,500 percent in the two and a half years since he took office. In this period Collor's campaign treasurer is charged with funneling to his family at least \$32 million in kickbacks from those receiving government contracts.

Germany cancels V-2 celebration

Bowing to domestic and international opposition, Germany canceled a celebration commemorating the 50th anniversary of its launching of the V-2 rocket. The planned October 3 event to honor the V-2, the forerunner of modern space rockets and long-range missiles, was billed by Germany as simply marking technological achievement, despite the fact that the rocket was developed as one of the "wonder weapons" with which Hitler hoped to win World War II. In addition to opposition in Germany, strong protests came from Britain, which was hit by 1,115 V-2 rockets between September 1944 and March 1945.

Dominican protests continue

Protests against the plans by the government of the Dominican Republic to celebrate the anniversary of Columbus's arrival 500 years ago continued last week. On September 22, more than 1,000 people marched through the city of Azua in a funeral procession for a human rights activist killed by police at an earlier protest. "Columbus, there's no room for you!" the crowd chanted. The day before, protesters smashed and burned a statue of the explorer in Santiago. The government of president Joaquín Balaguer has been organizing a multi-million-dollar tribute to Columbus, the center-



September 15 student demonstration in Rio de Janeiro demands ouster of Brazilian president Fernando Collor de Mello.

piece of which is a massive ten-story light-house with beams that can be seen from 150 miles away. Many Dominicans are angry at this expense, which contrasts with the neglect of the nation's sanitation, housing, health care, and education.

U.S. returns Subic Bay naval base to Philippines

The United States formally returned the Subic Naval Station to the Philippines on September 30. The naval base, along with Clark Air Base, also in the Philippines, had been the linchpin of U.S. military power in Asia. The U.S. Air Force had already decided to abandon Clark after it was damaged by a volcanic eruption last year. Some 1,700 troops remain at the Subic Naval Station, and are scheduled to be evacuated by November 24.

At one time the Subic Bay base had up to 20,000 troops stationed there and was the largest overseas supply depot for the Navy.

These bases have been used in every major war waged by the United States, including the Gulf War in 1991. Last year, Washington tried to extend its lease on the base, but was turned down by the Philippine Senate. The Philippine government plans to convert the area into a free port and industrial complex.

Racism persists in decisions made by U.S. lenders

An examination of mortgage loans in the United States in 1991 revealed that Blacks were rejected for loans at a much higher rate than whites of similar income. A study of 46 banks in 13 cities showed that nearly one in four mortgage applications from middle-income Blacks were denied compared to a denial rate for middle-income whites of one in 11. For all income levels, 26.7 percent of Black applicants were turned down, compared with 10.5 percent of whites.

Patriot missile success rate reduced to nine percent

A new study of the Patriot missile, based on full access to classified Army records from the Gulf War, reports that the highly touted missile hit its target only nine percent of the time. The study, released by the General Accounting Office September 29, is the latest of several revisions of the missile's effectiveness since U.S. Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S.-led forces in the Gulf War, said in January 1991 that "the Patriot's success, of course, is known to everyone; it's 100 percent so far." A Pentagon spokesperson declined to dispute the study.

Angolan president leads in vote

Early results from Angola's first national election, held September 29-30, show a lead by current Angolan president José Eduardo

dos Santos of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). He is running against Jonas Savimbi of the Union for the Total Independence of Angola. Savimbi led a devastating war against the Angolan government for more than one and a half decades, backed by the United States and South Africa. Officials estimate that nearly 90 percent of the nation's 4.9 million registered voters cast ballots.

U.S. jails hold mentally ill

U.S. jails are becoming "holding pens" for the mentally ill according to a study issued by the Public Health Research Group. Based on a survey of 1,391 jails around the country, the report estimated that 30,000 seriously mentally ill persons are imprisoned, and that they receive no treatment and suffer a high incidence of physical abuse and rape. This amounts to 7.2 percent of the overall jail population. It was further found that 29 percent of them had not been charged with a crime, but were jailed because no psychiatric facilities were available to take them.

Strikes increase in Indonesia

Indonesia, which is undergoing rapid industrial growth, is experiencing a rise in strike actions. The number of strikes in that country in 1991 was 112, up from 61 the previous year. Strikes were banned in Indonesia until 1989. President Suharto has ruled this nation of 185 million people with repressive measures and extreme brutality ever since seizing power in 1965. The vast majority of strikes have occurred at factories where employers refused to pay the minimum wage of \$1 per day.

Russian troops sent to Tajikistan

Civil war is intensifying in the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan. Russian troops took control September 30 of the airport in the capital city of Dushanbe. The day before, Moscow sent an additional 800 troops to Tajikistan, saying they were needed to protect Russian soldiers caught in the struggle. Fighting in the republic is between supporters and opponents of recently ousted president Rakhman Nabiyev.

Turkish troops battle Kurds

Turkish troops fought Kurdish separatist forces in a major battle near the Iraqi border at the end of September. Twenty-nine Turkish soldiers and 174 members of the Kurdish Workers Party were killed in this 12-hour battle according to the Turkish government. Since the beginning of the year more than 2,000 people have died as a result of Turkish battles with the Kurds. Turkey opposes the Kurdish Workers Party's demand for a separate state.

—DEREK BRACEY

THE MILITANT INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO WIN NEW READERS

Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba doesn't end

Find out what's behind Washington's 33 year embargo aimed at crippling Cuba's economy. The next issue of the 'Militant' will feature the introduction to the new Pathfinder book: 'To Speak the Truth,' with speeches by Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara at the United Nations.



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

\$10 for 12 issues ☐

☐ \$15 for 12 weeks

RENEWAL

☐ \$27 for 6 months

☐ \$45 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION

PHONE

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT, 410 WEST ST., NEW YORK, NY 10014.

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, \$A10 • Britain, £6 • Barbados, \$12Bds • Canada, Can\$12 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$10 • Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, £10 • Belgium, 375 BF • France, FF80 • Iceland, Kr1,000 • New Zealand, NZ\$15 • Sweden, Kr60

The Militant

Closing news date: October 5, 1992

Editor: GREG McCARTAN

Managing Editor: GEORGE FYSON

Business Manager: Brian Williams

Editorial Staff: Derek Bracey, John Cox, Naomi Craine, Estelle DeBates, Frank Forrestal, Martín Koppel, Sara Lobman, Paul Mailhot, Argiris Malapanis, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for next to last week in December and biweekly from mid-June to mid-August by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040; Modem, 924-6048; Telex, 497-4278.

Pacific edition printed in Wanganui, New Zealand, by Wanganui Newspapers, Limited.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Subscriptions: U.S., Latin America: for one-year subscription send \$45, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (air-mail), send \$80. Barbados: Send \$75Bds for

one-year subscription to P.O. Box 891, Bridgetown, Barbados. Asia: send \$80 drawn on a U.S. bank to 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Canada: send Canadian \$75 for one-year subscription to Société d'Éditions AGPP, C.P. 340, succ. R, Montréal, Québec H2S 3M2. Britain, Ireland, Africa: £35 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address. Belgium: BF 3,000 for one year on account no. 000-1543112-36 of 1Mei Fonds/Fonds du 1 mai, 2140 Antwerp. Iceland: Send 4,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík. Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: 400 Swedish kroner for one year. Pay to Militant Swedish giro no. 451-32-09-9. New Zealand: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. Australia: Send Australian \$75 to P.O. Box 79, Railway Square Post Office, Railway Square, Sydney 2000, Australia. Philippines, Pacific Islands: Send Australian \$75 or New Zealand \$100 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

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

South Africa regime offers concessions

ANC-led mass actions force de Klerk into new discussions on power transfer

BY SARA LOBMAN

Under pressure from a mass action campaign that has drawn in millions of toilers, the government of South Africa has made a series of concessions that open up the possibility of the Codesa (Convention for a Democratic South Africa) talks resuming. The African National Congress (ANC) broke off the talks, which involve 19 political organizations, in June, over the government's refusal to seriously negotiate a transfer of power to the democratic majority.

Neil Coleman, a leader of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), explained that the most important aspect of the Joint Statement and Record of Understanding, signed by ANC president Nelson Mandela and South African president F.W. de Klerk September 26, concerns the constituent assembly, which will both serve as an interim parliament and will be charged with drafting a new constitution. For the first time, Coleman explained, the apartheid regime "commits itself to a single sovereign assembly."

By sovereign, Coleman said, "we mean that the constituent assembly will be democratic, both in how it is elected and in how it carries out its responsibilities."

The Record of Understanding specifies that the constituent assembly will:

- be democratically elected;
- draft and adopt the new constitution. This implies that it will sit as a single chamber;
- be elected within an agreed, predetermined time period, and have a fixed time frame for carrying out its work;
- have adequate deadlock-breaking mechanisms; and
- arrive at its decisions democratically with agreement in advance as to what will constitute majorities.

Release of prisoners

The ANC has won three other demands as well. More than 500 antiapartheid fighters arrested before October 1990 and still in prison will be released. One hundred and fifty were released on September 27 and the rest are to be freed by mid November. The government had refused to release these individuals under previous agreements, claiming the crimes they were accused of were too serious. The government is also insisting on releasing a number of racist killers, including one who walked into downtown Pretoria in 1988 and shot every black person he encountered. Seven were killed and 22 injured.

The government agreed to step up policing and fencing of hostels that have been identified as being sources of violence, and to ban the carrying and display of dangerous weapons, including so-called cultural weapons, in public.

This has been an important demand. Members of the Inkatha Freedom Party, who collaborate with the apartheid regime, have used the hostels as a base to attack ANC members and antiapartheid fighters in the townships. The forces who attacked Boipatong township in June, for example, killing 40 residents, lived in a nearby hostel. Many members of Inkatha are Zulus who carry axes, spears, and machetes, labelled "cultural weapons" by the Inkatha leadership.

The progress made in forcing the government to take another step toward the transfer of power shows that "mass pressure and mass action are key to unlocking the doors to democracy in the country," Coleman said. "It was the campaign of mass actions that broke the deadlock of Codesa."



June rally in Durban. Millions have participated in the mass action campaign.

The ANC had called off the negotiations in the wake of the Boipatong massacre. In a statement issued at the time, the ANC explained, "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. . . . 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."

The ANC launched a campaign of mass

actions aimed at forcing the government to move more rapidly toward giving up power and drawing the vast majority of South Africans into the struggle for a democratic nation. Millions participated in a series of rallies, meetings, and marches. Four million workers participated in an August 3-4 general strike.

The Record of Understanding explicitly recognizes the right of all parties and organizations to participate in mass actions. A statement issued by the National Executive Committee of the ANC explains that "all social and economic campaigns should continue as previously planned [including] those concerning high food prices, the re-

instatement of dismissed workers, drought relief, etc."

Coleman reported that an action to protest the high food prices is planned for October 13. Some mass actions, like a strike that had been planned to coincide with the opening of parliament on October 12, have been suspended. The opening session of parliament will be voting on the legislation, agreed to by Mandela and de Klerk, that will enact the prisoner release.

Coleman said that the mass actions would continue to play a central role in maintaining pressure on the government and in insuring the rapid transfer of power to the democratic majority. He pointed out that there were still many unresolved questions. The most important of these is the government's demand that the ANC commit itself, before the constituent assembly meets, to the idea of strong regional governments. The regime hopes to be able to maintain a degree of control in this way. The ANC argues that it is exactly questions like these that the democratically elected assembly can best discuss and decide.

Following the signing of the Joint Statement by Mandela and de Klerk, Inkatha leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi announced that he was cutting off communications with the government and withdrawing Inkatha from all further talks. "This just shows that his attempt to stampede the country through violence has failed," said Coleman.

In a related development, the Goldstone Commission, headed up by Supreme Court Justice Richard Goldstone and charged with investigating incidents of violence across the country, issued a report placing the blame for the September 7 massacre of 29 protesters by soldiers in the "independent" homeland of Ciskei on the Ciskei Defense Force. The South African government trained and equipped the Ciskei army. The commander of the Ciskei Defense Force unit that fired the machine guns into the crowd is on loan from the South African army.

U.S. government pushes 'no fly' zone over territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina

BY JOHN COX

President George Bush announced October 2 that the U.S. government would push for a UN resolution banning combat flights over Bosnia and Herzegovina, and that Washington was prepared to use force to impose this ban. Professing concern for the victims of the war, government officials, including Bush, had claimed previously that any military involvement would be to ensure delivery of humanitarian aid.

The proposed flight ban, which would be directed at Serbian forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, goes beyond the earlier stated aims, and represents a shift toward a more aggressive policy by the United States in the former Yugoslavia.

Washington is preoccupied with how best to advance the political and economic interests of U.S. imperialism. The U.S. government has been concerned about the possibility of its imperialist rivals in Europe — Germany in particular — gaining greater weight in decisions concerning what happens in the former Yugoslavia.

The question of how to achieve their goals in Yugoslavia has been a point of debate within U.S. ruling circles. At an October 1 press conference, Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger "acknowledged that there have been major differences within the administration over the wisdom of a [flight] ban," according to the *New York Times*. A few days earlier General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had voiced his reservations over such a ban.

The United Nations, with the support of the United States, expelled Yugoslavia, which comprises the republics of Serbia and Montenegro, on September 22. This was the first time that the UN had ever expelled a member state. South Africa was suspended in 1974 after the credentials of its delegation were rejected over the objection of the

United States and most of its European allies.

Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates commented on Washington's recent moves. "The proposed flight ban and the decision to expel Yugoslavia from the UN are serious steps toward military intervention. Such an intervention would be no more 'humanitarian' than the war against Iraq last year," the socialist candidate stressed. She pointed out that while the United States has cited the bombing of civilians in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in southern Iraq to justify these moves toward military aggression, "they have been conspicuously silent" about the Turkish government's bombing campaigns against Kurdish people in that country, a close U.S. ally.

"Clinton has been even more eager to go to war than Bush," DeBates continued, "criticizing Bush for being slow to use force. This is a good example of what these two parties have to offer, and of the necessity to organize independently of them to oppose their war plans and other reactionary schemes to resolve the crisis of their system."

"You don't have to support the criminal regime in Belgrade to see through the hypocrisy of the United States and the other imperialist governments expelling Yugoslavia from the UN. They say that Yugoslavia can reapply for membership after proving that it is a 'peace-loving nation, willing to cooperate with the UN peace initiative.' Using such criteria, the United States and the governments of the other imperialist nations should have been tossed out long ago," DeBates said. "In what manner has the U.S. government demonstrated its 'peacefulness' and its willingness to abide by international law when it doesn't suit its interests? By murdering hundreds of thousands of Vietnam-

ese people? By financing an illegal war against Nicaragua in defiance of U.S. and international law? By invading Grenada and Panama?"

"The idea that this body could claim to have any moral authority so soon after the massacre of 150,000 Iraqis that was carried out in its name is particularly offensive," she added.

An additional 6,000 troops, from various nations that are members of NATO, will arrive in Bosnia and Herzegovina in coming weeks, bringing the number of UN troops to 21,000. This will represent the largest deployment of UN forces in its history, equal to the number planned for Cambodia and exceeding the number in the Congo [Zaire] in the early 1960s, the biggest previous operation under UN command.

Meanwhile, any hopes that the London "peace conference" held in August had even partially succeeded in slowing down the civil war have been dispelled by the continued fighting and reports of atrocities. The Bosnian government reported September 26 that 925 civilians had been struck by sniper fire in the previous week — the highest figure for any week in the entire six-month siege of Sarajevo. The government also asserts that 14,364 in Bosnia have been killed in the war; some 57,000 are listed as missing and are presumed dead; and 1.3 million have been driven from their homes. Nearly 10,000 children have been killed or are unaccounted for.

These figures on casualties are presumed to be underestimated, as they have been compiled mainly in Moslem and Croat-held areas and do not reflect Serbian casualties in Serb-held territories.

An article on the effect of the embargo in Serbia appears on page 13.

How Far We Slaves Have Come!

Speeches by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro from July 26, 1991 celebration of Cuban revolution. 83 pp., \$7.95. In Spanish, \$9.95.

Write Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014. Please include \$3 shipping for first copy, \$.50 each additional copy. Or visit the bookstores listed on page 12.

Reconstruction project makes progress

BY JOHN COX

The George Novack Reconstruction Fund was launched in August at the International Socialist Conference in Oberlin, Ohio. The aim of the fund is to raise more than \$150,000 by December 1.

This effort is part of the International Expansion Fund, launched in 1990, which makes possible major capital expenditures designed to strengthen the communist movement's ability to produce the arsenal of books and periodicals needed by working-class fighters.

A total of \$6,882 was sent in to the fund in the last week, bringing the total to 16 percent of the goal with eight weeks remaining.

The Novack Fund finances the reconstruction project taking place in the Pathfinder Building in New York City, which is pictured at the top of the graph to the right. Raising this money is essential to carrying

out the much needed modernization of the printshop of Pathfinder Press, which publishes the writings and speeches of working-class and revolutionary leaders such as Leon Trotsky, Che Guevara, Rosa Luxemburg, and Nelson Mandela.

The *Militant* newspaper is also published in the building. An inmate from the Jefferson City Correction Center in Missouri donated \$.50, along with \$2 for the *Militant*, to the fund out of his monthly wages of \$7.50. He wrote, "It's not much, but it's the best I can do towards the precious insights the paper brings into my cell, and I do pass it around to a few brothers."

Stu Singer, one of the reconstruction project coordinators, reports that substantial progress has been made in the last two weeks. The crew has begun installing steel wide-flange beams into the roof in the former warehouse section of the printshop. These beams will provide support for four new skylights, which is the next major

part of the project.

The plumbing work in this area, including in two recently built bathrooms, passed inspection last week. The crew is also completing work on what will be the new shipping and receiving room. Major electrical work has been done in the last few weeks, including bringing in 1200-amp service, which will "make it possible to be a real printshop," Singer said. He added that completing this work depends on the Novack Fund reaching its target.

Singer also reports that several new volunteers to work on the reconstruction brigade have arrived in New York.

One of the lasting contributions that George Novack, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party for more than half a century until his death in July, made to the socialist movement was his role in raising funds for similar reconstruction and expansion projects. In an unpublished autobiographical manuscript, Novack relates a story about how he and his wife, Evelyn Reed, came into \$3,000 in the early 1940s.

Reed was a partner in a grain-and-feed company that she and her former husband had organized, and she was offered the money to buy out her stock. "The company later grew into one of the largest businesses of its kind in the Midwest. But we had no regrets. The buyout payment was donated to make possible the publication of Trotsky's last writings: *In Defense of Marxism*."

\$150,000



\$27,148

I pledge...

☐ \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$ other _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____ COUNTRY _____

PHONE _____

Send to the George Novack Reconstruction Fund,
406 West Street, New York, NY 10014

	PLEGGED	PAID	% PAID Should be 39%
UNITED STATES			
ATLANTA	\$5,500	500	9
BALTIMORE	4,500	550	13
BIRMINGHAM	3,000	170	6
BOSTON	6,000	930	16
CHICAGO	6,500	1,020	16
CINCINNATI	1,500	0	0
CLEVELAND	4,200	750	18
DES MOINES	3,500	25	1
DETROIT	7,000	790	11
GREENSBORO	3,000	400	13
HOUSTON	6,000	450	8
LOS ANGELES	15,000	2,237	15
MIAMI	3,250	150	5
MORGANTOWN	3,000	470	16
NEW HAVEN	500	400	80
NEW YORK	15,000	1,674	12
NEWARK	12,000	970	9
PHILADELPHIA	4,000	1,001	25
PITTSBURGH	4,500	100	3
PORTLAND	750	0	0
ST. LOUIS	6,500	666	10
SALT LAKE CITY	6,500	899	14
SAN FRANCISCO*	12,530	4,055	33
SEATTLE	6,000	1,105	19
TWIN CITIES	9,500	1,290	14
WASHINGTON, D.C.	4,500	0	0
U.S. TOTAL	154,230	20,602	14
AUSTRALIA	650	0	0
BELGIUM	1,100	1,100	100
BRITAIN	1,860	300	16
CANADA	2,905	897	31
FRANCE	1,030	1,030	100
GERMANY	1,429	1,429	100
NEW ZEALAND	710	540	76
SWEDEN	2,450	1,250	51
TOTAL	\$166,364	\$27,148	16

Successful meeting hears Cuban youth leaders

Continued from front page

Craw, one of the organizers of the tour locally, and Morel. Some campus administrators remained throughout the program, showing their support for its right to be held.

As a consequence of the significant backing for the event, the large number of people present who opposed the Cuban revolution were divided on whether to allow the program to take place. The big majority of them joined with others there who wanted to hear what the speakers had to say.

The meeting had been widely publicized. A leaflet was posted and distributed for several days, and a notice on the event ran in the calendar column of the Spanish edition of the *Miami Herald* the day of the program. A number of faculty members announced it in their classes.

In addition to the many statements attacking the Cuban revolution that came from a section of the meeting participants the audience asked questions including: Do Cuban youth support the revolution? Is voluntary labor among youth truly voluntary? What was the role of Cuba in the African freedom struggle? What gains have women in Cuba made? Do the Cuban people support the embargo? What is the effect of the embargo?

Alvisa and Concepción were able to explain that despite the economic crisis caused by the collapse of trade with the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, the Cuban revolution is alive and strong. Concepción stated, "New layers of youth participated in voluntary labor in the sugar harvest. In four months, 600,000 students were mobilized."

Alvisa explained that the gains of women remain. "The right to abortion, which was legalized in 1965, remains unimpeded and abortions are free. Women have the right to maternity leave which extends six months with full wages, despite the economic crisis."

Cuban youth support revolution

Alvisa said that the majority of Cuban youth support the revolution. "The revolution for the Cuban people has meant a transformation of industry and agriculture. Before, the country produced only one crop — sugar. Now we are a major producer of nickel and biotechnology."

The editor of *Argos*, a magazine that sup-

ports dialogue between the U.S. and Cuba, asked about the embargo. Alvisa answered, "In the opinion of the Cuban people, it is a blockade against human beings. Many Cubans in the U.S. also oppose the blockade because it is affecting their families in Cuba."

At the end of the event about 30 people in the audience attempted to rush at the speakers as they left the meeting. The attack was resisted by the campus police and ushers.

One usher, Anthony Thomas, an FIU graduate student, was punched and knocked to the ground by Marcell Felipe, a young Cuban right-winger. Felipe was taken into custody by campus police. Other disrupters, mostly young Cuban-Americans, attempted to provoke the other ushers and the campus police.

This one violent incident along with the other efforts at disruption were used by the reactionary Cuban media here to claim that the event was successfully disrupted. One young Cuban disrupter filed a police report against Anthony Thomas for allegedly shoving her before he was knocked to the ground.

The two right-wing Cuban TV stations centered their coverage on the statements by the opponents of the revolution and gave no coverage to the Cuban speakers. The next day's *Miami Herald* focused its coverage on the disruption. Taken together, these mark major efforts to take back the legitimacy



Militant
Anthony Thomas, an usher at the meeting, was struck by a right-winger.

won by the event for hearing representatives from Cuba.

However, the space gained by the event is part of broader changes in the Miami area, including among Cuban-Americans.

The Cuban community organization, the Asociacion de Trabajadores de la Com-

unidad (ATC), which is opposed to the blockade, has organized four public rallies since last September. Radio Progreso, a station which features interviews with Cuban government officials and news from Cuba, is the most popular Cuban station when it is on the air. Efforts by the reactionary Cuban American National Foundation to organize a boycott of the *Miami Herald* for carrying articles viewed as favorable to Cuba fell apart.

For many years other attempts to hold meetings where representatives from Cuba could be heard have been violently attacked. In 1989 the Cuban Museum was bombed after showing contemporary art from Cuba. The home of María Cristina Herrera was bombed after she organized a conference that included representatives from Cuba. Herrera, who is wheelchair bound, is a professor at a local Miami college.

To the knowledge of longtime activists against U.S. intervention in Cuba, the event at FIU was the first open, public meeting in Miami with representatives from Cuba since the earliest days of the revolution in 1959.

Many of the participants in the FIU meeting said that despite the attempts at disruption, the meeting was a success. As one young Cuban commented after the event, "This was a very important meeting. We have to do it better next time."

Britain: broader support for victimized miner

BY ANNE HOWIE

SHEFFIELD, England — "An injury to one is an injury to all is not just a slogan, it's a code of conduct for all unionists. Solidarity, not violence, is what is necessary. Keep up the fight, Paul." This message, from Denis Stephano, president of the OCAW Local 8-234 in Linwood, Pennsylvania, is one of many which have come in this week to the Thoresby colliery branches of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM), concerning the case of Paul Galloway.

Galloway, an NUM miner, was violently and sexually assaulted August 6 by eight other miners, belonging both to the NUM and UDM, because of his union and political

activity. Stephano's letter called for "the perpetrators of this attack [to] be publicly condemned."

At a Militant Labor Forum held here October 3, NUM member Jim Spaul, who works at the Kellingley colliery in North Yorkshire, explained that other messages had also been received from the North Staffs Miners Wives Action Group, formed during the 1984-85 miners' strike; members of the Transport and General Workers Union in Manchester, England; members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in Baltimore, Maryland; Saab-Scania auto workers in Stockholm, Sweden and many more.

Pete Steventon, president of the Bentley branch of the NUM, in South Yorkshire, wrote informing the Thoresby NUM of a

resolution passed by his branch in support of Galloway's campaign, adding that "the membership of the NUM does not need the scum and cowards who took part in this attack in its rank and file."

Paul Galloway addressed the meeting. He said that in campaigning to push back the latest attack, he has found that a great many miners, both NUM and UDM, have been disgusted by the assault.

"Although one UDM-led face team has launched a 'don't talk to Galla' campaign, people in ones, twos and threes still want to talk to me about it," Galloway thanked all those who have sent letters from around the world.

Tony Hunt, a leader of the Communist
Continued on page 5

'Social struggle is alternative to crime'

Socialist candidate Estelle DeBates answers call for more cops and prisons

BY SUSAN SKINNER

GREENSBORO, North Carolina — Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president, participated in a debate at the University of North Carolina—Greensboro (UNCG) here with representatives of the Democratic, Republican, and Libertarian parties. Sixty students were present.

While other candidates discussed their differing degrees of support for the death penalty, more prisons, cops, and "rehabilitation" programs, DeBates took the issue of crime head on. "First we have to look at what causes crime," the socialist explained. "Poverty does not cause crime — alienation does. When I visited South Africa, where people are living in severe poverty, crime (except the violence perpetrated by the South African government) is very low because people do not feel alienated from what is going on in society.

"Millions of youth and working people are part of a movement to change society. They see an alternative and have hope that they are part of something that will effect the conditions of their lives for the better. Here, many people feel alienated from society and that there is nothing they can do to change things. That is why many turn to drugs and crime, out of total alienation and hopelessness.

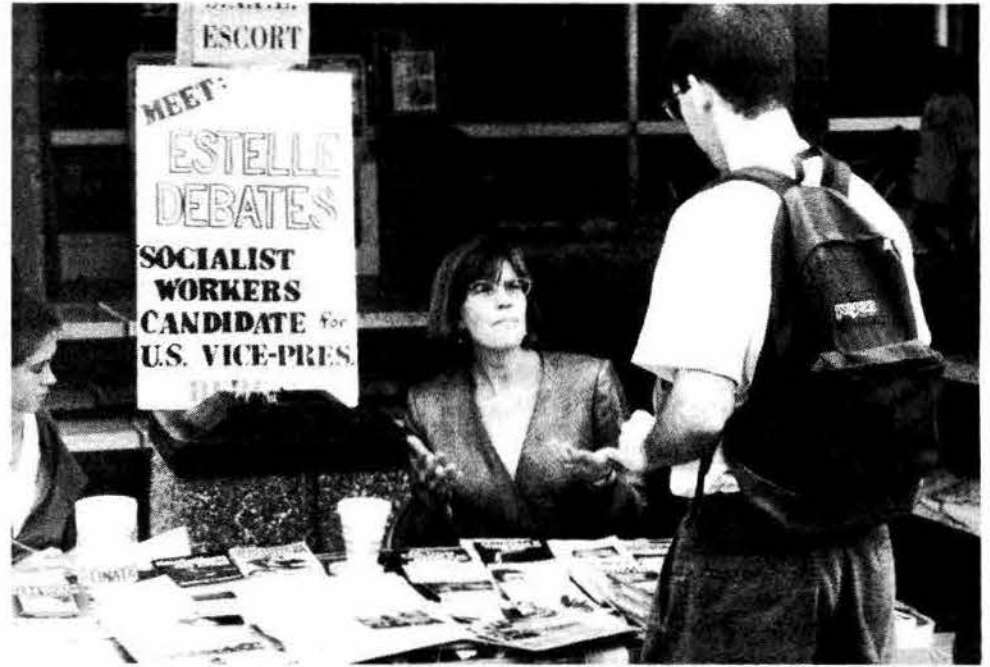
"What we need is to build a massive social movement against police brutality and racism, and for jobs and a shorter work

week, not more cops and prisons. That would give people a real alternative and reduce crime, just as it did during the civil rights movement."

In response to a question about financing education, DeBates opposed all the schemes of loans, privatizing education, and tax credits raised by the other panelists, by pointing out, "Education is a right! It should be guaranteed to every person for free for as long as they wish to go. Students who graduate from college should not be burdened with massive debts to the banks much like small farmers are. Public education is a right that working people fought for and won. I support and encourage the student protests on campuses across the country against cutbacks in education."

DeBates disagreed with the other speakers who defended "family values." "I don't agree that the family should take responsibility for the care of society's sick, elderly and unemployed. I think the employers, who can afford it, should. The whole family values discussion is a diversion by the Democrats and the Republicans, taking the blame for social problems off the employers and the government and putting it on the backs of working-class families. It especially blames working women for the problem of crime, gangs and drugs.

"Both Clinton's and Bush's version of the family leave bill, for example, establish an unpaid leave of absence. How many working families can afford to go 12 weeks without a paycheck? I support paid emergency leaves



Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates at University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. "The socialist campaign fights for whoever is being stepped on," explained an 18-year-old campaign supporter at a West Virginia rally.

so workers can actually take the time off."

DeBates thanked the students and the program organizers for the invitation to speak. "What you have done here, inviting third parties, is very important during a time when we and other parties are being ruled off the ballot," she explained. "North Caro-

lina has one of the most restrictive ballot laws in the country, so James Warren and I will only be write-in candidates here." Many students were shocked when DeBates told them that even write-in candidates have been excluded in Hawaii.

Following the debate, many students flocked to congratulate DeBates and continue discussions with her and with campaign supporters. Many signed up for more information.

"I want to shake your hand. I'm so glad you were here tonight; you're the only one talking about reality! I'm a registered Democrat, but this time I'm writing in 'Warren and DeBates,'" said one student.

"I really liked your answer to my question about crime. I'm so glad you came. I had a totally wrong idea of socialism. I thought it was like a massive welfare state," said another.

"That's cool, I'll help," said another, offering to come into the Socialist Workers campaign office the following Saturday to meet other Warren and DeBates supporters going out campaigning for the socialist alternative.

Ballot ruling protested in Delaware

BY DAVE SANDOR

WILMINGTON, Delaware — Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign and defenders of democratic rights continue to fight the state of Delaware's decision to exclude James Warren and Estelle DeBates from the November ballot. During a visit to Delaware September 29, DeBates responded to the state's ruling at a press conference and at a protest meeting on the University of Delaware campus.

On September 1, campaign supporters submitted nomination petitions with 2,900 signatures. Two weeks later Election Commissioner Richard Harper informed Delaware Socialist Workers campaign chairperson Jason Rambo that Warren and DeBates will not have their names on the ballot, claiming that 1,200 signatures were invalid because they were not accompanied by a social security number. Rambo pointed out that a federal law enacted in 1975 prohibits the use of a social security number for identification purposes.

At her press conference in front of the Carbell State Building, DeBates exposed the political motives behind the state's decision. "Delaware's restrictive ballot requirements,

undemocratic as they are, have been met by supporters of our campaign," she said. "The state of Delaware is consciously excluding James Warren and me from the ballot because we are the only candidates in this election who present a working-class and internationalist alternative to the Democrats and Republicans — the parties of war, racism, and economic depression."

The election commission has received letters of protest from several prominent figures, including Denis Stephano, president of Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union Local 8-234; David Colton, professor of mathematics at the University of Delaware; Sally Milbury-Steen, executive director of Peace on Earth in Wilmington; and Julius Gordon of Environmental Publications in Newport, Delaware. Gordon's letter stated in part, "this is grossly undemocratic behavior, and I am outraged that the State of Delaware should participate in it. I demand that you restore the rights of the people of this state to be represented by any party they choose, regardless of its size or where on the political spectrum their views fall."

When campaign supporters went to county election offices September 28, they

were denied their right to examine the petitions on the pretext that no staff was available to help them. The state is already printing ballots for Kent and Sussex counties, in spite of protests and questions about the legality of the petition requirements and the procedures used by the election commission. In New Castle County, the printing of ballots has been delayed because of a lawsuit filed by a Republican candidate running for county commissioner. The state ruled the Republican off the ballot because he submitted his declaration of candidacy six minutes after the legal deadline.

DeBates campaign gets out to West Virginia coal miners

BY DAVE SANDOR

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia — Socialist vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates toured the coal fields of West Virginia the last week of September. A highlight of her tour was a visit to an Arch Mineral Company coal mine in Logan county in southern West Virginia. Miners at the Ruffner mine have struck the company twice in the last six weeks.

On August 10th, miners at Ruffner struck for five days to win reinstatement of three fired miners. They refused a back-to-work order until federal marshals were brought in. As a result of the strike, the firings were reduced to suspensions.

The miners struck again September 21 when Arch suspended a worker for three days for damaging a company vehicle. The scoop that was being used to load coal was wider than the truck bed, and a chunk of coal had fallen and struck the hood of the truck.

DeBates and Bernie Senter, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of West Virginia, were well received at the portal. One miner, referring to the September 21 walkout, said "this is what we have to do. If they give us three days, we have to give them one day."

Miners' resistance is fueled by increasingly dangerous working conditions created by the coal bosses' drive for profits. The Mine Safety and Health Administration reports that in 1991 there were 22 coal miners killed on the job in West Virginia, about one third of the total number of mine deaths in the United States.

In the first six months of this year nine of the 20 miners killed nationwide were working in West Virginia mines. Four were killed March 19 in an explosion at the Consolidation Coal Company Blackville #1 Mine in Monongalia County. Injuries are also on the rise as the bosses push for higher production while reducing manpower.

In her discussions with miners, DeBates pointed out that the strikes at the Arch mine and other resistance in southern West Virginia are a part of the growing opportunities to unite working people on an international scale. "Workers in all countries face the same conditions, as the employers drive forward their offensive against our rights, job safety and working conditions. In every country I have visited during my campaign, I have found resistance among working people," she said.

At a campaign rally in Morgantown September 25, Richard Ristow, an 18-year-old student at West Virginia University in Morgantown, spoke. He explained why he supports the Warren-DeBates ticket. "Youth are disenfranchised and alienated. We are forced to bear the weight of what the government is leaving us, and we don't like what they're leaving. We are sick of American politics." Ristow identified war and environmental destruction as key issues that affect the future of young people. He is campaigning for the socialist ticket because "the socialist campaign fights for whoever is being stepped on. It's not just the candidates that are attractive, it's the movement and the ideas."

Support for miner in Britain

Continued from Page 4

League, explained to the meeting, "the bosses don't respect the right to free speech in the workplace — that's too dangerous for them. Given that they're talking in the press about the possibility of 25,000 mining jobs being cut in Britain, anyone — like Paul — who stands up and speaks their mind is a threat." The defense of Galloway, he said, "is a campaign for the right of all miners, all workers."

During the discussion, a miner who works in a Yorkshire pit explained that many NUM members there hate the UDM so much that if UDM members lose their jobs as a result of pit closures, they think it is a good thing.

Both Galloway and Spaul responded by saying that taking the attitude of "once a scab, always a scab" will never allow workers to develop the unity in struggle necessary to defeat the bosses' attacks, especially in Nottinghamshire, where the UDM is the majority.

Hunt pointed to the week-long strike at Ollerton pit last year that involved UDM and NUM members. They were workers acting on their common interests. If the NUMers had stopped to think about the "scabs" that strike wouldn't have been possible.

At the close of the meeting, participants gave well over £100 (US \$175) in donations and pledges to fund the defense campaign.

Messages of support to Paul Galloway can be sent to him c/o Pathfinder Bookshop, 1 Gower street, Sheffield, S4 7HA, England.

Messages of protest against the attack on Galloway should be sent to: UDM Office, British Coal, Thoresby Colliery, Ollerton Road, Edwinstown, Nottinghamshire, NG21 9PS, England. (tel. 0632 822238) and to NUM Thoresby branch, c/o Keith Stanley, 24 Samson Street, Kirby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 9HT, England. Copies of these, as well as donations to the Paul Galloway Defence Fund, should also be sent to the Pathfinder Bookshop address.

'Coal miners know about cop brutality'

BY NELSON GONZÁLEZ
AND EILEEN KOSCKAK

PRICE, Utah — Eleanor García, Socialist Workers candidate for Governor of Utah, spoke September 16 before Local 2176 of the United Mine Workers of America union, which organizes coal miners at the Cottonwood mine here. She spoke to 50 miners over the course of two union meetings for first- and second-shift workers.

The Cottonwood mine, formerly the Wilberg mine, was the scene of one of the worst mining accidents in recent Utah history. On December 19, 1984, nineteen coal miners and eight company personnel were killed in a fire at the mine. That disaster was caused by the greed of the Utah Power and Light Company, which owned the Wilberg Mine, and the Emery Mining Company, which operated it at the time of the fire.

Addressing the miners, García, who works at Kennecott Copper near Salt Lake City and is a member of the Steelworkers union, described the worldwide economic crisis and the ruling class's drive toward war in Iraq.

"The same brutality that the U.S. rulers

have shown against working people in Iraq and are preparing to repeat will be used more and more against working people at home," García explained. García pointed to the recent case of a young Chicano, Stevie Manzanarez, who was shot through the back of the head by a cop and nearly killed in the copper-mining town of Magna, near Salt Lake City. The shooting provoked a number of protest actions and meetings demanding prosecution of the cop.

"Coal miners know about police brutality," García pointed out. "Anyone who has struggled to defend themselves, who has fought for their rights on the picket line, knows about cop brutality."

The socialist candidate added, "The only weapon we have to defend our rights as working people is our unity and our numbers. We can only depend on action by ourselves and we know this from our historic experiences of fighting for unions and for our civil rights."

García cited the role of coal miners as an example of this for other working people, from their fight to democratize their union to recent battles at companies like Pittston, Decker, and Cyprus.

García explained the three demands that the Socialist Workers candidates are campaigning around to unify the working class internationally: shorten the work week with no cut in pay; enforce affirmative action; and cancel the Third World debt.

After García spoke, a discussion ensued. One miner blamed U.S. government "handouts" to other countries for causing "our" economic problems and he disagreed with the proposal to cancel the Third World debt.

"When you fight the coal bosses you don't start with their problems, you start with what the union needs," García replied. "It's the same thing on an international level. You have to start with what working people need, not the problems of the banks or the rich."

At this point one of the officers said that what García was explaining about working-class unity was a lot like the no-scamming agreement the UMWA has with Australian coal miners. "It's like the support we've given to miners in South Africa," he pointed out that the coal bosses stick together around the world. "We workers need to stick together," he said.

Another miner stated that socialism had collapsed, and he took issue with taxing the capitalist class more. He said that he was a capitalist because he owned a business.

García explained that the capitalist class was a tiny handful, including those who owned the coal mines, not small business people who were also feeling the squeeze. "I think what she's talking about is the big multinational corporations and fighting them. Right?" piped up a young miner. García also encouraged miners to join the fight to defend Paul Galloway, a member of the Nation Union of Mineworkers in Britain who was sexually assaulted by thugs because of his union and political activities.

Warren talks with miners in Craig, Colorado

Continued from front page

are beginning to emulate the miners, like auto workers at GM, and workers at Alaska Airlines. This kind of resistance is the only way forward."

After the union meeting, several miners went to the bar next door and continued discussions with the socialist presidential candidate. Two strike leaders and their wives spent a couple of hours talking to Warren and introduced him to other miners and friends.

Mike Sanchez, 38, had 15 years of service at the mine when the strike started and is back at work now. He works a second job, part time, as a meat-cutter, but he refuses to work overtime at the mine. "They ask me," he says, "but I figure I would be taking my brother's job as long as guys are laid off." At one point Sanchez took copies of the socialist campaign brochure around to other people in the bar and invited them to meet the candidate.

Delbert Archuleta, vice-president of Local 1799, was the central day-to-day leader of the strike, according to other union members. He told Warren how proud he had been to march with other coal miners at the last Solidarity Day labor demonstration in Washington.

"I think it is going to take this whole country going on strike to turn things around," Archuleta said. He has not been called back to the mine.

Becky Sanchez and Jean Archuleta are both daughters of railroad workers, and both were active in the Women's Auxiliary during the strike. Sanchez said she had never thought of herself as a leader, but that she had pitched in and had been surprised when she was elected to help head up the Auxiliary.

During his visit here Warren was also interviewed by the local *Daily Press*.

Swedish auto workers reject bosses' plan to link pay to company profits

BY BIRGITTA ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Auto workers at Saab-Scania voted at a crowded union meeting August 25 against a plan that would have tied the length of their workweek to the economic situation of the company. The company, which is located in Södertälje, south of Stockholm, and employs more than 4,000 workers, wanted the workers to put in between 35 and 45 hours per week, depending on the state of the market, for 40 hours pay. The difference in hours would be put in a "time-bank" and balanced out. This would make it possible to force workers to put in Saturday work without extra pay, in effect reducing their wages.

The company had hoped to use this measure to get rid of 200 workers. Scania is also planning to eliminate some jobs through a "resignation-compensation," or buy-out, plan. Two hundred workers, picked by supervisors in different areas of the plant, are being offered the buy-out. Those who don't accept are put in a service pool, doing various maintenance jobs. Those forced into the service pool receive lower wages than they had at their previous jobs.

The company announced the plans to eliminate jobs a few days before the scheduled summer vacation. There was no special union meeting to discuss it, so workers were left to worry about losing their jobs during their vacations.

The day following the August 25 union meeting, Scania announced its intention to fire 500 production and 50 office workers, on grounds that the union had rejected the overtime proposal. This will add 550 more to the 4,000 workers already unemployed in Södertälje.

Unemployment figures are rising dramatically in Sweden. Over the last year unemployment has gone up 0.9 percent in Europe and 2.4 percent in Sweden. The overall unemployment rate in Sweden is 7 percent, and it is higher in many industries: 20.1 percent in construction, 18.3 percent in garment, and 13.9 percent in mining. Over the years, many workers from Norway, Finland, and Denmark have been hired at Scania. Today the unemployment figure in those countries ranges from 10 to 15 percent.

Since 1980 the employers' organization, known as SAF, has been pushing to get rid of central contracts that cover large groups of workers. They want to impose local contracts, and eventually contracts with individual workers.

At the August 25 union meeting the Scania workers decided to accept a local contract, with a part of the salary dependent on individual job performance. The union officials made a tremendous effort to get the decision through. Many workers wanted to postpone the vote to have some time to think about its implications.

The LO, the unions' central leadership organization, has been taking steps backwards over the last few years in accepting the demands of the SAF. The LO has pushed for lower wages and contracts that include little or no wage increase. These attacks on wages, together with increased

finances for striking, changes in the workweek, and a reduction of paid sick days, are what working people in Sweden are facing today.

Birgitta Isacsson is a member of the Metal Union at the Scania plant in Södertälje.



Auto workers at Saab-Scania plant during 1990 protest

Internationalen/Lars Kjellander

Solidarity needed for striking USAir workers

Continued from front page

March, 1989, and ended in the collapse of Eastern Airlines and the defeat of the attempts by Frank Lorenzo [former Eastern president] and his predecessor to break the union, was also discussed at union meetings leading up to this strike in Baltimore. One worker said that "we could have saved jobs at Eastern if the whole IAM had gone out." Another worker at the same meeting, referring to the concession demands being made by Alaska Airlines, said, "If we accept concessions, what the workers at Alaska Airlines are facing now is what we will face in the future."

In Baltimore, the union estimated that only 17 of USAir's 87 scheduled flights would get off the ground on the first day of the strike. Also bolstering the mood on the picket line was the news that the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA) would honor the picket lines. Gail Lawson, president of AFA Local 7 in Baltimore, said that honoring the pickets was "elementary union solidarity" and that an IAM victory would help the AFA in its negotiations.

As in other places, the size of the picket

line is mandated by injunction to not exceed eight people at a time. Nevertheless, striking workers and supporters, in addition to the workers carrying picket signs, stayed on the picket line to express their support, including IAM-organized workers who came by from United Airlines and Northwest. A member of the United Auto Workers union (UAW) called the local union office the day before to say that if IAM was on strike, he'd cancel his USAir tickets.

Workers on the picket line at New York-La Guardia Airport Monday morning also stressed that the main issue was jobs. USAir claims that it is getting 60 percent of its flights off the ground, but workers on the picket line at La Guardia "consider this a joke. The terminal here is like a ghost town," said Nancy Rosenstock, a member of another IAM local here who was on the picket line.

In Greensboro and Winston-Salem, North Carolina, workers began coming off the job at about 7:00 Monday morning, and were joined by others who came to picket when word of the strike got out. There were 100 on the line in Winston-Salem, and another 20 or so at the terminal in Greensboro.

The lines were very spirited, according to Nancy Brown, a former Eastern striker who was on the picket lines with the USAir workers. Many of the strikers commented that they refused to accept company demands on medical care and pensions.

In a meeting of the IAM local that represents 1,500 workers in Greensboro and Winston-Salem prior to the strike, Tim, a USAir mechanic, commented, "USAir is going the same route as Eastern. A lot of us can see now what the Eastern workers went through, and why they had to do it."

In the past several years USAir has suffered huge losses. It has claimed it could not continue to operate unless its employees agreed to some \$400 million in concessions, which they say would return the company to profitability. In addition USAir has established an alliance with British Air in an attempt to remain competitive with the "Big Three" — American, United, and Delta — all of which oppose the alliance, fearing a global competitor and citing "foreign" influence in a U.S. company.

USAir pilots, represented by the Air (Continued on Page 12)

Coverage of workers' battles appeals to Machinist delegates

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

This issue of the *Militant* begins a six-week drive to win new subscribers as part of the international circulation campaign.

The subscription drive, which runs from October 10 through November 21, will build on the valuable political discussions and sales experiences of the three-week single issue sales campaign that ends October 9. Many of the thousands of workers and youth who bought copies of the *Militant* during this time can be convinced to sign up as regular subscribers to the paper.

The *Militant* continues to receive a positive response from unionists discussing how to most effectively fight back against employer and government attacks on working people's standard of living and democratic rights.

At the recent convention of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) held in Montreal, many participants bought the *Militant* because of its coverage of the IAM fight against Alaska Airlines. Delegates were also interested in the struggles of Canadian workers reported in the paper.

A delegate stopped by the table one day after purchasing a paper to let *Militant* distributors know, "I read that paper and I think it's very well written. You're doing a good job." Another delegate explained,



Militant/John Elis
Socialist campaign table set up at Haiti protest action in New York City September 29, attracted a lot of interest.

"I've got a year's subscription to the paper but I keep running into you guys wherever I go with the new issue. And I end up buying it too." Delegates and guests purchased 85 copies of the *Militant* and 7 subscriptions during the first week of convention sessions.

Response from unionists

The *Militant* was also welcomed by many USAir mechanics organized by the IAM who held sizeable strike-vote meetings in cities around the United States. In Pittsburgh, USAir workers bought 25 copies of the paper between two different meetings and were eager to discuss their views with the *Militant* salespeople.

"[The company] took the guts out of the contract and just gave us the cover," commented an IAM member in his early 30s who has worked seven years on the job. "Maybe we have to give up something, but this is outrageous." An older worker with 24 years on the job explained, "For me, it means just a little bit of a pay cut. But for the new guys, everything we fought for will be gone." Supporters in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, sold 14 papers at a similar meeting.

In Philadelphia, thousands of members of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) employed by the city have been discussing how to fight back against the concessionary contract imposed upon them by Democratic mayor Edward Rendell. The *Militant* is very much a part of this discussion. During the past two weeks AFSCME members have bought 29 papers and a subscription.

At a sale at one waste treatment plant, workers bought 10 papers and enthusiastically took the Pennsylvania Socialist Workers campaign statement solidarizing with their fight. One unionist also took leaflets into the plant for the upcoming Militant Labor Forum. Another AFSCME member who recently subscribed to the *Militant* has been actively campaigning for the Socialist Workers candidates in her community and at her church.

Sales at Haiti protest

In New York City, socialist campaigners participated in the September 29 march and rally of some 12,000 Haitians and their supporters who were protesting continued military repression on that island and supporting ousted president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. A Pathfinder literature table with a huge socialist campaign display was set

up for seven hours at the rally site near the United Nations and attracted a lot of attention.

The U.S. elections were a topic of discussion among the Haitian demonstrators. While some organizers of the action were actively promoting Democratic presidential candidate William Clinton, many of the rally participants were interested in reading the socialist campaign newspaper, the *Militant*, and learning more about the views of socialist presidential candidate James Warren. Supporters sold 93 *Militants*, 13 copies of *Nouvelle Internationale*, and a total of \$250 in Pathfinder literature. Many were eager to read the paper after learning that Warren was running an international campaign and had recently visited Grenada as part of a tour of the Caribbean.

Militant supporters in New Haven, Connecticut, have been actively campaigning along with several high school students first introduced to the socialist alternative through James Warren's recent tour of the area. One student is setting up a meeting at her high school for a socialist candidate. Two others came to a recent class organized by *Militant* supporters on the *Communist Manifesto*. New Haven supporters have been selling papers at a wide variety of political events — 6 at a demonstration protesting U.S. war moves against Iraq, and 4 at a campaign rally for Hillary Clinton.

Supporters in Sweden report their best day yet at a Saturday campaign table set up at a busy shopping area in downtown Stockholm. The sales team sold 22 papers, mostly to young people, several books by Malcolm X, and signed up two new members of the Pathfinder Readers Club. One man donated \$8 after reading a statement by the Communist League of Sweden demanding asylum for Yugoslav refugees.

This week the *Militant* is printing the subscription goals adopted by supporters around the world. Next week's issue will report on the results of the final week of the single issue sales drive. Sales figures for this chart must be phoned or faxed into the *Militant* business office by Saturday, October 10, at 12:00 noon EST.

The *Militant* dated October 30 will print results from the first week of the subscription campaign. These figures will be tabulated based on subscriptions on hand in the business office as of each Friday at 12:00 noon starting October 16.

SINGLE ISSUE SALES

Goal: 3,200 copies per week

week 2

	RESULTS	GOAL
3,200		
3,000		
2,000		
1,000		

AROUND THE WORLD

	The Militant			Perspective Mundial		New International	
	Weekly single copies			Weekly single copies		Nine weeks	
	SOLD	GOAL	%SOLD	SOLD	GOAL	SOLD	GOAL
UNITED STATES							
Santa Cruz	11	8	138%	0	1	0	4
Birmingham, AL	98	85	115%	0	2	0	35
Atlanta	103	90	114%	2	3	1	30
Chicago	114	100	114%	1	5	3	45
St. Louis	132	120	110%	0	3	3	35
Detroit	85	80	106%	0	2	2	35
Houston	83	80	104%	2	10	2	30
New York	255	250	102%	3	15	21	90
Greensboro, NC	106	105	101%	0	3	4	30
New Haven, CT	15	15	100%	1	1	0	6
Pittsburgh	80	80	100%	0	1	3	35
Morgantown, WV	80	80	100%	0	1	3	30
Cleveland	103	105	98%	0	3	0	40
Cincinnati*	35	40	88%	0	1	0	5
Los Angeles	130	150	87%	26	25	5	70
Salt Lake City, UT	72	85	85%	5	5	1	20
Washington DC	70	85	82%	2	6	1	35
Twin Cities, MN	98	125	78%	1	5	0	30
Philadelphia	86	110	78%	0	5	0	35
Baltimore	75	105	71%	2	3	0	25
Newark, NJ	96	155	62%	0	10	3	65
Seattle	58	95	61%	2	8	0	35
San Francisco	61	100	61%	7	5	2	60
Miami	56	95	59%	4	7	3	40
Boston	57	130	44%	3	5	0	45
Des Moines, IA	28	105	27%	2	8	0	40
Portland, OR	0	12	0%	0	1	0	10
U.S. TOTAL	2,187	2,590	84%	62	143	57	960
AUSTRALIA	29	30	97%	2	2	0	15
BARBADOS	0	10	0%	0	0	0	5
BELGIUM	6	10	60%	0	1	1	8
BRITAIN							
London	61	75	81%	2	2	2	40
Sheffield	25	40	63%	0	1	0	20
Manchester	33	60	55%	0	1	0	30
BRITAIN TOTAL	119	175	68%	2	4	2	90
CANADA							
Vancouver	94	80	118%	3	3	3	20
Montreal	83	80	104%	5	7	2	70
Toronto	93	90	103%	5	7	2	45
CANADA TOTAL	270	250	108%	13	17	7	135
FRANCE	1	3	33%	0	1	1	10
ICELAND	0	5	0%	0	1	0	5
MEXICO	0	0	0%	0	3	0	3
NEW ZEALAND							
Wellington	42	30	140%	0	0	0	10
Christchurch	31	30	103%	0	0	0	8
Auckland	35	35	100%	0	1	0	8
N.Z. TOTAL	108	95	114%	0	1	0	26
PUERTO RICO	2	2	100%	7	4	2	4
SWEDEN	46	50	92%	3	5	1	20
TOTAL	2,762	3,200	86%	89	182	71	1,276
SHOULD BE		3,200	100%		175		286

IN THE UNIONS

Union	Militant/PM			NEW INTERNATIONAL	
	SOLD	GOAL	%SOLD	SOLD	GOAL
IAM	211	80	264%	0	42
UMWA	16	20	80%	0	0
UFCW	20	25	80%	0	15
ACTWU	23	32	72%	0	26
USWA	63	90	70%	0	30
OCAW	17	25	68%	0	20
UAW	29	50	58%	1	0
UTU	23	45	51%	0	0
ILGWU	9	18	50%	0	9
TOTAL	411	385	107%	1	142

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA — United Mine Workers of America; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union

Subscription drive goals

City	Militant goals	PM goals
United States		
Atlanta	65	5
Baltimore	75	6
Birmingham	65	3
Boston*	90	25
Chicago*	90	23
Cincinnati	25	5
Cleveland	60	6
Des Moines	80	16
Detroit	75	6
Greensboro	65	5
Houston	65	13
Los Angeles	125	75
Miami	75	20
Morgantown	50	2
New Haven	15	1
New York City*	175	67
Newark	125	35
Philadelphia	75	13
Pittsburgh	70	3
Portland	12	1
Salt Lake City	65	13
San Francisco	80	3
Seattle	95	23
St. Louis	80	3
Twin Cities	85	13
Washington D.C.*	75	13
Australia	25	6
Barbados	6	0
Belgium*	6	2
Britain		
London*	55	6
Manchester	35	2
Sheffield	35	3
Canada		
Montreal	50	20
Toronto*	60	20
Vancouver	60	10
France	3	2
Iceland	15	1
Mexico	1	5
New Zealand		
Auckland	40	3
Christchurch	25	1
Wellington	35	1
Puerto Rico*	2	5
Sweden	40	15
TOTAL	2,450	500
U.S. Unions		
ACTWU	48	26
IAM	110	42
ILGWU	32	9
OCAW	—	20
UFCW	—	15
UMWA	13	30
USWA	90	30
UTU	45	15
Sweden Unions		
Metal Workers	7	2
Food Workers	3	1

*Goals proposed by Militant

European rulers reel from currency crisis

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

Still reeling from the recent currency crisis, capitalist governments throughout Europe are scrambling to patch together what is left of the European Monetary System, with pressure building in some of the weakest imperialist countries — Ireland, Portugal and Spain — for another round of currency devaluations.

Across Europe most stock markets fell sharply. "Currency jitters and economic gloom continued to depress stock markets this week. Stockholm plunged 11.1 percent, leaving it down by 35 percent since May. Madrid fell by 6.7 percent and Frankfurt ended the week 4.8 percent lower," reported the British *Economist*.

The combined impact of a weak dollar and a strong mark continues to wreak havoc on the currencies of the weaker imperialist countries. European governments have placed blame at both the U.S. and German doorsteps. "Interest rates in Germany are too high, and U.S. rates are too low," said Spain's finance minister, Carlos Solchaga. Because of this, he said, "The system is almost absolutely broken." Madrid is under intense pressure at home, with an official unemployment rate of 17 percent.

Tensions between European governments were ratcheted up as more vocal opposition to the domination of the German mark was heard across Europe. "There is a growing concern among Germany's neighbors that the Goliath is there and that what they didn't accomplish during the war they'll do economically," said the head of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Frankfurt.

United States versus Europe

Part of the growing political and economic tensions is the brewing multibillion-dollar trade war between the United States and the European Community. This reached a boil last week as negotiations in GATT — the international body that governs most world trade — reached an impasse over several ongoing agricultural subsidy disputes. "US, EC [European Community] on brink of trade war as talks stall," blared the front page of the U.S. paper *Journal of Commerce*, October 1.

"The United States is rekindling the trade war," wrote the French daily *Le Monde*. "Europe is a veritable agricultural exporting power that the United States still has difficulty in accepting."

Meanwhile, the governments of Ireland, Portugal, and Spain introduced protectionist foreign exchange controls to prevent investors from exchanging these currencies for German marks and to hinder heavy speculative selling. "Europe's battered unity would face a severe setback if such action spreads, or the reimposed capital controls turn out to be more than temporary," the *Wall Street Journal* remarked.

There are strong signals that Italy, too, will have no choice but to follow this route. Such currency controls are a blow to the European Community's program to dismantle protectionist barriers and create a big internal European market by the end of this year.

To ward off further runs against its currency, Rome was rumored to be consider-



German chancellor Helmut Kohl (left) and British prime minister John Major



ing a freeze on bank deposits, a threat that led to a sharp increase in deposit withdrawals. Prime Minister Giuliano Amato was forced to issue a formal denial. Italy's currency, the lira, continues to slide after a 7 percent devaluation September 12. The lira has been devalued 13 percent since September 11.

In response, hundreds of thousands of workers in Italy have demonstrated against the \$76 billion austerity package in the biggest antigovernment protests in two decades.

"The Swedish economy will move deeper into recession over the next few months as private consumption sinks, production falls, unemployment grows and the budget gap widens, economists at Sweden's leading banking group, Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken, forecast," said the *Wall Street Journal*.

Europe's major central banks lost between \$4 billion and \$6 billion in their attempt to prop up weaker currencies, an amount equal to "about 10 percent of the allies' cost of fighting the Persian Gulf War," according to the *Journal*. British, French, Italian, Spanish, and Swedish central banks spent roughly \$100 billion trying to prop up their respective currencies, and Germany shelled out another \$50 billion, which eventually must be paid back.

The central banks lost the lion's share of their money propping up the pound and lira, which were both later devalued. The traders, investors, and banks that sold the declining currencies made a handsome profit.

"Bank analysts are predicting that the trading operations of big money center banks — such as Bankers Trust New York Corp. and Citicorp — should report superb results for the third quarter," reports the *Journal*. "One market rumor has Citicorp's traders making a cool \$200 million in just one week last month from Europe's currency turmoil."

Two-speed Europe?

In a rare show of unity, London, Paris and Bonn attempted last week to mend the growing acrimonious rifts between themselves

and to muffle talk about a "two-speed" European Monetary System. Bonn and Paris have both denied newspaper reports of plans to jettison the 12-nation European Community in favor of a scaled-down version of the EC — a "mini-Europe" — that would include Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

The blind laws of the market, however, are pushing precisely in the direction of what is being called a "hard-core" of EC nations. Capitalist investors are moving their capital into "hard-core" currencies: the German mark, the French franc, the Dutch guilder, and the Belgian and Luxembourg franc.

"We are going through a very strong transformation," remarked one French investment banker. "For the past three years, everyone concentrated on [European economic] convergence. But convergence has exploded."

Ruling-class figures openly talk about heading to a two- or three-speed economic system, in which stronger capitalist countries lead the weaker ones that are hanging on by their fingernails. While publicly dismissing the idea of a "two-speed" Europe, German finance minister Theo Waigel has talked about the emergence of "a Europe of concentric circles" revolving around the German mark.

After pulling out of the European Monetary System on "Black Wednesday," September 16, Britain's news media has waged a propaganda campaign against Bonn for failing to prop up the pound with the same vigor it showed in late September in support of the franc. Britain was forced to pull its currency out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism.

To head off criticism, Bonn asserted that it had spent \$30 billion supporting the pound and lira in mid-September. Since early September, the German mark has risen 11 percent against the pound. For now, Britain has ruled out re-entering the European Monetary System. If Britain does re-enter, the decision is more likely to be made in Bonn than London. British prime minister John Major's approval rating according to the latest British polls is 34 percent, the lowest since he took office in 1990.

Anti-German propaganda in Britain

German-British relations, once dubbed the "quiet alliance," have hit bottom, with barbs flying in both directions. The British tabloids have loosed a torrent of anti-German news stories with headlines such as "Bundesbank says British mistakes sank the pound," "Hauled over the Kohl," and "Up Yours Kohl!" referring to German chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Major has called for an end to the "war of words" between the two countries. The British prime minister faces a potential split over Europe in his cabinet and in the governing Conservative party.

The impact of German unification has heightened political and economic strains between the two countries. Similar tensions and conflicts exist throughout Europe. Germany has been borrowing heavily to finance huge transfers of funds to the former East Germany. Those transfers are expected to total about \$130 billion this year, or 6 percent of German gross national product. This comes on top of the \$70 billion already sent by Germany to the former Soviet Union.

A recent study by two Germany research bureaus found that, despite the \$200 billion

that Bonn has pumped into the east since 1980, the eastern economy remains in "deep crisis."

Germany has raised its lending rates to the highest level since World War II to finance the reconstruction of eastern Europe, and income taxes raised 25 percent last year. Nearly one-third of eastern Germany's work force is without permanent work, and unemployment, estimated at around 40 percent, is spreading as the government shuts down more plants. The German government has refused to lower its interest rates despite high unemployment in Germany and deepening recessions in some neighboring countries.

Social and economic crisis of Germany

Perhaps the biggest question in Europe is the social and economic crisis in Germany itself. The recent devaluation of the pound, lira, and peseta have already affected 25 percent of Germany's trade. If France were forced into a devaluation, one half of Germany's exports would become less competitive against Bonn's imperialist rivals.

Another round of devaluations by one or more of the weaker imperialist countries would deal a harsh blow to Germany's export-dependent economy. Germany's western European neighbors account for nearly 60 percent of its exports.

This is the main reason that the German central bank drew the line at the franc, refusing to support weaker imperialist currencies such as the pound and lira. "Altruism had nothing to do with the rescue," an article in *Business Week* commented. "A franc devaluation would have ripped apart the European system of managed exchange rates and likely set off a spiral of devaluations around Europe."

The massive buying of currencies by the German central bank has caused a foreign currency pile-up in Germany's official reserves, which has led to a 9 percent increase in Germany's money supply and the threat of rising inflation. With interest rates high for the foreseeable future, Germany will continue to attempt to finance its bailout of eastern Germany on the backs of its European neighbors.

Meanwhile, opposition to the Maastricht Treaty on European union is growing in Germany. "Ever since unification, many say, 'Why do we need the Greeks and Portuguese? We have enough to worry about with East Germany,' a German member of Parliament said. A recent poll showed that 'if an election were held now, the Kohl

Continued on page 13

—CALENDAR—

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

A Day of Socialist Education and Campaigning. Class: Socialism and the Fight Against Racism Today. Speaker: Chris Nisan, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, 5th District. 10:00 a.m. Street Rally at Corner of Lagoon and Hennepin. Buffet dinner, 2 p.m.; campaign rally, 5 p.m. Speaker: Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice-president, 7 p.m. Sat., Oct. 24. Class, dinner and rally at 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$10. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

The Cuban Revolution Today: Cuba and South Africa — The Role of International Solidarity. Class, Thurs., Oct. 8, 7 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Tel: (212) 727-8421. Translation to Spanish.

OHIO

Cleveland

Debate Between Representatives of Presidential Campaigns. Speakers: Representatives of Bill Clinton, Democrat; George Bush, Republican; James Warren, Socialist Workers; Andre Marrou, Libertarian. Wed., Oct 14, noon — 2 p.m. Cleveland State University, University Center Auditorium. Sponsored by: CSU Student Government, Campus Activities Board, *The Cauldron*, *The Vindicator*.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Communist Manifesto Today and the Road Forward for Working People. Class series. Wed., Oct. 14, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL

A socialist monthly in Spanish published in the interests of working people

The October issue includes:

- The Socialist Workers 1992 election campaign
- Cuban youth tour of the United States
- The fight to defend British coal miner Paul Galloway
- The struggle of Nicaraguan peasants for land
- The European monetary crisis
- 1965 interview with Malcolm X
- Opposition to repression in Argentina

Introductory offer — \$6 for 4 months

Available at Pathfinder bookstores (see page 12) or from *Perspectiva Mundial*, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014

4 months of *Perspectiva Mundial*: Australia and the Pacific, A\$8 • Britain, £4 • Canada, Can\$9 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$6 • Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, £5 • France, FF40 • Iceland, Kr800 for six months • New Zealand, NZ\$8 • Sweden, Kr40



Book documents health and environmental devastation of USSR

Ecocide in the USSR: Health and Nature Under Siege, By Murray Feshbach and Alfred Friendly, Jr. 376 pp. New York: Basic Books, 1992. \$24.

BY JON HILLSON

The word "ecocide" means the annihilation of the environment and the species it sustains. That process is unfolding in the territory that once made up the largest country in the world, the Soviet Union.

IN REVIEW

Under the gross, systematic mismanagement of privileged Communist Party bureaucrats, state functionaries, the military brass, and their economic "planners," the rich soil and crystal waters of the USSR were increasingly transformed into a gigantic toxic waste runoff for failed agricultural and industrial "development" schemes.

The index of these blunders—in poisoned air, water and land, cancer, respiratory diseases and other work-related illnesses, rising infant and adult mortality, and the general collapse of the most basic medical services—is the grim centerpiece of the recently published *Ecocide in the USSR* by Murray Feshbach and Alfred Friendly, Jr.

Their environmental portrait of the USSR (the book was written prior to the breakup of the Soviet Union) is an unrelenting narrative of the results of a system that literally began to devour the land and the working people who occupy it.

- 70 million of 190 million citizens of the former USSR living in 103 cities are "in danger" of respiratory diseases, with pollution levels a minimum of 500 percent greater than what is considered safe.

- 75 percent of the former USSR's surface water is polluted.

- Nearly half of all cultivated land is "seriously imperiled" by ill-conceived irrigation and massive doses of pesticide. Deadly DDT pervades some 25 million acres of the former USSR.

Pesticides, according to Latvian ecologists, kill 14,000 people and induce illness in an additional 700,000 people every year. Pesticide contamination currently affects 42 percent of all baby food and 30 percent of all food.

- Untreated industrial, agricultural, and human waste "threaten to kill" the Sea of Azov, the Black Sea, and the Caspian Sea, and have turned the major arteries of the Volga, Dnieper, and Don Rivers "into open sewers."

- Chemical defoliants for cotton produc-

tion have dried up the rivers that used to sustain the Aral Sea, once the fourth largest lake in the world, which has lost 75 percent of its size. Nursing mothers who drink from the Aral Sea water supply run "the risk of poisoning" their infants.

- Residents of Magnitogorsk, a Russian city of 223,000 on the border of Kazakhstan and site of the world's largest steelmaking complex, have belched out at them 20 tons *per capita, per year* of atmospheric pollutants. This figure is considered "unexceptional by Soviet industrial standards."

More than one third of all Magnitogorsk adults and two thirds of children under 14 suffer from respiratory diseases; 41 percent of infants are born with "one or another pathology."

Birth defects in Magnitogorsk have doubled since 1980. The number of medical personnel in the city, barely 50 percent of the required norm, is falling.

The combined effects on the immune system of such pollution, along with inadequate diet and medical services, have so deteriorated health standards that fewer than half of draft-age Soviet youth were deemed "fit for duty" in 1990.

In 1988, 53 percent of all Soviet school children were considered in "poor health." At most, 25 percent of high school graduates were considered "truly healthy." By 1991, some Soviet economists stated that every fourth adult and every sixth child in the USSR was "chronically ill."

Life expectancy for Soviet men in 1989 was 63.8 years, a drop of more than two years from 66.1 years in 1964-65.

Infant mortality in the USSR rose from 22.9 deaths per thousand in 1971 to 25.4 per thousand in 1987—the same as Malaysia and East Harlem.

A Soviet male who reached his 50th birthday in 1939 had a better chance of living a long life than a 50-year-old man in 1985.

Central Asian republics hurt more

These findings are based on Soviet sources, which traditionally underestimate the negative. Such statistics also conceal the reality of national oppression by the old Moscow-dominated regime of the former non-Slavic republics.

In 1987, for example, respiratory and intestinal tract diseases, respectively, killed infants three and five times more often in Central Asia than in the USSR.

In 1988, death at childbirth occurred in Tajikistan at 1.6 times the national average; Uzbekistan, 1.7 times; and Turkmenistan, 2.6 times. Even though Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan accounted for 12 percent of the USSR's

population they numbered 39 percent of the infant deaths in the Soviet Union.

Of Tajikistan's 325 hospitals, 240 had plumbing only for operating rooms. And in rural areas, 80 percent of health care facilities had no hot water at all.

According to a 1987 survey, infant deaths from infectious and parasitic diseases were 27 times higher in the USSR than in France; for respiratory diseases, 55 times greater.

Given the facts of national oppression, the ratios for such diseases were even higher in the Central Asia republics. So-called all-union statistics hide, as authors Feshbach and Friendly note, the "enormous discrepancy in the USSR itself" between the European and Central Asia republics and nationalities.

Ecocide in the USSR correctly places the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion and meltdown in the context of the long-term fiasco of environmental standards in the USSR—an "accident" bound and waiting to happen.

Co-authors Feshbach and Friendly, however, repeat the discredited claim that the Soviet leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev acted commendably in response to the Chernobyl crisis.

They approvingly quote a U.S. observer of the Soviet Union that Gorbachev "realized he had been misled by local officials" on the scope of the Chernobyl blast, and would now "move farther and faster" to rectify the matter.

Ecology activists, scientists, and parliamentarians in Ukraine, Belarus, and elsewhere have long asserted the opposite. The central government, they state, engaged in nothing more than "damage control" of the crisis.

Place of the Russian revolution

Feshbach, a professor of demography at Georgetown University and a former top NATO advisor, and Friendly, *Newsweek's* former Moscow bureau chief who has written for the World Bank, claim the pillage of nature and the environment in the USSR is rooted in the foundation of the Soviet government born out of the October 1917 Russian revolution, and its initial policies.

The new regime, led by V. I. Lenin, came to power as the result of a titanic struggle waged by millions of workers and peasants throughout the crumbling imperialist empire of the Czars.

This workers and peasants republic uprooted landlordism and expropriated the capitalist ruling class. This laid the basis for beginning to organize and plan the economy and to the industrial and agricultural development of the union of Soviet republics.

The rising power of a privileged layer in Soviet society and the Communist Party began to attack the democratic achievements and social advances of the world's first workers' state in the 1920s. The political champion of this conservative-minded, middle-class strata was Joseph Stalin.

Despite their view that subsequent reactionary Stalinist policies grew out of the revolutionary practices of the Bolshevik government, Feshbach and Friendly are compelled to note Lenin's proposals to save forests near Moscow, and the communist leader's support for nature preserves on the Volga River, a project to which Lenin attached "urgent significance."

In fact, the Bolsheviks went further than Feshbach and Friendly admit. In early 1919, in the wake of enormous carnage wrought by imperialist invasion and civil war, the recently named Communist Party adopted its new program, which dealt with environmental questions under the heading of "Public Health."

Among its provisions were "improved



Searching through garbage in Soviet dump. Seventy million citizens of the former USSR are "in danger" of respiratory diseases.

sanitation in populated areas (protection of soil, water, and air) . . . adopting measures to prevent the outbreak and spread of infectious diseases . . . introducing legislation on sanitation . . . [and a guarantee of] free, qualified medical care to all."

Break with Bolshevik policies

To consolidate its rule, the emerging, Stalin-led caste gutted the revolutionary policies of the Russian revolution.

In the absence of any restraint exercised by workers and farmers, middle-class technocrats and "planners" mapped out fantastic schemes for rapid development.

Innovation of mammoth projects churned out by the Stalinist bureaucracy was governed by the slogan of the day: "We cannot expect charity from nature, we must tear it from her."

By aping capitalist methods of development, the Stalinist bureaucracy appeared to achieve results, as new industrial, mining and agricultural complexes arose where none had previously existed. Such top-down planning was continued by Stalin's heirs and pupils, from Krushchev to Brezhnev and Gorbachev.

These bureaucrats all sought to maintain the depoliticized, demoralized condition originally imposed on working people by the Stalinist tyranny through cop terror. Giant development drives were hyped by the domestic and international big-lie apparatus of the Communist Party.

But behind this facade, everything from the construction of power plants and steel mills without consideration of polluting contaminants, to the wanton use of pristine waters for chemical drainage, accumulated in devastating impact.

In a 1989 confession that would make a capitalist polluter blush, a ranking Soviet government official stated, "We treated the land without mercy."

Massive amount needed for repair

The authors of *Ecocide in the USSR* estimate a sufficient environmental clean-up of the lands of the old USSR, along with appropriate anti-pollution technology, would cost \$1.5 trillion in 1982 U.S. dollars.

The figures bandied about by imperialist governments and banks for "aid" to Russia alone amount to a drop in the bucket alongside this staggering amount.

Feshbach and Friendly hope "a market framework" can restore environmental integrity to degraded resources, land, water, and health services.

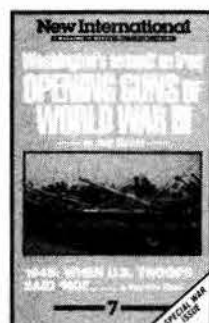
But the "market system"—capitalism's insatiable drive for profit—has brought working people environmental destruction, from the wreckage of the tropical rain forests and ozone depletion to the toxic waste havoc of Love Canal in upstate New York, the Union Carbide chemical massacre in Bhopal, India, and the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska.

Only when working people become the real, direct, day-to-day administrators of these potential riches—of industry, economy and society—will the threat of the ultimate ruin of the environment, and the human beings who inhabit it, be eliminated. This is true not only in the former USSR, but throughout the world.

This is the answer to ecocide.

NEW INTERNATIONAL

A magazine of Marxist politics and theory



The *New International* contains an in-depth analysis of the questions facing working-class fighters in the 20th century.

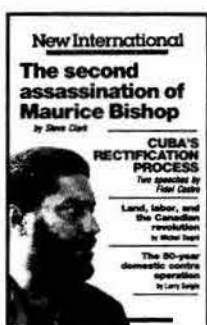
Opening Guns of WWII: Washington's Assault on Iraq
by Jack Barnes
\$12

The Coming Revolution in South Africa
by Jack Barnes
\$9



Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism
\$10

The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop
by Steve Clark
\$10



Please include \$3 shipping for the first magazine, \$.50 each additional one or visit the bookstores listed on page 12. Send orders and requests for a free catalog to Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Anger at Minneapolis police crackdown

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

MINNEAPOLIS — Resistance is mounting here to a police crackdown that began on September 25 when police officer Jerome Haaf was murdered.

Haaf was shot in the back while on a coffee break at the Pizza Shack restaurant, a favorite cop hangout, on Lake Street in South Minneapolis at 1:45 a.m. Minutes later a reign of terror was unleashed by police in the working-class neighborhood where the shooting took place.

The description put out on the police radio of the alleged assailants was so vague that all young Black men were suspect. More than 100 cops, rifles in hand, began to comb the area looking for "evidence." Youths report being rounded up and dragged over to the Pizza Shack for completely illegal impromptu "lineups."

A curfew of fear went into effect for the next several days, especially after dark. One young resident of the Cecil Newman Housing Project in North Minneapolis explained, "All my friends are staying in because they don't want to be harassed."

Another resident of the same project reported, "I saw the cops forcing Hmong youths to lie on the ground late at night and holding rifles to their heads."

Late in the afternoon of September 24, hours before Haaf was shot, transit and Minneapolis police pulled LeRoy Gray, a blind handicapped Black man, off the #5 bus in Minneapolis and brutally beat him in full sight of dozens of witnesses. His crime? Being a dime short of the required fare.

When Stacy Glover, Gray's daughter, was called to the scene she saw policemen surrounding her father. Thirteen squad cars had been called to the site.

"I thought they were trying to help him up," Glover explained, "But when I got closer, I saw one cop had his knee in my father's back and was trying to force him into handcuffs."

When Glover attempted to explain to police that her father's arm wouldn't bend because of a previous injury, "They told me to get away or they would arrest me too."

Members of United For Peace, a coalition of gang members formed in May to patrol the streets in collaboration with the police, arrived on the scene. When they attempted to intervene in the beating of Gray, a cop shouted, "F... United for Peace!" and struck one of the group's leaders on the head with his night stick.

Some 100 people, many of them eyewitnesses to this act of brutality, decided to go over to a meeting that had been scheduled previously at North High School that night called "Why Cops Do What They Do." Police Chief John Laux was taking questions at the meeting and having a hard time of it even before the protesters arrived.

Speakers angrily described what had happened to Gray and then stormed out of the meeting when Laux said he couldn't say anything because transit cops, who had initiated the situation, weren't under his jurisdiction.

Specter of gang involvement

In live television broadcasts from the scene of Haaf's murder, police raised the specter of

gang involvement in the killing of Haaf, based on the red and black T-shirts and baseball hats the gunmen were alleged to have been wearing.

Some police are opposed to collaboration with United For Peace. A campaign of innuendo and guilt by association began to build against Sharif Willis, president of United For Peace and the local head of the Viceroy Nation, by cops who claimed that he was involved in the murder of Haaf.

The night after the killing, scores of heavily armed cops crept up on Willis's house and surrounded it. When those inside the house saw the rifles trained on them, they began to telephone friends and political activists telling them that it looked like the police were getting ready "to blow the house and everyone in it away." Staff members from the City, Inc., a social service agency which United For Peace works out of, volunteered to go into the house and bring Willis and the others out. Police told them to get back and stay out of the way.

The arrival of a television crew calmed the situation. Willis and four others were handcuffed and questioned. Two people, including a nephew of Willis' were arrested on "probable cause" of involvement in the murder of Haaf. Police were forced to release them several days later because they didn't have enough evidence to charge them.

Despite this lack of evidence, the local big-business press whipped up a slander campaign against Willis, and the chief of police announced that he was severing all ties with United For Peace.

An ad hoc coalition of political activists and community and student leaders announced a press conference to protest "the police reign of terror" and to demand "prosecution of the cops who beat LeRoy Gray" and "an end to the frame-up and slander campaign against those alleged to have been involved in the shooting of Haaf."

A multiracial crowd of more than 100 angry protesters, most of them young, turned out for the press conference on September 29 at the Hennepin County Government Center.

Chris Nisan, the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, read a press statement and introduced LeRoy Gray and his family. Gray and his daughter told the story of the "cowardly police attack" on him to a hushed and furious crowd of protesters and journalists who later questioned him on the beating.

Mel Reeves, a staff writer for the *Minneapolis Spokesman*, a newspaper widely circulated among Blacks in the area, chaired the



LeRoy Gray, who was beaten by police, speaks at protest against cop crackdown. Socialist Workers candidate Chris Nisan (in light suit) was spokesperson for group.

nounced a press conference to protest "the police reign of terror" and to demand "prosecution of the cops who beat LeRoy Gray" and "an end to the frame-up and slander campaign against those alleged to have been involved in the shooting of Haaf."

A multiracial crowd of more than 100 angry protesters, most of them young, turned out for the press conference on September 29 at the Hennepin County Government Center.

Chris Nisan, the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, read a press statement and introduced LeRoy Gray and his family. Gray and his daughter told the story of the "cowardly police attack" on him to a hushed and furious crowd of protesters and journalists who later questioned him on the beating.

Mel Reeves, a staff writer for the *Minneapolis Spokesman*, a newspaper widely circulated among Blacks in the area, chaired the

Socialists condemn Calif. budget cuts

BY CRAIG HONTIS

LOS ANGELES — With California's economy already reeling under the blows of an economic downturn that has manifested itself here with an official 9.8 percent unemployment rate and hundreds of thousands left homeless, the California state legislature has moved to slash the state budget by more than \$5 billion.

Low-income families receiving welfare will see payments cut by 5.8 percent. Aid to the aged, blind, and disabled will also be cut to the same degree. Thousands of children will no longer be inoculated for infectious diseases such as measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, and mumps.

In addition to the massive cuts in social services being proposed, a series of new fees are being enacted on everything from birth certificates to sewer service and fire protec-

tion to purchase fees for cemetery plots. These fees amount to a regressive tax focused on working people. The cuts are being demagogically promoted as a way to guarantee "no new taxes."

A statement by Kim Allen, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 27th District, declared, "We call for reversing the cuts and fee hikes and urge people to join the demonstrations calling for this at campuses, medical centers and elsewhere. The labor movement should throw itself into this fight. A massive public works program must be launched to provide decent medical care, education, housing, and jobs for all."

"In response to the conditions of world depression, the Socialist Workers campaign proposes a program to unify the working class in struggle for (1) shortening the work week with no cut in pay to provide jobs for

press conference. The day before, Reeves had debated Mayor Donald Fraser of Minneapolis on WCCO radio for 10 minutes on the subject of Haaf's killing and its aftermath. The Mayor had backed up his police chief "100 per cent," but had expressed regret at the breaking off of ties with United For Peace. Reeves had forcefully condemned the character assassination of Willis and held the mayor accountable for a series of highly protested murders of Blacks by the Minneapolis police over the last several years.

Earlier on September 29, some 1,500 policemen from around the Midwest attended the funeral of Haaf. A number wore buttons saying, "Bo Gritz for President." Gritz is the candidate of the Populist Party, an ultrarightist outfit, and had spoken at a rally of some 1,000 people in the Twin Cities the week before.

Who is responsible for violence

Nisan was quoted in both major Twin Cities dailies as saying, "We will not allow the murder of officer Haaf to obscure the reality of who is responsible for the climate of hatred, fear, and violence in which we are forced to live — the police and the government."

The call for a Saturday, October 3 "Speak-Out on Police Brutality" announced by the press conference organizers also was widely covered by the press.

Two thousand fliers and posters for the speak-out were snapped up by those attending the press conference and money was raised to put out several thousand more copies.

At a press conference held at the City, Inc., the next day, September 30, members of United For Peace and several Black ministers condemned the decision by the police chief to break ties with the group and denounced the slander campaign and the many recent death threats against Willis.

Chris Nisan announced the Saturday speak-out against police brutality and pledged to continue the fight for justice in "the only place we're going to get it — in the streets."

all, (2) affirmative action in all hiring to bridge the gap within the working class created by racist and sexist discrimination against women, Blacks, Latinos, Asians and immigrant workers, and (3) cancel the Third World debt."

At a Militant Labor Forum held September 12, activists opposing the cuts came together to discuss how to respond to this new assault on the living conditions of the working class. Speaking were Alejandra Abramovich, a school psychologist who works in Santa Barbara; Jaime Coyle, a junior high school teacher; and Thabo Ntweng, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 37th C.D.

Coyle pointed out how the teachers union is encouraging teachers to resist the cuts by refusing to volunteer for after-hours activities such as coaching football or instructing band members. "All this does is pit the teachers against students and parents instead of unifying us in a common fight," said Coyle. "Likewise, demands that point to cutting pay for janitors instead of teachers only serve to make it easier to cut everybody." Ntweng said that "as we resist the cuts it is essential to look for ways to unify the different sectors being hit by the crisis. It is especially important that we don't see this as a 'California crisis,' or even a 'U.S. crisis,' but part of a global crisis of capitalism that requires a response that unifies the working class world-wide."

Campaign supporters have been busy in the last few weeks joining in the many protests sparked by the cuts. With spontaneous high school walk-outs being reported almost every day, candidates and supporters have been out at the high schools talking to students and distributing statements and the *Militant*. A demonstration September 15 held at LA County's Hall of Administration drew thousands of county workers, students, and others affected by the cuts. Campaign supporters quickly sold out all of the *Militants* they had and concentrated on getting into discussions with protesters through handing out campaign statements.

Iceland aluminum workers resist attacks

BY SIGURLAUG GUNNLAUGSDÓTTIR

REYKJAVÍK, Iceland — Almost all the workers employed by ISAL, an aluminum plant owned by the international corporation Alusuisse, attended a protest meeting in the plant September 15. The plant is the biggest in the country, located just outside Reykjavík.

The action was called by the trade union council at the plant to protest against the company's wage policy and its plans to utilize more contract workers. The trade union council is composed of representatives of each of the unions in the plant. The management had declared the action illegal and threatened to withdraw wages.

The action started as a walk-through in the plant and ended in front of the office building at the factory entrance, where a protest resolution was read out, demanding a contract with the company. The latest contract agreement expired one year ago. When a general agreement on wages was negotiated between the Federation of Labor and the Employers Central Organization last spring, the employers refused to accept it as

valid for ISAL workers, who had voted for it. In a press conference after the protest, union representatives told the press that the management wants to break traditional co-operation with the unions.

A few days later, on September 23, the trade union council voted not to work overtime and to call a strike by the workers who ship out the aluminum. Further strikes are being planned in other areas of production. "They can have imports, but they will have to store the production" said Gylfi Ingvarsson, staff representative of the trade unions in the plant.

Profits in aluminum have been low for more than two years because of low world market prices. ISAL has not hired new workers for several years. The company has been extending the use of subcontractors for constructing buildings of specific cleaning operations. Today the company wants to lay off 70 workers, including workers in the cafeteria; in cleaning; maintenance and construction workers; and workers who ship the aluminum. More than half of the 70 are

women. ISAL wants to contract out these operations instead.

"They claim they have a unilateral right to dictate how the work is being organized," says Ingvarsson. The conflict is over "the unwillingness of the management to negotiate," he states.

"We used to be 700 out here. Today, we are around 500 in the unions, but there is a lot more in the plant," ISAL worker Jóhannes Gunnarsson said in an interview. "What they have gained is that they have fewer workers produce much more than they used to produce, for less money. Also, today we make almost exclusively quality aluminum, which is not as sensitive to price fluctuations on the market as ordinary aluminum."

"What happens when a conflict like this comes up is that the company goes straight to the news media," he continued. "If we get our point in somewhere, it always gets screwed up. This makes people think we have a bad case. We need more unity and we will ask other unions to support us."

Pathfinder reprints speeches by Russian revolutionary leader

BY JOHN RIDDELL

Describing the October 1917 revolution through which the workers and peasants of Russia took power, an incredulous general of the old order exclaimed, "Who will believe that a porter or a watchman suddenly becomes chief justice; a hospital attendant, the director of a hospital; a barber, an office-holder; a corporal, a commander-in-chief; a day worker, a mayor; a locksmith, the director of a factory?"

The tsarist commander's indignant outburst is cited by Leon Trotsky in his 1932 speech in Copenhagen, "In Defense of the Russian Revolution," included in *Leon Trotsky Speaks*. The book, which has been out of stock since 1990, has recently been reissued by Pathfinder.

The Russian revolution, Trotsky explained, was indeed a time "when the corporals defeated generals, when the mayor — the former day worker — broke the resistance of the old bureaucracy, the wagon-greaser put the transportation system in order, the locksmith as director put the industrial equipment into working condition. 'Who will believe it?' Let them only try and not believe it."

The Russian revolution, the event that more than any other has shaped our century, is examined in different ways in each of the 44 selections that make up *Leon Trotsky Speaks*.

The story this book tells is above all that of the communist movement, headed by V.I. Lenin, which led the revolution to victory and organized the first steps in the transition

to socialism. The book also documents the communists' struggle to defend these gains in a period of ebbing revolutionary activity and defeats for the working class internationally and the consolidation of the Stalinist bureaucratic caste in the Soviet Union.

The collection begins with Trotsky's 1906 speech from the prisoner's dock of a tsarist court. One of those accused of preparing an armed uprising during the revolutionary upsurge of the previous year, Trotsky defended the right of working people to overthrow the murderous tsarist dictatorship.

Also included in the Pathfinder collection is the manifesto written by Trotsky for the international conference held during World War I in Zimmerwald, Switzerland, by the socialist forces resisting the prowar chauvinism embraced by most top officials of the workers' movement.

Only two years later the Bolshevik party led the workers and peasants of Russia in establishing a revolutionary government based on their councils — the soviets.

Trotsky and Lenin: Bolshevik leaders

Trotsky, a prominent Bolshevik spokesman, became a central leader and, together with V.I. Lenin, one of the best-known public figures of the new Soviet government. During the decade that followed, he served as Soviet foreign minister, head of the Red Army, convener of economic planning bodies, and a founder and leader of the Communist International.

The addresses in *Leon Trotsky Speaks*



Leon Trotsky speaking to Soviet soldiers. Trotsky was the head of the Red Army, which defeated the counterrevolution and imperialist invasions.

record the rapid pace of revolutionary events: the struggle to bring the soviets to power; the October 1917 insurrection; the Soviet regime's international campaign to force an end to World War I; the defeat of counterrevolution and imperialist invasion; the first steps toward building a new, socialist order.

Trotsky's reports to the world communist movement during these years, not included in *Leon Trotsky Speaks*, can be found in the two-volume work *The First Five Years of the Communist International*, which will also be reissued by Pathfinder later this year.

During the 1920s, the Soviet workers' and peasants' government fell under the control of the growing privileged social layer that found its leader and spokesman in Joseph Stalin.

Lenin headed the fight to strengthen the alliance of workers and peasants and defend the revolution against this anti-working-class current. His efforts were cut short early in 1923 when he was incapacitated by an illness that ended in his death in January 1924.

Lenin's key proposals were explained and

defended by Trotsky in a speech in April 1924, which was widely circulated in pamphlet form. The speech, entitled "For the Internationalist Perspective," is included in full in *Leon Trotsky Speaks*.

From that time until he was assassinated in Mexico in 1940 by Stalin's secret police, Trotsky was the principal leader of the communist forces fighting to defend Lenin's course. Selections in *Leon Trotsky Speaks* outline this struggle within the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the world workers' movement.

Another selection reflects communists' efforts to strengthen their programmatic and organizational unity in preparation for the test of a new murderous imperialist world war.

Leon Trotsky Speaks helps make these ideas and achievements of the Russian revolution accessible to new generations. It belongs in the library of every working-class fighter.

Leon Trotsky Speaks, \$23.95 is available from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Include \$3 shipping and handling.

Political activists condemn attack on Toronto bookstore

BY HEIDI ROSE

TORONTO — Political activists gathered at a news conference at the Pathfinder Bookstore September 23 to protest an attack on the bookstore three days earlier.

Two rocks were hurled through the window, hitting displays on Nelson Mandela and Malcolm X. The rocks broke the double-paned plate-glass windows, causing \$700 worth of damage.

On Saturday evening, just hours before the attack, 30 people had turned out to a Militant Labor Forum to hear Jabu Dube, Information Officer of the African National Congress (ANC) in Canada. The forums are held each Saturday night at the bookstore.

"We are demanding that the police carry out a full investigation and prosecute the attackers to the full extent of the law," said Pathfinder Bookstore manager Robert Simms. He added that to date the police have not assigned an investigator to the case. "This is not just a random attack on private property. It's an attack on the democratic right of free speech and free expression," he declared.

At the news conference ANC leader Jabu Dube stated: "No sooner had I finished speaking of the strategy of violence of the South African government, including the use of surrogate forces to carry out this violence, than I was informed on Sunday morning that the window of the Pathfinder Bookstore was broken." Dube declared that "whoever did this was an enemy of the program of Mandela and Malcolm X."

Dudley Laws, a leader of actions against police brutality in Toronto, condemned the attack on behalf of the Black Action Defense Committee. "We should demand this be investigated," he said. "It is not enough for the police to send one officer one day."

Laws contrasted the reluctant response of the police to the aggressive way the cops went after youths over incidents of window smashing on Toronto's Yonge Street after the acquittal of the cops who beat Rodney King. He explained that Pathfinder and the Militant Labor Forum had long provided a

platform for the fight against racism and police brutality. Laws said that Pathfinder was a "necessary instrument" for today's struggles, one which must be defended.

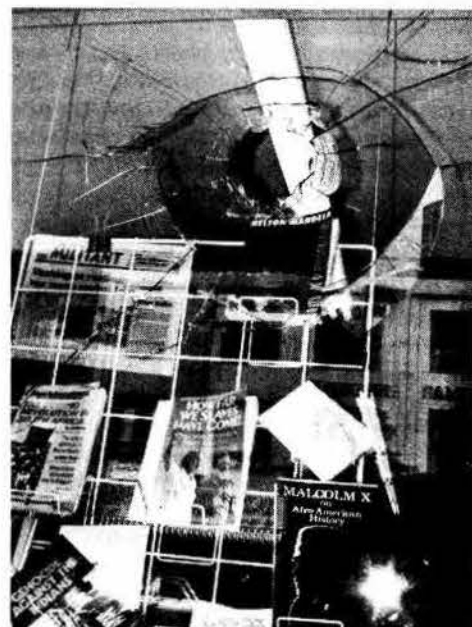
Ann Brunel, representing the Ontario Coalition of Abortion Clinics, noted the bombing earlier this year of the Morgentaler clinic. "These people think they can stop us with violence, but we know better," she said.

Charles Huisken, co-owner of the "This Ain't the Rosedale Library" bookstore, presented Pathfinder with three T-shirts to help raise money to cover the costs of replacing the window.

Frank Showler, a long-time activist for refugee and democratic rights, also spoke.

Public opposition to the vandalism was evident almost immediately after the attack. When Pathfinder volunteers discovered the damage on Sunday morning they set up a table on the street in front of the store with books and a basket for donations to replace

Continued on Page 12



Militant/Helen Nelson
Pathfinder bookstore after vandalism



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

PAT SMITH

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 12.

Supporters of the Pathfinder bookstore in Christchurch, New Zealand, report good results in promoting the Pathfinder pamphlet *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s* by Doug Jenness.

Like millions of toilers the world over, working farmers in New Zealand have been hard hit by more than a decade of capitalist economic crisis. *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s* explains how farmers and workers can unite and fight against the mounting assaults on their livelihoods.

The Christchurch promotion effort included sending a press release announcing the availability of the pamphlet to many New Zealand newspapers in the heart of the extensive sheep farming region, in the country's South Island, including to national and regional farm papers and to South Island branches of Federated Farmers, the largest farmers' organization.

In response, a farmer on the West Coast of the South Island wrote in, ordering two copies of the pamphlet. Another copy was sold to a woman who intended to pass it on to her sister, who is a farmer. A student at Lincoln University, an agricultural campus in Christchurch, also bought the pamphlet.

A meat-packing worker at the large Makarewa meat works in the lower South Island took a bundle of the pamphlet to show his coworkers. One was bought by a worker who also farms.

Pathfinder supporters who work in industrial jobs have launched a campaign to

get co-workers to join the Pathfinder Readers Club — and success is being registered!

Rail union members of the United Transportation Union (UTU) locals in Washington, D.C., New York, and New Jersey have signed up three fellow unionists to the Readers Club in the last few weeks.

An assistant rail conductor in the D.C. UTU local read about the Readers Club in this newspaper, joined up, and bought a copy of *Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq*. Another was a long-time reader of Pathfinder books who decided to take advantage of the 15 percent discount the Readers Club offers to all its members.

"I just love Pathfinder books. I don't know who chooses your manuscripts, but you fill a hole that no one else fills." This was the comment of one bookstore exhibitor at the Black Caucus of the American Library Association meeting, the first national conference of Black librarians held in Columbus, Ohio, September 3-5.

The nine hundred librarians who attended were treated to an attractive display of Pathfinder titles, and many expressed interest in ordering the books. About 50 catalogs — the total stock on hand — were distributed and \$70 worth of books sold. *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro evoked the most interest and three copies of the book were sold.

The Pathfinder booth included a display on efforts to rebuild the Pathfinder bookstore in Los Angeles, which burned down in the aftermath of the acquittal of the cops who beat Rodney King. Several conference participants contributed toward the effort.

Joan Shields, Emily Wood, and Bobbi Sack contributed to this column.

Delegates back USAir strikers

Continued from front page
the same things we did during the Eastern strike. What is done right at the beginning to get support for USAir workers will be critical.

"These companies try to pit worker against worker — like I work at Northwest so I shouldn't care about workers at United or USAir," said Lyle. "It's time to look beyond that now. We've got to look at ourselves as a working class. It should be workers helping workers."

Build up the solidarity

The fight shaping up at USAir was on the minds of union members throughout the convention. Many expressed the view that a big solidarity campaign had to be organized to aid the strikers.

"If there's a USAir strike we're going to need solidarity not only from the IAM," explained union delegate Hilary Harmon from Local 315 in New Jersey in an interview earlier. "Going out on strike now we need demonstrations and rallies. We need support from other unions and even from workers in other countries."

"We've been working without a contract for four years," said John Wilson, a mechanic at Alaska Airlines. "After USAir we know that we're the next fight."

"We should be spending a lot more time talking about these fights like at USAir and Alaska. We have to get the message out about what we're fighting for and build up the solidarity if we're going to win."

Herb Bradley, a former Eastern Airlines striker who now works at Northwest in Los Angeles and is a delegate from IAM Local 2785 said, "When I get back I know where I'll be — on the picket line with the USAir workers."

Solidarity with USAir workers

Continued from Page 6

Line Pilots Association (ALPA), agreed June 1 to an 8 percent wage reduction for a year and work-productivity changes which would "save the company money." On July 1 USAir arbitrarily put into effect the same concessions on all non-union personnel, which include baggage handlers, food service workers, and customer service and ticket agents. The Association of Flight Attendants (AFA) has rejected a concessionary contract and is now in mediation.

In addition to an 8 percent pay cut and increased costs to employees for a managed care health plan, USAir wants to eliminate job classifications traditionally held by IAM mechanics. Currently, mechanics receive and dispatch aircraft to and from jetways and are responsible for de-icing planes in the winter. In the company offer these jobs could be performed by cleaners. This would amount to more than 1,000 jobs lost by mechanics.

Ironically, although cleaners are to be given more responsibility, USAir proposes that new hires in this category start at \$7.17 an hour, \$3.32 less than the current starting rate of \$10.49.

Edwin Fruit is a member of IAM Local Lodge 846 in Baltimore and works for USAir at BWI Airport; Martin Boyers and Nancy Brown from Greensboro; Dan Furman from Newark; Joanne Kuniansky from Pittsburgh, and Nancy Rosenstock from New York contributed to this article.

Attack on Toronto bookstore condemned

Continued from Page 11

the window. Scores of passersby signed a protest letter condemning the attack and demanding a full police investigation. Those who stopped by also bought several books and copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Bookstore volunteers also responded by increasing the hours the store was open and are continuing to solicit funds to defray the cost of the window. Contributions can be sent to Pathfinder Bookstore, 827 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Ont. M6G 1M1.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Crisis in the Balkans: Eyewitness Report from the Former Yugoslavia. Speaker: Natasha Terlexis, recently returned from Yugoslavia. Sat., Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. 2552-B W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Translation to Spanish.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

What's Behind the Campaign for Family Values. Sun., Oct. 11, 5 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325. Translation to Spanish.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Columbus and Capitalism: Roots of the Conquest of the "New World." Speaker: Richard Sorentino, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

New Jersey

Newark

The Socialist Alternative in 1992: Say No to the Twin Parties of War, Racism, and Economic Depression. Speaker James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for president of the United States. Fri., Oct. 9. Reception, 6:30 p.m.;

Boston
George Novack,
Soldier of the Revolution.

Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 11. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 780 Tremont St. (corner Mass Ave.) Donation: \$5. Proceeds go to the George Novack Reconstruction Fund. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

meeting, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$4. Tel: (201) 643-3341. Translation to Spanish. Translation to French.

NEW YORK

New York

Hear James Warren, Socialist Workers Candidate for U.S. President. Sat., Oct. 10, 5 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$5. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Columbus: 500 Years after Discovery and Conquest. Sat., Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C S Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

Cuba Today: A Slideshow Presentation. **Speakers:** James Munro, visited Cuba in June; Amy Husk, Socialist Workers Party, member of International Association of Machinists Local 1130. Sat., Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. 1863 W 25th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

500 Years Since Columbus and the conquest of the 'New World.' **Speakers:** Juan Reyna, member, Lake Erie Native American Council, others. Sat., Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. 1863 W 25th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Columbus, Capitalism, and the Conquest of the Indians. Speaker: Jesse Smith. Sat., Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

What's Behind Europe's Monetary Crisis? Speaker: Scott Breen, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Translation to Spanish.

Communists call for 'No' vote in Canada

Continued from Page 16

glish. And as Native leader Phil Fontaine remarked Natives "are the poorest of the poor."

The constitutional accord verbally recognizes Quebec as a "distinct society" and affirms that native people have the "inherent right to self-government." In fact, both constitutional clauses are completely empty of any legal content or substance. Quebec is granted none of the powers historically demanded by Quebecois in order to combat their oppression. The Department of Indian Affairs, which organizes and maintains the oppression of Native people and runs the reservation system remains untouched.

Over the past weeks, the three main union federations in Quebec have all launched campaigns aimed at defeating the

accord. At a special convention attended by more than 1,600 delegates and observers on October 2, the Quebec Federation of Labor adopted a plan for the creation of "No Committees" in all the work places it organizes. Representatives of the 125,000 strong Quebec Student Movement in colleges and universities also voted to campaign for the no vote.

Despite the campaign being waged by workers and students in Quebec, Mulroney's chauvinist campaign is backed by the top officials of Canadian Labor Congress (CLC) and its political arm, the New Democratic Party. Similarly, union leaders in Quebec are backing the reactionary perspective of French-speaking capitalists who refuse to recognize the just demands of Native people.

Uniting with the bosses and their governments, with whom we share no common in-

BRITAIN

Sheffield

Malcolm X and the World Today. Speaker: Rose Knight, Communist League. Sat., Oct. 10, open house at 4 p.m., featuring video *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. Speaker at 6 p.m. 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-765070.

CANADA

Toronto

What Causes the Famines in Africa? Speaker: Sylvie Charbin, Communist League, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 836. Sat., Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. West. Donation: \$3. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Capitalism and "Family Values." Sat., Oct. 10, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

Wellington

Celebrate Achievements of Communist League Election Campaign. Sat., Oct. 10, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$5. Includes light supper. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

Lessons of the Revolution in Grenada and Its Overthrow. Video and speaker. Sat., Oct. 17, 4 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Germany Two Years After the Reunification: Eyewitness Report. Speakers: Reporters from Militant reporting team. Sat., Oct. 10, 4 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, and *Nueva Internacional*.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 111 21st St. South. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079, 328-3314.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2552-B W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460, 380-9640. San Francisco: 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

CONNECTICUT: New Haven: Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516. Tel: (203) 772-3375.

FLORIDA: Miami: 137 N.E. 54th St. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 172 Trinity Ave. Zip: 30303. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Zip: 60607. Tel: (312) 829-6815, 829-7018.

IOWA: Des Moines: 2105 Forest Ave. Zip: 50311. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

KENTUCKY: Louisville: P.O. Box 4103. Zip: 40204-4103.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: 2905 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 780 Tremont St. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: St. Louis: 1622 S. Broadway.

Zip: 63104. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK: New York: 191 7th Ave. Zip: 10011. Tel: (212) 727-8421; 167 Charles St. Zip: 10014. Tel: (212) 366-1973.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Zip 27406. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cincinnati: P.O. Box 19484. Zip: 45219. Tel: (513) 221-2691. Cleveland: 1863 W. 25th St. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

OREGON: Portland: 2310 NE 8th #1. Zip: 97212. Tel: (503) 288-0466.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 1906 South St. Zip: 19146. Tel: (215) 546-8196. Pittsburgh: 4905 Penn Ave. Zip 15224. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Houston: 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Salt Lake City: 147 E. 900 S. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 523 8th St. SE. Zip: 20003. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WEST VIRGINIA: Morgantown: 242 Walnut. Mailing address: P.O. Box 203. Zip: 26507. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

AUSTRALIA

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

BARBADOS

Bridgetown: P.O. Box 891. Tel.: (809) 436-7723.

BRITAIN

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 071-928-7993.

Manchester: Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Sheffield: 1 Gower St., Spital Hill, Postal code: S47HA. Tel: 0742-765070.

CANADA

Montreal: 6566, boul. St-Laurent. Postal code: H2S 3C6. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Toronto: 827 Bloor St. West. Postal code: M6G 1M1. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

Vancouver: 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Klappargat 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: (91) 17513.

MEXICO

Mexico City: Apdo. Postal 27-575, Col. Roma Sur. Mexico D.F.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

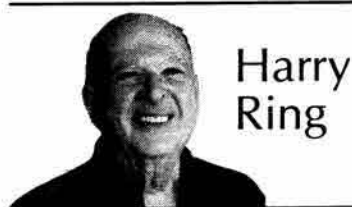
Christchurch: 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

Wellington: 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

SWEDEN

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

Touchy? — "It smarts a bit when someone accuses me of cashing in on the war." — Stormin' Norman Schwartzkopf, now hustling his autobiog, for which Bantam Books paid him \$6 million.



Harry Ring

He's got a point — "I know some people will say I'm exploiting those with alcohol and drug problems. But tell me, how is what I'm doing any different from what commodity trad-

ers do when they buy crops at low prices from farmers in distress?" — Chris Jeffers, formerly homeless and now doing nicely buying up cans and bottles from homeless New Yorkers, for half the deposit value and redeeming them for full value.

Capitalism, the solidarity system — A Los Angeles accountant described to a reporter the growing interoffice tensions and competition among professionals fearful of losing their jobs. She added: "It's like the old joke. If you and your friend are in the woods with a bear, you don't have to outrun the bear. Just your friend."

Can computers outthink people? — George Bush's numerous

achievements include Desert Storm, "the greatest military victory in the history of the world." So says David Packard, head man at the computer biggie, Hewlett-Packard.

Bright future — "We now have so many more homeless than emergency shelters. We have more and more people who need places to stay — tonight — but places aren't available. And as the city grows, the problem will only get worse." — A San Diego official responding to the objection of affluent homeowners to a tent city within view of their neighborhood.

No latter-day saints — Last year, Mormon-owned Brigham Young University relaxed its dress

code to permit shorts, provided they were knee-length. But some students, never satisfied, began wearing shorts which completely exposed their kneecaps. The university prez warned the ban would be reimposed.

The wheels of justice — In southern California, investment swindler Olen Phillips and his right-hand man, Charles Francoeur, were convicted of stealing \$3 million from clients. For whatever reason, the jury convicted the #2 man on five counts, and Phillips on one count of grand theft. Whereupon, the judge gave Francoeur nearly eight years, and Phillips probation, plus 60 days.

Still #1 — Gillette, the razor

folks, are busting into the men's toiletries market. They said that extensive research disclosed that U.S. men spend the most time on personal grooming — 25 minutes a day, compared to 22 minutes in Italy and 19 in France.

Also makes for a lighter lunch bucket — Maybe we're environmentally backward, but somehow we're not enthused by British entomologist Dick Vane-Wright's advice that we eat more insects. He says locusts, flies, termites, and beetle larvae have more protein, pound for pound, than beef, chicken or milk, and are low in fat, and high in vitamins and minerals. Also, he argues, it would cut the cost of chemical pesticides.

Embargo against Yugoslavia squeezing workers

BY NAOMI CRAINE

As the United States and its allies have moved in the past weeks to tighten UN sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, working people there are being confronted by increasingly harsh conditions.

With winter coming, the lack of fuel is causing many to worry about how they will heat their homes. Food prices have soared. Unemployment is growing rapidly and is expected to reach levels of 50 to 80 percent soon, as industries shut down due to the lack of resources. Lines to buy gasoline are literally miles long, with waits of several days. Those who reach the front of the line are only allowed to purchase 20 liters (about 5 gallons) per month.

Budimir Vukcevic, the deputy director of the Yugoslavian port of Bar, speaking to the *New York Times* in early September, said, "Largely nothing has come in during the past three months, apart from one or two small boats bringing bananas and other fruit. Usually we would be unloading 15 to 20 boats and have another 15 vessels waiting to come in." Almost all of the 2,000 workers at the port have been laid off.

The sanctions, which were imposed on the Yugoslav state of Serbia and Montenegro by the United Nations in May, forbid all trade except food and medicine, froze financial assets abroad, and cut off air links with the rest of the world. A conference organized by the United Nations and the European Community in London at the end of August agreed to tighten the embargo, putting it forward as an alternative to military intervention. A similar embargo against Iraq, which was imposed two years ago and continues today, has wreaked havoc on the lives of working people.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the London conference "also threatened harsher measures," including using naval vessels to "monitor and challenge ships that might be transporting embargoed goods."

A *Militant* reporting team that traveled throughout Yugoslavia in July witnessed first-hand the devastating effects of the embargo on workers and farmers. Although the sanctions in theory do not apply to medicines and medical supplies, in practice it is very difficult to secure permission to import these items. A public health inspector who was visiting Kosovo explained that there are "problems all over Serbia — lack of oxygen, dialysis fluid, vaccine for children, and

insulin for diabetics. Also, doctors are having to deal with cases of which they have no experience, such as war surgery and psychiatric problems of survivors of atrocities."

Food is still available in most of Serbia, which was largely self-sufficient, but spiraling inflation is making much of it unaffordable to many working people. Farmers "get 5 liters of gasoline per hectare per month," said Shezana Stoskovic, information officer for the Yugoslav Red Cross in Belgrade. "They don't have enough to run machinery and transportation. I'm sure that in three or four months time there will be a complete collapse of industry, agriculture, everything."

Stasa Zajovic, who heads the anti-war group Women in Black, noted that with the embargo and the economic crisis, abortions have become harder to obtain. Some women have had to undergo the procedure without any anesthesia in areas outside of Belgrade. She pointed out that, "women are affected the most by the embargo since they must figure out the daily survival of the household." Women in Black carries out weekly silent protests against the war.

One refugee who the *Militant* reporters spoke with was a 75-year-old Serb who had fought with the Partisans against the fascists in World War II. He had fled from "ethnic cleansing" in Croatia to Sarajevo, and then to a refugee center in Serbia. "Sanctions are a crime," he said, "especially against the children. Epidemics and illness will start; we have no medicines."

Anne Howie and Natasha Terlexis, who were part of the *Militant* reporting team to Yugoslavia, contributed to this article.

Europe's rulers reel from currency crisis

Continued from page 8
Government would win less than one vote out of three, and only 22 percent in eastern states," according to the *New York Times*.

'Iron austerity'

Hesitant to raise taxes, German finance minister Theo Waigel has urged "iron austerity" at all levels of the economy. This will be tested at the end of October when the metalworkers' union contract covering 125,000 workers in northern Germany expires. The union is demanding a 7.5 percent wage increase. The employers' association said the union has "misread the seriousness of the situation." In addition, Germany's ruling class has opened talks on a proposed "solidarity pact" between the employers and the unions calling for equal sacrifice.

Waigel added that a good place to implement the "iron austerity" would be by "stemming the flood of asylum-seekers and reducing the social help they receive." The government has barely lifted a finger to stop the rightist hooligan attacks against immigrants. The German daily *Bild* reported September 12 that one of these rightist gangs attacked a German school for the handicapped in the eastern town of Stendal, injuring five crippled children, including two girls.

Bonn is now concerned that these attacks are driving away potential investors.



Militant/Argiris Malapanis
Protest against the war outside parliament building in Belgrade

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People
October 16, 1967 Price 10¢

Shortly after one o'clock in the morning on Oct. 6, I heard a terrific blast as I tried to get some sleep at a friend's house in Tougaloo, Miss. As it turned out, it was a bomb that had exploded on the campus of Tougaloo College.

The bomb blast occurred four hours after Paul Boutelle, vice-presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, had addressed a crowd of over 150 students in the chapel at Tougaloo College. The meeting was sponsored by the Political Action Committee, a militant black student group.

I was told by Howard Spencer, chairman of PAC, that the FBI had questioned him and had asked for the whereabouts of Boutelle. Spencer also told me how the FBI and Jackson newsmen were crawling all over the campus, intimidating and harassing the students.

The press and the FBI are trying to create the notion that the militant activities of PAC caused the bombing, not the racists organized in terrorist organizations like the KKK. This was the second bombing within a month in the Jackson area. The first took place at Beth Israel Temple.

A year ago, PAC organized an antiwar march in downtown Jackson. PAC also organized meetings for H. Rap Brown and Stokely Carmichael on the campus.

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

October 17, 1942

[This issue reprinted a resolution adopted by the Socialist Workers Party's October 1-4,

1942, convention, of which this is an excerpt.]

The fall of France not only testified to Germany's economic and military superiority on the European continent; it exposed the rottenness of French bourgeois democracy as well as the inability of the French bourgeoisie to defend their own nation against the fascist invaders. After crushing the workers' bid for power in 1936, the capitalist politicians and their Stalinist, Socialist and Syndicalist lieutenants in the labor movement called upon the French workers to fight for the capitalist fatherland in order to defend democracy and national independence.

Duped by the bourgeoisie and betrayed by their leaders, the French workers suffered the loss of their democratic rights and their class organizations together with national unity and independence. The main section of French capitalism has entered into collaboration with the fascist conquerors; another group has gone over into the Anglo-American camp.

The fate of France contains a great political lesson for the workers of the whole world. It has again demonstrated that the bourgeoisie puts its profits and privileges above either national independence or democracy. Whenever their social and economic interests and their political predominance are imperiled by the proletariat, the bourgeoisie will give up national independence, destroy democracy, substitute their naked class dictatorship and collaborate with foreign oppressors.

The task of the workers of the occupied countries is to put themselves at the head of the insurgent movement of the people and direct it toward the struggle for the socialist reorganization of Europe. Their allies in this struggle are not the Anglo-American imperialists and their satellites among the native bourgeoisie, but the workers of Germany.

Peace, security and prosperity can be assured for the people of Europe only by its economic unification based on the socialist collaboration of the free nations.

from Pathfinder

The Balkan Wars (1912-13)

by Leon Trotsky

An eyewitness analysis of national and social conflicts in the Balkans written 75 years ago that sheds light on the class conflict shaking Yugoslavia today. 524pp. \$30.95

Available from the Pathfinder bookstore nearest you (see addresses on p. 12) or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Please add \$3 for shipping and handling.



Support the USAir strikers!

All working people have a stake in the important labor battle that has broken out this week at USAir. Some 8,300 workers, represented by the International Association of Machinists (IAM), decided in their overwhelming majority to reject the company's takeback demands and have gone on strike. The outcome of this fight — a fight being waged by a union in a centrally important industry — will have ramifications for workers in other industries, where similar battles are on the horizon.

The solidarity expressed by Richard Trumka, president of the United Mine Workers of America, at the IAM convention in Montreal a few days before the USAir workers went on strike, will be indispensable to the striking workers if they are to resist USAir's attempts to drive their wages and working conditions down and, ultimately, break their union.

Trumka said, "If it comes down to a strike, there's a whole lot of UMW members, in the United States and Canada, who are ready, who are willing, and who are able to make your fight our fight. . . . The IAM has always stood with the Mineworkers and we will stand with you."

Other workers who have waged successful fights have done it by reaching out and receiving solidarity from their brothers and sisters in different workplaces and industries,

and from elsewhere in the country and the world. The first step is to recognize the common interests we have as workers; only then can we see through the advice we inevitably hear from the bosses to "tighten our belts" for the "good of the company."

Fewer workers today are willing to accept this advice. A decade of belt-tightening on the part of workers has only increased the appetite of the employing class. The airline industry, which has gone from being the third-highest paying industry to the 17th in the last ten years, is a good example of this. In the midst of the deepening crisis of their economic system, the bosses will continue to try to take more from us. Workers at USAir, General Motors, the Pittsburgh Press, Ravenswood Aluminum and elsewhere have shown and are demonstrating what we must do in response.

Workers, young people, and others interested in this important fight can play an important role by bringing coworkers and friends to the picket lines, inviting strikers to our union meetings or setting up meetings to build solidarity on campuses and in the community, raising funds to help the strikers maintain their fight, and doing whatever else we can to solidarize with these workers.

U.S. Hands off Yugoslavia!

President George Bush declared on October 2 that the U.S. government "will seek a new UN Security Council resolution, with a provision for enforcement, banning all flights in Bosnian airspace except those authorized by the UN. If asked by the UN, the U.S. will participate in enforcement measures."

These moves by the U.S. government to intervene militarily in Yugoslavia's civil war are not in the interests of working people of either the former Yugoslavia or of the United States and its allies. Cynically using the revulsion and horror that most people feel toward the war, President Bush and other government officials and politicians — including William Clinton — claim that this intervention will be for "humanitarian" purposes. In truth, the motivations of U.S. imperialism in threatening military action in Bosnia and Herzegovina are no more altruistic than their motivations in imposing economic sanctions and an air ban in Iraq.

The U.S. government used sanctions against Iraq as a prelude to the barbaric bombing campaign that they unleashed on the Iraqi people last year. In this case as well, they claimed to be acting on behalf of victims of military aggression. The hypocrisy of these claims can be seen by their choice of targets; while professing to be indignant over the crimes of the Belgrade and Iraqi regimes, the U.S. government itself has imposed and financed dictatorships in every corner of the globe. If nothing else, the wars organized by Washington against the peoples of Korea, Vietnam, Nicaragua, and Iraq should disqualify it from standing in judgment of other governments.

The U.S. policy makers are motivated above all by the needs of the capitalist ruling class whose interests they serve. In Iraq, they were concerned primarily with strengthening their political and economic control over a part of the world that is rich in natural resources. While they find it harder to define their interests in the Yugoslav republics, they hope to maximize the political influence and opportunities for markets of U.S. imperialism.

Workers and youth in the former Yugoslavia have demonstrated their potential to end the war by organizing protests and by refusing in large numbers to fight in the federal Yugoslav army. Working people of various nationalities have taken up arms to resist the Serbian and Croatian rightist forces that have led the war in Bosnia, demonstrating that this is not an "ethnic" war, but a war organized by the now-divided pieces of the bureaucracy, each trying to advance its own material privileges.

The brutal war being carried out against the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina is not a matter of indifference for working people around the world. The people of the Yugoslav republics deserve international solidarity, not imperialist intervention. We should demand:

- End all plans for military intervention in Bosnia!
- Lift the economic sanctions that are strangling the people of Serbia and Montenegro!
- Send massive food and medical aid to the besieged people of Sarajevo and other Bosnian towns!
- Open the borders of the United States and other nations to the refugees from the war!

Haiti one year after the coup

It has been one year since a military coup in Haiti ousted that country's democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and instituted a reign of terror against Haitian working people.

Protest actions marking this anniversary — including the September 29 demonstration of 12,000 Haitians in New York City coinciding with Aristide's speech to the United Nations General Assembly, and smaller actions in Miami, Montreal, and Boston — have once again placed the U.S. government's criminal policy toward Haiti back in the political limelight.

Since last May, Washington has been implementing a policy of seizing in international waters all Haitians fleeing military repression in their country, and forcibly returning them directly to Haiti. Those being returned face the wrath of that country's military rulers including beatings and possible death. The U.S. government's forced repatriation policy makes it complicit in the pain and suffering being meted out daily to the Haitian people.

The question of Haiti has also been virtually absent from the campaigns of George Bush's major capitalist opponents — William Clinton and Ross Perot.

Reports by organizations such as Amnesty International document the fact that one year after the military coup the old repressive structures that existed in Haiti for decades under the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Duvalier are now back in place.

While giving verbal support to the economic embargo of Haiti announced by the Organization of American States (OAS) shortly after Aristide was ousted, Washington continues to weaken its effectiveness. Last February, for example, the Bush administration exempted from the embargo all U.S. businesses with factories in Haiti.

International oil shipments continue to arrive at Haitian ports on a regular basis, in some cases supplied from OAS member nations that themselves voted to cut off shipments of non-humanitarian supplies. Many European nations have been virtually ignoring the embargo since its inception. The Netherlands, for example, has supplied oil to Haiti via Aruba, one of its colonial possessions in the Caribbean.

Thousands of Haitians living in the United States and Canada have, with their supporters, repeatedly taken to the streets in protest actions against Washington's criminal policy toward Haiti during the past year. These actions need to continue. Working people organizing through their unions can help bring powerful new forces into this fight.

- We must demand:
- End the policy of forced repatriations!
- Political asylum for Haitian refugees!
- Open the U.S. borders!
- Maintain and strengthen the economic embargo!
- No imperialist military intervention in Haiti!

How Iraq war accelerated rivalries

In the Iraq war U.S. imperialism exerted its might not just against Iraq but also at the expense of its biggest rivals in the world, chiefly Germany and Japan. The following excerpt from "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq," published in issue number 7 of *New Internationalist* explains how this accelerated the interimperialist conflict that is sharply revealed by the growing trade wars, the currency crisis in Europe and by the deepening conflict around Yugoslavia.

Coming out of World War II, U.S. imperialism emerged the dominant power in the world imperialist system, both economically and militarily. For a substantial period following that war the rate of profit, and for even longer the tempo of growth of the mass of profits, was rising in all the imperialist countries. As a result, competition between the imperialist powers over markets for commodities and capital and over sources of raw materials was buffered.

Since the mid-1970s, however, the combination of the declining rate of profit, halting growth in the mass of profits, and relative slowdown in economic expansion has precipitated growing, sometimes sharp rivalry among the imperialist ruling classes. The years 1974-75 saw the first worldwide recession since 1937, as economic interdependence among the major capitalist powers grew alongside their competition and conflict. Although the sheer size and output of the U.S. capitalist economy remains enormous, and while it remains the largest market in the world, its position as an industrial and trading power has slipped substantially in recent decades in the face of growing challenges from German, Japanese, and other rivals. U.S. strategic military power remains unchallenged, however, and is the main lever the U.S. rulers have to compensate for their relative decline.

No power other than Washington could have transported and put in place the mammoth order of battle necessary to carry a war to Iraq. While waged behind the facade of a broad "international coalition," the war was a U.S. government operation, with London's enthusiastic support and with Paris being forced to join in out of weakness. Bonn and Tokyo — still limited in the use of strategic military power abroad flowing from their defeat in World War II — took no part in the combat at all.

Through the initiation, organization, domination, and execution of this war effort, U.S. imperialism strengthened its control over Gulf oil reserves, gaining additional leverage over its rivals in Bonn, Tokyo, and Paris in the competition for world markets for commodities and capital. By throwing the biggest military forces of any other imperialist power behind Washington's war effort, the rulers in London successfully sought to guarantee themselves a privileged junior position alongside U.S. finance capital in this region, which was once largely a British protectorate but had been penetrated more and more by French trade, aid, and loans. . . .

The relationship of forces that existed prior to the Gulf War among the capitalist powers in Europe has not been altered, but the national and state conflicts between them have been exacerbated. The war underlined the limits of the European Community's modest steps toward greater "economic integration" (lowered barriers to trade, investment, and travel). The U.S.-engineered war drive exposed beyond doubt that these measures do not translate into a "common European" foreign policy, a "common European" military policy, let alone steps to build up a "common European" armed forces. Nor do they even translate into a "common European" economic policy, let alone a common currency; in fact, strides in this direction were set back.

Rivalry within Europe

Instead, the rival capitalist classes in the European Community (EC) were further propelled toward defending their separate state interests, whatever their common stake in a trading bloc in face of U.S. and Japanese competition.

The war set back German imperialism's goal of an integrated European Community under Bonn's domination. It battered the Bonn-led alliance of German and French imperialism in the EC. The French imperialists — who had made special ties to Baghdad one of the axes of their foreign policy in the Middle East, in hopes of regaining a stronger economic foothold in the Gulf — suffered humiliating cuffs from Washington.

Drawing on the advantage gained through its total collaboration with the U.S. war drive, London took an extra inch or two in its constant attempts to buffer the effects of British imperialism's decades-long decline relative to its chief European capitalist competitors. But growing subordination to the deutsche mark and involvement in Europe remain the central lines of development for British capital.

City imposes concession contract in Philadelphia

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

Working people around the world are involved in skirmishes over speedup, forced overtime, layoffs, and attacks on health and safety benefits. Some unionists faced with sharp takeback de-

- A two-year wage freeze followed by pay increases of only 2 and 3 percent in the third and fourth years.

- A new management-rights clause that would junk a previous no-layoff agreement as well as permit unlimited changes in job descriptions and productivity standards.

- Elimination of four holidays

ON THE PICKET LINE

mands, lockouts, and union-busting moves have gone on strike to force the bosses to back down.

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

Leaders of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees announced October 2 that workers in Philadelphia will withhold their labor if a contract acceptable to the union has not been approved by a deadline of 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, October 6.

The 15,000 city workers here are represented by District Councils 33 (blue collar) and 47 (white collar) of AFSCME.

Union members have been working under a de facto extension of their previous contract that had expired July 1. Union leaders say that recent moves by Democratic mayor Edward Rendell to unilaterally impose harsh cuts and changes in work rules constitute a lockout. In Pennsylvania, locked out workers are eligible to draw unemployment benefits.

Rendell decreed the new measures, which will cost city workers some \$100 million in wages and benefits, September 23. Claiming that "there is no money" to continue the terms of the expired contract while negotiating, he demanded that union leaders must "get off fantasy island."

Among the worst cuts are:

and eight sick days per year.

- Dismantling of a union-run health-care plan that has no copayments and no deductibles, to be replaced by a city plan that has a \$500 deductible and a 30 percent copayment.

- Income from the union's health plan, which is supported by payments by the city for each employee, covers an important part of AFSCME's rent and staff expenses. By ending this arrangement, the city would be directly attacking AFSCME's current financial underpinning, something widely seen here as a direct union-busting move.

Rendell has prepared a two-inch-thick document detailing plans to operate in the event the unions go on strike in response to his cuts.

These guidelines include the use of cops to ride shotgun for scab sanitation workers.

The Rendell administration, backed up by the big-business media here, has gone on a war footing to turn public opinion against the city workers.

Citing wages that are driven up by mandatory overtime, city workers are depicted as overpaid and lazy.

But the average yearly wage of a Philadelphia city worker is \$22,300 a year. Starting pay for a sanitation worker is only \$18,957 a year. And the union's wage increases between 1980 and 1991 were only two-thirds the rate of inflation.

Strike strengthens union at New Zealand plant

"We've become one big union. We hardly knew each other before the strike," stated a worker on the picket line at the New Zealand

Forest Products (NZFP) plant in Matura, New Zealand. The Matura mill is one of four paper plants jointly controlled by one of New Zealand's largest companies, Brierley Investments, and United States paper giant International Paper. For a month all four mills were shut down tight by 1,500 pulp and paper workers. Work resumed at the Matura mill September 15.

Management demanded separate contracts for each plant with expiration dates spread over a three year period, and the right to lay off any worker they choose.

This was the first strike at the Matura plant in 116 years. "We always supported strikes at Kinleith financially because Kinleith had thousands of workers and had enough muscle to win a good contract for all of us," explained Evan Deans, a leader of the strike. The Kinleith mill in Tokoroa is the biggest NZFP plant.

Pickets explained that through this fight they had joined forces with workers at the other three mills and felt less isolated.

At Matura, 152 strikers maintained round-the-clock picket lines at both plant entrances. Sixteen workers signed NZFP's original offer. The management at Matura did not attempt to bring in strike-breakers and attempts to do so at two other Forest Product's mills were defeated by the workers and their supporters.

Forest Products management attempted to put pressure on the local fire department to refuse a permit for the makeshift stove the pickets used. This attempt failed. Management also hired a security force made up of ex-police officers and unemployed workers from outside the community to patrol and harass the pickets.

Workers were incensed that the company installed surveillance cameras on a day the strikers took down the picket line to attend the funeral for the son of one of the strikers.

"I've learned never to trust anyone; not the management nor any government politician nor any one else like that," stated one of the strikers. "I've learned that the only people you can trust is yourself and your fellow workers." Another worker, nodding in agreement, added, "Originally the company tried

to break our union, but through the strike we have built a stronger union."

School bus drivers strike in Atlanta

Nearly all of Atlanta's 238 public school bus drivers struck September 9 in a fight to win better wages, working conditions, and health insurance for themselves and their families.

The strikers are employed by Laidlaw Transit Company, which holds a \$3.8 million contract with the Atlanta School Board to transport some 20,000 students to and from school each day. The drivers are paid a flat \$8 an hour and receive no benefits of any kind.

Almost all the strikers are Black, and many are women and

Meanwhile, Laidlaw said that if strikers did not return to work Monday, September 14, they would be replaced. The company threatened to run 96 buses Monday morning, covering a majority of routes. The strikers stayed firm, however, and organized a larger-than-usual picket line for 6:00 a.m. Monday morning. Only about 10 buses went out.

A school board meeting the evening of September 14 was packed with angry drivers, who forced the school board to let them speak. Drivers voiced concern over the children's safety, saying that Laidlaw was moving to break the strike by hiring people who weren't qualified to transport school children. After the meeting, the drivers decided to end the strike and they re-



Militant/Richard Rathers

School bus drivers on strike in Atlanta picket

single parents. While driving a school bus for 20 or so hours a week is a second job for some, for many others it is their only regular income.

Although the strikers had no union, they were confident and united. Support was strong among other workers in the Atlanta area for the strike, especially as the facts of their situation become known.

After the second day of the strike, the school board came up with an extra \$158,000 to provide raises for the drivers. The strikers decided to stay out, however, and press their fight for health insurance benefits.

turned to work the following day.

The strikers are planning to continue their fight for insurance benefits while back on the job. They also voted to affiliate with the Amalgamated Transit Union.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Pete Seidman, member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 56 in Philadelphia; Eugen Lepou and Caroline Marshall in Christchurch, New Zealand; Susan LaMont, member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 365 in Atlanta.

LETTERS

Family farmer caravan

"The survival of the rural South and our African-American family farmers is at stake," said Ralph Paige, Executive Director of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, as he joined 75 others on the steps of the Richard Russell Federal Building in downtown Atlanta to kick off a spirited caravan scheduled to arrive in Washington, D.C., September 24.

Their goals were to call attention to the crisis facing family farmers, especially Black, Hispanic, and Native American farmers, and to press Congress and President Bush to provide \$10 million to fund the authorized 1990 Minority Farmers Bill — which has already been cleared, but not funded.

They also call for the funding of Extension Agents on Native American reservations.

Numerous civil-rights activists and elected officials were on hand to advocate support for the effort, including the president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery; Congressional candidate Cynthia McKinney; Rev. Emory Searcy of Clergy and Laity Concerned; and Earl Shiholster, Director of the Southeastern Region of the NAACP.

Socialist Workers Party senatorial and congressional candidates were in attendance, standing in solidarity with the caravan.

For more information about the caravan or the Federation call, in Atlanta, (404) 524-6882; in Washington, D.C. (202) 488-5645.

Miguel Zárate
Atlanta, Georgia

Aid to hurricane victims

On Labor Day I participated along with other members of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) Local 694 in a caravan to South Dade County carrying material aid to farm workers whose lives have been devastated by Hurricane Andrew. Officials of United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW), International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), United Teachers of Dade and the carpenters union also participated.

The activity was organized out of the ACTWU office and was preceded by a week of soliciting donations from garment shops in Miami. Shop stewards leafleted workers at Kuppenheimer and 500 Fashions. They, along with ACTWU staffers and a few other members, also

leafleted unorganized shops in the area.

Leading the caravan was a truck filled with water, baby items, clothing, etc. Banners on both sides of the truck read "ACTWU — The Future is in Our Hands." We proceeded slowly south on the freeway, which was jammed with thousands of people going to deliver aid and help with the clean-up and reconstruction.

Our first stop was a camp set up by Centro Campesinos. Farm workers themselves were setting up tents for sleeping, a grocery store, child care, and so on. They were aided by Red Cross volunteers. Continually while we were there groups of people would come in, check in with the coordinator and ask what they could do to help.

Our second stop was a parking lot in the midst of a mostly Mexican and Haitian neighborhood. As goods were being passed out several unionists took turns speaking through a bullhorn about the need to be organized and the importance of unions.

This relief effort is a positive step for our union. And it is important that it is being tied to organizing the unorganized.

Our union, and all unions, must

be involved in and help in this way on all social questions — whether they directly effect us or not.

Becky Ellis
Miami, Florida

Japanese-Americans

In a special part of the University of California's annual convocation ceremony Sept. 16 marking the opening of the school year, 18 Japanese-Americans were recognized by the university 50 years after they and more than 100 other Japanese-American students at the Berkeley campus had been deported to concentration camps.

On February 19, 1942, U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which gave U.S. military forces power to restrict the activities of, arrest, and imprison Japanese-Americans living in the United States. Washington had formally entered World War II in December of the previous year, and government officials promoted the lie that Japanese-Americans represented a threat to U.S. "national security." In the months following February 19, more than 110,000 Japanese-Americans were sent to 10 internment camps in remote areas of the United States.

Many Japanese students left the campus after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December, 1941. Massive anti-Japanese propaganda was spread throughout the West Coast and Hawaii throughout January, 1942, including calls for internment. Navy and FBI investigations pointed out that there was no evidence that Japanese-Americans were functioning as spies and saboteurs, but the government continued to promote war hysteria and restrict the rights of Japanese-Americans. Violent attacks on Japanese and other Asians increased.

In recent years, Japanese-Americans have been able to force the government to make a formal apology and to pay restitution for the internments. This was a victory won by many victims of racism in the United States fighting together.

Jim Altenberg
Berkeley, 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.

Thousands protest Haitian military

Giant march in New York as Haiti's deposed president Aristide speaks at UN

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — Chanting "No Aristide, no peace," and "Democracy in Haiti," some 12,000 Haitians and their supporters marched an eight-mile route through the streets of New York City and rallied in front of the United Nations September 29.

The demonstrators condemned the continuing repression by the military rulers in Haiti and demanded the return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide to the presidency. Among the enthusiastic protesters were many Haitian high school students. Aristide was ousted in a military coup September 30 last year.

The rally coincided with Aristide's address to the United Nations General Assembly that day. "The coup d'etat was a crime against humanity," stated Aristide. "These 12 months symbolize a double crime against humanity."

Aristide pointed to the Haitian people's battle cry, "Democracy or death," which he raised last year in his talk before the Assembly — five days before the coup: "Today in the name of the 3,000 people assassinated by the enemies of democracy [during the past year] the Haitian people maintain the same conviction and the same cry: Democracy or death," said Aristide.

Haiti remains a land of stunning contrasts. Of the 7 million people in the country, 6.3 million cannot read or write and the vast majority are undernourished. About 90 percent of working-age people are jobless, and a majority of those employed earn less than \$300 a year. On the other hand, Haiti is home to 200 millionaire families. The top 1 percent of the population receives 44 percent of all national wealth, and owns 60 percent of the land.

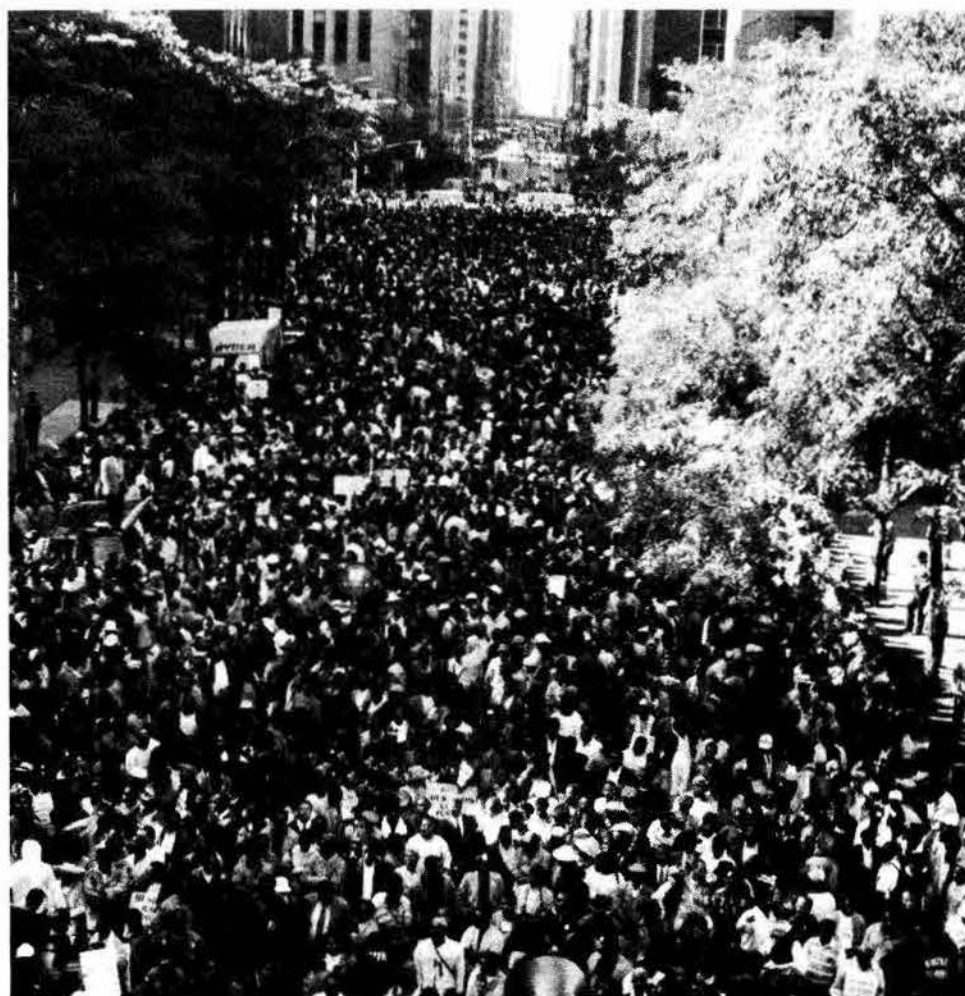
"Never has Haiti known a dictatorship so fierce and so bloody," said Aristide as he pointed to some of the effects of military rule during the past year: More than 40,000 political refugees; hundreds of thousands of citizens fleeing from across the country; more than 100 journalists victims of military terrorism; priests arrested, beaten, and imprisoned; and peasant organizations and trade unions systematically destroyed.

Despite this repression "more than 90 percent of the population of Haiti are still saying no to the military rulers," stated Aristide.

'Yes to the embargo'

"Despite the controversy surrounding the embargo, the people of Haiti say over and over again, 'Yes to the embargo,'" explained Aristide. "It should be, in the final analysis, an embargo that is real, coordinated and total."

The Haitian leader urged the United Nations to work with the Organization of



Thousands took to New York streets to protest Haitian military dictatorship on first anniversary of coup. Protesters also denounced U.S. complicity with military rulers.

American States (OAS) to help restore his government to power.

In mid-September the OAS dispatched 18 observers to Haiti as part of an agreement worked out with the Haitian military rulers. Aristide supporters had been seeking a significantly larger force. Shortly after arriving in Haiti, one member of the OAS delegation was sent back by the mil-

itary because they appeared to be too sympathetic to Aristide.

Aristide's UN speech was broadcast to the thousands of people rallying across the street. Several hundred Haitians who packed the visitors gallery inside the General Assembly Hall enthusiastically cheered and applauded the Haitian leader's remarks.

Communist League candidates call for 'No' vote in Canada's constitutional referendum

The following statement was released October 3 by Michel Prairie and John Steele, Communist League candidates for upcoming by-elections in Montreal and Toronto. They are both members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

All working people and defenders of democratic rights should reject the chauvinist campaign being waged by Canada's capitalist rulers and oppose their constitutional "reforms" that deny the right of self-determination of Quebecois and Native people. Faced with the prospects that a majority, especially in Quebec, might vote down their proposals to amend the Canadian constitution in the October 26 Canada-wide referendum, the ruling rich launched an hysterical campaign warning of dire economic consequences if the constitutional accord is defeated.

This, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney claimed, would lead to the formation of an independent Quebec and the break-up of Canada. According to the Royal Bank a no vote would lead to a \$10,000 decline in annual income per family and the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs.

This desperate campaign of economic blackmail, aimed at convincing working people to vote for the new constitutional accord, backfired and instead became the catalyst for a deepening of the Canadian rulers' crisis. Capitalist investors and speculators reacted to Ottawa's demagogic

claims and to the underlying weakness of the Canadian economy by transferring massive amounts of capital out of the country. By October 1, the Canadian dollar had fallen to less than 80 US cents, from more than 84 cents a month before.

The Bank of Canada immediately tried to stop this slide by increasing interest rates by two percent. This was the biggest single-week change since the Bank of Canada was created in 1935 and a complete reversal of a two-year long effort by the Canadian government to overcome the recession with lower interest rates. But the Canadian dollar and Canadian stock market prices continued to decline.

'Drastic action' demanded

As Toronto *Globe and Mail* business columnist Terence Corcoran pointed out "no matter who wins the referendum" the economic crisis will continue. He then warned that the only way to begin to reverse that crisis is for Canada's rulers to take the kind of "drastic action" being carried out by governments in Europe to slash workers wages and working conditions in order to reverse falling profit rates.

The rulers' goal in the referendum debate is to win majority support for some cosmetic reforms to the constitution — especially among Quebecois and Natives who rejected the two previous efforts at constitutional reform over the past decade. They hope that this will give their constitution the legitimacy it now lacks and strengthen the capac-

Haitians took to the streets in protest in several other cities as well. In Montreal up to 500 people demonstrated in front of the government offices September 29. Some stayed all night. The following evening 1,000 people participated in another rally. Several thousand demonstrated in Miami and about 700 in Boston.

In Haiti, the military was placed on "maximum alert" to head off any pro-Aristide rallies around the anniversary of the coup. Police with bullhorns rode through the main streets of the Port-Au-Prince, Haiti's capital, September 30, ordering people to keep moving so that no crowds could assemble.

Spokespersons for Aristide inside the country were asking supporters not to take to the streets. "It has demoralized supporters, yes, but we must accept that," said Rev. Antoine Adrien, an advisor to Aristide. "But I think enough blood has been shed."

Living in permanent fear

A recently released Amnesty International report provides a glimpse of the horrendous conditions under which Haitian working people live.

"The old repressive structures are back in place," states the report. "Haitians live in permanent fear, while their oppressors are free to kill, torture and terrorize with impunity."

"Citizens have to pay to prevent human rights violations," says Amnesty International. "Prisoners have to pay to stop the beatings or to secure their release. In many cases families have to sell their possessions to help a relative out of jail."

Meanwhile the U.S. government continues to intercept in international waters all Haitians fleeing the island and return them directly to Haiti's military rulers. Washington also exempted U.S.-owned companies in Haiti from the trade embargo, which the OAS imposed shortly after Aristide was ousted.

Some of the wealthy elite along with top military officers have made huge fortunes in contraband and drug smuggling by evading the embargo.

ity of the ruling rich to take the kind of "drastic action" here and internationally that is necessary to resolve their crisis.

Over the past two years Canadian troops have been utilized in Iraq, Yugoslavia, and Somalia in collaboration with Washington and other imperialist powers, as well as against Mohawk Indians fighting for their rights in Canada.

Up to one hundred heavily armed RCMP agents and Pinkerton security guards have been employed against 240 striking gold miners at the Giant Gold Mine in Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories to ensure the company's capacity to replace them with scabs. And a huge campaign is being waged to frame up the strikers and their union for the explosion that killed nine replacement workers on September 18.

The attempt to frame them up is the spearhead of a cross country campaign by the bosses to weaken and break workers' unions from Yellowknife to the lock-out of 450 flight attendants at Nationair in Toronto and Montreal since last November and their replacement by scabs.

Quebecois and Native rights

The anti-worker drive includes the rulers' efforts to break the long standing resistance of Quebecois and Native people to their national oppression. Quebecois have historically been paid lower wages and suffered from higher unemployment rates than workers in Quebec whose first language is En-

Continued on Page 12



Demonstrator at New York protest