

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Vote for the
Socialist Workers candidates**

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Miners and supporters protest pit closures in Britain

BY ROBERT HIGLEY

Tens of thousands of miners, their families, and other trade unionists and supporters arrived in London October 21 for a demonstration called by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) to protest the planned closure of 31 pits, which would throw 30,000 coal miners out of work.

March organizers said that the crowd numbered 200,000. Trains were hired from Sunderland in the northeast and from Barnsley and Doncaster in South Yorkshire. About 800 miners and their supporters came from Grimethorpe, a mining village where the local colliery is threatened with closure. Kellingley, a pit not yet threatened with closure, sent seven coaches.

This protest also had the participation of miners from the Union of Democratic Miners (UDM). The UDM was set up with the support of the coal bosses to help break the 1984-85 miners' strike. Two hundred miners attended from Silverhill, a pit where Roy Lynk, a leader of the UDM, had staged an underground sit-in. The previous week a demonstration of 5,000 people took place in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, organized by wives of miners in both the NUM and UDM.

Among the hundreds of union signs present at the October 21 action were banners from British Aerospace workers, who are threatened with factory closings; car workers at the Ford plant in London; and rail workers from across the country. At one point during the day, some 50 nurses marched through the subways around Hyde

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November elections will bring no relief from crisis

Vote for the socialist alternative in 1992

BY DEREK BRACEY

Many working people are looking to the U.S. elections in hope of some relief from the devastating effects of the social crisis created by the depression that we are in, said James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president in an interview. "But that is because they haven't begun to see the place of their own actions, the struggles of workers that are our only way forward."

Looking at the three big-business candidates, George Bush, William Clinton, and Ross Perot, working people do not see any saviors, the socialist candidate said. Many are planning to vote for someone other than Bush, however, most for Clinton in the hopes that change is better than no change.

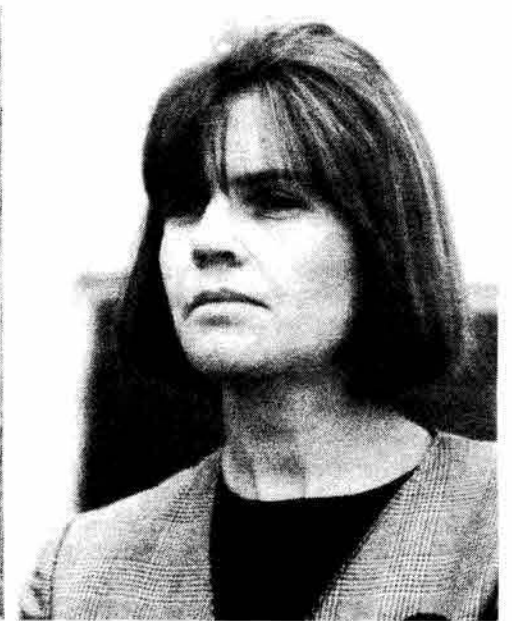
Perot, on the other hand, is getting most of his support from those in the middle class who are in a state of panic, said Warren. They are looking for a saviour, and they really believe that Perot can be the one.

"In my discussions with workers as I campaign," Warren said, "This question of

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Militant/Dave Wulp
James Warren, Socialist Workers presidential candidate



Militant/Salm Kolis
Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate

Cubans determined to resist as new U.S. law tightens economic embargo

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL
AND MARY-ALICE WATERS

HAVANA, Cuba — The new law aimed at tightening the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba has been met here with widespread indignation among working people, as well as determination not to submit to Washington's latest aggressive moves. President

George Bush signed the bill, known after its sponsor, Congressman Robert Torricelli, October 23.

"I know this law will affect me. I have a young daughter, but I'm not going to let myself be humiliated. We are all going to resist it," said Xiomara Pozo, a shoe factory worker, when interviewed by the Cuban daily *Granma*.

Dozens of demonstrations against the Torricelli bill, including one by thousands of students at the University of Havana, have taken place across the island in recent weeks, following the U.S. Congress's approval of the measure.

The day after the law was signed, people in the streets of Havana were angrily discussing what a front-page *Granma* editorial on October 24 described as a "new Platt Amendment."

This is a reference to the U.S.-imposed 1901 amendment to the Cuban constitution that gave Washington the right to intervene militarily in Cuba whenever it deemed necessary. The Platt Amendment became a symbol of Cuba's semicolonial status and domination by the United States, which ended with the victory of the 1959 revolution by Cuban workers and farmers.

The new U.S. attack on Cuba, the editorial said, "increases our anti-imperialism, forged by more than 100 years of struggle, and strengthens the patriotic convictions of the revolutionary masses, who are the majority."

It cited a September 4 speech by Cuban president Fidel Castro, who described the lengths to which the U.S. government goes to strangle Cuba through the embargo. "It does everything possible to prevent us from being able to purchase fuel on the international market, and makes an even greater effort to ensure that we won't have money to buy and pay for the little fuel our country is receiving" with the hard currency from its export earnings, Castro explained. Cuba obtained the bulk of its oil from the Soviet

Union until this year. It is currently suffering from a severe oil shortage.

Castro added that Washington even tries to disrupt "every effort by Cuba to form joint enterprises with capitalist companies," thus bringing much needed investments into the country.

The *Granma* editorial noted that Bush signed the bill in Miami "surrounded by

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servile Cubans without a country, in the context of the U.S. election campaign."

"This is not only a means to get votes, however," the editorial stated, "but the consummation of a new political barbarity. International public opinion has been totally ignored by the arrogant and brutal North."

The editorial pointed out that the final wording of the bill — particularly regarding the sanctions against those trading with Cuba — was watered down slightly, "not due to Yankee benevolence but because of the protests and threats of countermeasures by other nations that are not willing to allow Washington to interfere in their internal affairs."

Imperialist rivals of the United States such as Britain and Canada, which seek to profit from trade with Cuba, have sharply objected to the Torricelli bill. Government spokespeople have announced they will take measures to block its implementation in their respective countries. The bill has also been widely condemned by governments throughout Latin America, including Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

As a result, "the coercive measures

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A weekend of political activities

NOVEMBER 7 – 8 New York City

PUBLIC FORUM

HOW THE 1992 ELECTIONS HID THE REAL POLITICAL ISSUES AND PREPARED DEEPENING AGGRESSION BY WASHINGTON

Hear Jack Barnes,
National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party

- Why the "cultural war" and "political character" are the real issues in the 1992 elections.
- Why the October 1987 stock market crash and the October 1962 Cuban "missile crisis" are not historical anniversaries but portents of the future course of world politics.
- Why the White House and Congress will attempt to implement more of the social program of Ross Perot than those of the two major parties.
- Is the 75th anniversary of the October 1917 Russian revolution a mirage? Did a revolution occur? Has it been defeated?

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'Iraqgate' revelations deepen White House crisis — page 4



Palestinian hunger strikers fight for humanitarian conditions

More than 4,500 Palestinian prisoners, in eight detention centers run by the Israeli Prison Authority, temporarily suspended a two-week hunger strike in mid-October after the Israeli government agreed to review the prisoners' humanitarian requests. Thousands of Palestinians participated in street demonstrations in solidarity with the hunger strikers. Almost every family in the West Bank and Gaza has someone inside an Israeli jail.

The prisoners, most of whom have been jailed for activities relating to the *intifada* and see themselves as political prisoners, demanded better conditions and an end to the practice of solitary confinement. Of particular concern are 105 prisoners being held in underground isolation cells, some of them in chains. The hunger strikers have vowed to resume their protest if their agreement with the Israeli authorities is not implemented.

Discontent rises after Cairo earthquake

Riot police were deployed in force near government buildings and embassies in Cairo October 18 after protests and rioting against the government's handling of the earthquake relief effort. Many demonstrators laid direct blame on Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak for the crisis. The recent earthquake killed more than 500 people, injured nearly 10,000, and left 3,000 families homeless.

Government officials are incensed that Islamic groups are moving quickly to fill the void in disaster relief, opening shelters and providing food and medical aid. Stunned by the animosity of the Egyptian people toward the government, officials have tried to lay the blame for antigovernment protests on these groups. Responding to this charge, a worker who participated in the protests said, "We did not go into the streets because of the fundamentalists. We went because we have no place to live, and the government is doing nothing to help us."

Jagan wins Guyana election

Cheddi Jagan's People's Progressive Party came out the winner in the recently



Site unearthed in the village of El Mozote, El Salvador, contained skeletons of 38 children. They were among at least 794 people massacred by U.S. trained troops in 1981.

held elections in Guyana. The voting was for party parliamentary lists and the winning party's leading candidate is elected president. Jagan will now take over the government of this English-speaking republic of 900,000 people located on the northeast shoulder of South America.

Jagan, who had been prime minister of Guyana while it was still a colony of Britain, was the victim of an 11-year effort from 1953-1964 by the British and U.S. governments to prevent him from occupying his government post, because of his stated socialist views. Jagan now plans on "mending fences with the U.S., which he describes as one of Guyana's 'traditional friends,'" according to an article in the *London Financial Times*.

El Salvador massacre uncovered

Nearly 11 years after U.S.-trained soldiers rampaged through El Mozote and surrounding villages killing at least 794 people, grave sites of the victims are being unearthed that show evidence of the massacre. Salvadoran

and U.S. government officials, dismissing any criticism of their war against the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, have long denied that the massacre took place.

Members of the Argentine forensic team who have been painstakingly digging at the burial site were shocked at the number of children killed. "We never thought we would find so many kids," said Mercedes Doretti. "And so young."

Few benefit from Union Carbide disaster settlement in Bhopal

The Indian government has offered compensation to relatives of 12 people who died in the 1984 gas leak in the town of Bhopal. The poisonous gas leaked from the pesticide plant run by an Indian subsidiary of Union Carbide killed more than 4,000 people and injured another 20,000. About 650,000 people have filed claims over the accident. The Indian government settled the case with Union Carbide for a \$470 million compensation fund. However legal and bureaucratic tangles are holding up the disbursements, according to the government.

The awards are to be based on the earning capability of the victims over their lifetime. For instance, the widow of a laborer will receive about \$7,000.

Moscow suspends Baltic pullout

Russia announced October 20 that it was temporarily suspending withdrawal of its troops from the Baltic states — Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania — on the stated grounds that there is inadequate housing for returning officers and soldiers. According to Moscow some 40,000 troops, many with families, still remain in the Baltics. Thousands of Russian troops withdrawn from Eastern Europe earlier still have no decent housing.

Further, Russia has threatened to halt the departure of its troops because it contends the political and human rights of ethnic Russians are in jeopardy. In Latvia and Estonia, the substantial population of ethnic

Russians have been denied citizenship and reduced to second-class status, even if they were born in the Baltic republics.

Prisoner can't be forced into sanity for death penalty

The Louisiana Supreme Court decided that an incompetent prisoner cannot be forced to take drugs that might make him sane enough to be executed. The ruling blocked the execution of Michael Perry, who was convicted of killing his mother, father, a nephew, and two cousins. The trial court had ordered that he be given the drug Haldol, forcibly if necessary, to overcome his schizophrenia and thus enable the state to execute him.

Meanwhile, Ricky Lee Grubbs lost his appeals to the Supreme Court challenging his death sentence based on his slight mental retardation. Officials in Missouri executed Grubbs by lethal injection October 20. He was the nation's 26th death penalty victim this year, making 1992 the year of the most executions since 1962, when 47 people were killed.

Foreign companies pay more

A report issued by the Labor Department noted that workers employed by foreign-owned companies in the United States averaged 22 percent more in wages than U.S. workers in general. Wages for these workers also grew faster in 1990 — up 6.8 percent, compared to 5.4 percent for the total work force.

The major industries with the highest percentage of jobs in foreign-owned firms were mining with 15.7 percent, and manufacturing with 9.9 percent. According to government statisticians these industries provide higher paying jobs and thus made the overall pay difference wider. "In the service sector, for instance, the pay is about the same," said Linda Spencer, of the Economic Strategy Institute in Washington.

Protests greet Queen in Dresden

Crowds booed Queen Elizabeth II when she and her husband, Prince Philip, arrived in Dresden to take part in a prayer service. The ceremony took place at a reconstructed 18th century church that was destroyed in Allied air raids during World War II. Most of Dresden was leveled during the bombing, and at least 35,000 people were killed. Many of the protesters were angry because the Queen's mother recently unveiled a statue in London of Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris, who was head of bomber command for the Royal Air Force during the war.

Japan industrial output declines

Japan suffered its largest monthly decline of industrial output on record for the month of August. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry reported that industrial production in the month dropped 4.2 percent from July. This figure surpasses the dismal economic performance of Japan's industry during the oil crisis of the 1970s. The figure is further evidence that the Japanese economy has fallen into a recession, joining its rivals in Europe and North America.

— PAUL MAILHOT

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Serbia, Croatia carve up Bosnia territory

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Forces led by the governments of Serbia and Croatia are in the final stages of carving up most of the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina among themselves.

Governments in Europe and the United States continue to stand firm in their refusal to accept the hundreds of thousands of refugees displaced by the war.

Until recently, the Croatian regime of Franjo Tudjman claimed to be allied with forces loyal to the government of Sarajevo seeking to defend Bosnian territory against Serbian rightists who were carving off as much of the territory as they could. Since the start of the war, these Serbian gangs have seized more than two-thirds of Bosnia, while other Serb-based forces have taken over areas in Croatia. The Zagreb government of Croatia is now more openly making clear its intentions to negotiate a deal with the Serbian warlords and consolidate its hold on most of the remaining portion of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Bosnian government holds less than 10 percent of the republic, mostly centered around a handful of cities.

Fighting has broken out between Croat forces and the Bosnian army in Vitez and Kiseljak, towns to the northwest of Sarajevo. Vitez is one of the sites where the UN warehouses relief supplies for Sarajevo.

"Radical forces on the Croatian side are trying to provoke a conflict . . . radicals who are trying to make a state within a state," said Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, referring to this fighting. Bozo Rajic, a leader of the Bosnian Croat nationalist forces, charged that the combat was caused by "merciless attacks by Muslim extremists" on the Croatian forces.

The Croatian Defense Council, which has been leading Croatia's war moves in Bosnia, receives weapons, troops, and leadership from the Croatian army. It has taken over a large portion of Bosnia and western Herzegovina.

"The Croats have proclaimed a Croatian state within the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina," said Emir Fazilbegovic of the Muslim Council in Mostar, a town in Croatian-held Bosnia. "Muslims now see no difference between the policies of the Serbian and Croatian leaderships."



Tudjman and Dobrica Cosic, president of the rump "Yugoslavia," consisting of Serbia and Montenegro, signed an agreement October 20 that would supposedly ease fighting in the regions. The pact, part of the continuing "peace conference" in Geneva, calls for opening the main road between Zagreb and Belgrade and the establishment of liaison offices in the two capitals.

Before this round of negotiations, Tudjman said that he expected an agreement establishing a formal cease-fire between Croatian and Serbian nationalists in Bosnia. He also stated that the "Muslims," meaning the Bosnian government, may have to accept retaining only a small portion of the republic, with the rest being annexed by Serbia and Croatia.

One incident indicating Croatian and Serbian agreement to divide up Bosnia is the fall of Bosanski Brod to Serbian nationalists in early October. The town, strategically located in a corridor across northern Bosnia where Serbian forces had been consolidat-

ing their control, was captured when members of the Croatian Defense Council suddenly pulled their troops out of the town.

'Betrayal of historic proportions'

"There is already an actual cease-fire between the Serbs and Croats," said a Bosnian government official after the takeover of Bosanski Brod. "This is a betrayal of historic proportions by the Croats." Some have maintained that Bosanski Brod was traded by Tudjman in return for Serbian forces pulling out of the Prevlaka peninsula, a strategic piece of Croatian territory on the Dalmatian coast that includes an important deep-water port.

Tensions are also increasing in Kosovo, in southern Serbia. Serbian police broke up a demonstration of ethnic Albanians in the capital, Pristina, with tear gas and clubs October 13. The demonstrators were demanding the opening of the Albanian-language schools and university.

Meanwhile, the Serbian nationalists in

Bosnia have reportedly agreed to free some 10,000 prisoners being held in camps under severe conditions. The release is being held up, however, because borders of the United States and countries in Western Europe remain closed to the prisoners.

Washington, which has been demanding the camps be closed down and helped initiate a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an investigation of alleged atrocities in them, has said it will allow only 100 sick or wounded refugees from Bosnia to enter the United States.

A U.S. diplomat in Zagreb said that Croatia should accept all of the refugees fleeing the fighting in Bosnia. "We certainly hope that the Croats will do their duty," he said.

There are now more than 700,000 refugees in Croatia, which has a population of just 4.7 million. At one center there, refugees are crammed 12 or 15 to a room in dirty, unheated dormitories with rooms meant for two or three people.

10,000 protest Oregon antigay measure

BY FLOYD FOWLER

PORTLAND, Oregon — A battle is on in Oregon against an initiative on the ballot for the November elections, known as Measure 9. On October 4 more than 10,000 people rallied in Pioneer Courthouse Square in downtown Portland against the measure. A growing number of liberal and conservative politicians have publicly condemned this ballot initiative, including Oregon governor Barbara Roberts and Arkansas governor and Democratic presidential candidate William Clinton. Arkansas is one of the states where homosexual acts are illegal.

Measure 9 would amend the Oregon constitution to outlaw the use of any state funds or property to "promote, encourage or facilitate homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism, or masochism." It would mandate the teaching at all levels that "such behaviors are abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse." Measure 9 is being promoted by the Oregon Citizens' Alliance (OCA), a rightist group founded in 1987 that claims 3,000 members statewide. In 1990, an OCA-sponsored measure to ban abortions in Oregon was defeated. The OCA has ties to Operation Rescue and recently received a \$20,000 donation from Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition.

Peggy Norman, a leader of the "No-on-9" campaign, said recently "we underestimated the intensity of this campaign. It's not a normal ballot measure." Measure 9 backers continually lump homosexuality together with sadism, masochism and pedophilia, attempting to disorder gay rights supporters and draw those who have not yet made up their minds into this false debate. Pedophilia refers to adults who seek to have sex with children. The initiative raises a second equally false issue. It would prohibit the state from applying "quotas, minority status, affirmative action or similar concepts" to homosexuals. In fact no such legislation exists or is being proposed.

"Measure 9 is really about government intrusion. It's about requiring discrimination



Militant/Hilda Cuzco

Participant in October 4 'No on 9' rally in Portland, Oregon.

and it's about taking away human rights," Norman emphasizes.

Churches urge 'No' vote

In a statement last month to all U.S. bishops, the Vatican described homosexuality as "an objective disorder" akin to mental illness. But a Gallup poll last spring revealed 78 percent of U.S. Catholics favor equal job opportunities for homosexuals. The Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and its member denominations, including Roman Catholic, are urging a 'No' vote on Measure 9.

The OCA is distributing a million flyers calling for "no special rights for homosexuals." One leaflet entitled "Homosexuality, the Classroom, and Your Children" is filled with references to the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), which advocates sanctioning sexual relations between adults and children. The charge is "a scare tactic" says Peggy Norman, "the sleaziest kind of politics possible. NAMBLA not only has been denounced by 'No on 9,' but it has never been a part of any organizing here."

The OCA cites pseudoscientific facts to "prove" that homosexuals are disproportionately homicidal, that homosexuals are predisposed toward child molestation, and that most gay men are wildly promiscuous. This is an attempt to give superstition and prejudice a respectable veneer. In particular, fear of AIDS is played upon. The gay rights organization, ACT UP, pointed out in a statement that Measure 9 could lead to the elimination of AIDS hotlines and AIDS education programs at schools and universities, and would exacerbate the discrimination people with AIDS already suffer.

Why the OCA gets a hearing

In May 1991, an OCA antigay initiative failed in Corvallis, but passed in Springfield, Oregon. Why the OCA initiative passed there is a question that comes up in discussions with gay rights activists.

Springfield, like other towns across west-

ern Oregon, has been a working-class community dependent mainly on one product: timber. The world economic depression is hitting workers in this area hard.

Between 1980 and 1990 more than 1,100 wood product jobs were lost in Springfield alone. Between 1990 and 1991, revenues of Oregon's 100 biggest private companies were up 3.2 percent, while employment fell 2 percent. Workers bore the brunt of the crisis, losing their cars and homes. Social services were cut to the bone.

Jeanne Miller, a former mill worker, voted for the OCA initiative last May. She now regrets it. "No special rights sounded good to me" she said in an interview with the *Oregonian* newspaper. Only after voting did Miller discuss the issue with coworkers. "Gradually, it dawned on me this person is gay. I don't know much about gays or lesbians, but here's this guy, and he's just a regular person." A neighbor who is Mexican influenced her thinking as well. "By voting the way we voted, we caused a lot of people to be fearful when we have nothing to fear from them," Miller said.

Two gays murdered

Incidents of rock-throwing, vandalism, threatening phone calls, and burglaries have been reported by a number of "No on 9" offices. These attacks culminated September 26 with the firebombing and murder in Salem, Oregon, of Hattie Mae Cohens and Brian Mock, both gay. The four suspects arrested are all avowed white supremacists. Kathleen Saadat, chair of African-Americans against Measure 9, said that the initiative being on the ballot "allows hate-mongers to feel more comfortable in pursuing their activities." She added, "Many people understand not just that this measure is unfair, but that it is dangerous."

The October 4 statewide rally was held a week after the killings. Irving Fletcher, president of the Oregon AFL-CIO, was among the featured speakers. At a press conference

Continued on Page 4

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Milestone nears in printshop renovation

The George Novack Reconstruction Fund was launched in August at the International Socialist Conference at Oberlin, Ohio. Novack, who died July 30 at the age of 86, was a leader of the socialist movement in the United States for more than half a century.

The aim of the fund is to raise more than \$150,000 by December 1. The Novack Fund finances the reconstruction project currently taking place in New York's Pathfinder Building, which is pictured at the top of the graph to the right.

BY JOHN COX

The reconstruction project is nearing an important milestone: the completion of a large section of the first floor of the Pathfinder Building, where the printshop that produces Pathfinder books and the *Militant* is located. The international brigade of volunteer workers that makes up the reconstruction crew is working this

week on completing the skylights and the ceiling, and has set November 7 as a deadline for finishing this entire section of the building.

To mark this accomplishment, a celebration is scheduled for the weekend of November 7-8. There will be a social event as well as classes and a major political talk Saturday, November 7 by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party (see advertisement on page 1). Part of the weekend's activities will be a project to collate and pack for shipment to a warehouse thousands of volumes of the collected works of Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and V.I. Lenin. These books were rescued from pulping by a Pathfinder team that travelled to the former Soviet Union.

The physical restructuring of the printshop will greatly enhance its ability to produce high-quality revolutionary, working-class literature. Pathfinder Press will be publishing new editions of a number of important works by revolutionary leaders

in the next few months. Among the books being reissued are *Notebook of an Agitator*, a collection of writings by James P. Cannon, one of the founders of the Socialist Workers Party, and *Problems of Everyday Life* by Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky.

The Long View of History, a pamphlet by George Novack, will also be republished. In addition, three bulletins that are part of Pathfinder's *Education for Socialists* series will be reissued. These include: *Countermobilization: A Strategy to Fight Racism and Fascist Attacks*; *What is American Fascism?*; *Writings on Father Coughlin, Mayor Frank Hague, and Sen. Joseph McCarthy*; and *Fight Against Fascism in the U.S.A.: Forty Years of Struggle Described by Participants*. These bulletins are particularly timely given the rise in ultraright and fascist activity in the United States and Europe.

A total of \$14,680 was sent in to the fund in the last week, bringing the amount collected to \$55,595. This was the highest amount sent in yet for a single week. A supporter from Wellington, New Zealand donated \$1,060 after reading the *Militant* column about the reconstruction project.

Supporters of Pathfinder Press and of the Novack Fund in Newark, New Jersey, as well as in a number of other cities, are planning special events in the next month to raise funds.

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			Should be 62%
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PHILADELPHIA	4,000	1,141	29
PITTSBURGH	4,500	1,250	28
CHICAGO	6,500	1,775	28
HOUSTON	6,000	1,630	27
BOSTON	6,000	1,578	26
TWIN CITIES	9,865	2,580	26
GREENSBORO	3,000	775	26
MIAMI	3,250	700	22
NEWARK	11,000	2,201	20
NEW YORK CITY	15,000	2,604	17
BIRMINGHAM	3,000	305	10
DES MOINES	3,500	326	9
CINCINNATI	1,500	0	0
PORTLAND	750	0	0
U.S. TOTAL	154,045	47,494	31
GERMANY	1,429	1,429	100
BELGIUM	1,100	1,100	100
FRANCE	1,030	1,030	100
PUERTO RICO	100	100	100
NEW ZEALAND	1,777	1,607	90
AUSTRALIA	650	388	60
SWEDEN	2,450	1,250	51
CANADA	2,905	897	31
BRITAIN	1,860	300	16
TOTAL	\$167,346	\$55,595	33

\$55,595

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'Iraqgate' revelations deepen White House crisis

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

New revelations in what has come to be known as "Iraqgate" expose an ongoing crisis for the Bush administration. What began as a cover-up by the Justice Department and Central Intelligence Agency of some shady financial dealings by a major international commercial bank operating in the United States is evolving into one of the biggest political scandals to rock the capitalist rulers.

In August 1989 the FBI raided the Atlanta branch of Italy's government-controlled Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) — one of Italy's largest commercial banks — and shut down the highly secretive and quite profitable operation of loaning billions of dollars to the government of Iraq. The Atlanta branch manager, Christopher Drogoul, had concocted a scheme in which he used BNL's high credit rating to borrow from other banks and then lend these funds to Iraq at higher interest rates.

In February 1991, at the height of the U.S. military onslaught against Iraq, the Justice Department indicted Drogoul, alleging he masterminded a scheme to loan more than \$5 billion to Iraq while concealing this operation from the Rome-based bank. Drogoul was also charged with tax evasion and illegally selling Cuban sugar.

In an effort to keep the true scope of this scandal under wraps, the Justice Department and CIA covered up facts about the Rome bank's involvement in the scam while deliberately misleading those prosecuting the case. Citing "national security concerns," Justice Department officials in 1990 also tried to block an investigation of BNL by the House Banking Committee.

The U.S. rulers feared the political fallout that could result from a full-blown scandal involving BNL. "If the Rome bank — and therefore the Italian Government — was somehow involved, the scandal could have damaged Italy's banking system and toppled the Government of Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti," wrote the *New York Times*.

In a July 30 letter to the head of the House Banking Committee, Robert Gates, director of the CIA, insisted that his agency was fully cooperating with the BNL investigation. But two months later,

in early October, CIA officials told Congress that at the urging of the Justice Department they had deliberately withheld information about this case from federal prosecutors in Atlanta.

While the CIA and Justice Department quarreled in public over who was responsible for this cover-up, the FBI announced that it was opening an investigation into both the CIA and Justice Department's conduct in this matter. The Justice Department fired back by opening its own counterprobe of ethics violations by FBI director William Sessions.

Meanwhile, Christopher Drogoul, who had previously pleaded guilty to the charges against him, announced he was withdrawing his plea and now planned to stand trial.

Seeking to calm the growing storm of criticism, U.S. Attorney General William Barr on October 16 appointed retired federal judge Frederick Lacey as special counsel to investigate the Bush administration's conduct in this affair.

Hoping to create some political capital for the Democrats out of these revelations, Democratic vice-presidential candidate Albert Gore stated, "I believe what we're seeing right now is George Bush presiding over a cover-up that is significantly larger than the Watergate cover-up. Watergate was described as a two-bit burglary. Iraq-gate by contrast includes the largest bank fraud in the history of America."

The *Wall Street Journal* called for extending the investigation to include Congress. "We'd like to know what role, if any, members of Congress played in pressuring the administration to avoid cracking down hard on BNL's Iraq loans. And we'd also like to know more about the links between BNL and BCCI, which had important cross-dealings."

BCCI — the Bank of Credit and Commerce International — has been at the center of one of the biggest banking scandals in history. At its high point the bank operated in some 70 countries, engaging in bribery, extortion, gunrunning, slush funds, grand theft, and murder.

The U.S. government carried out a bipartisan policy of funding and arming Iraq throughout the 1980s. Iraq was an important

player on Washington's side in attacking the Iranian revolution, the triumph of which in 1979 dealt a powerful blow to imperialist interests in the Middle East. The capitalist ruling class in Iraq feared this massive revolutionary movement across its border that was inspiring working people throughout the region.

U.S.-backed war against Iran

In 1980, with the full backing of Washington, Iraq seized territory from Iran and launched what turned into an eight-year war that Washington hoped would succeed in rolling back the Iranian revolution. The U.S. rulers helped finance Iraq's murderous eight-year onslaught against Iran, which was one of the costliest in human terms since World War II. Some one million people lost their lives in the fighting.

Writing in the *Washington Post*, Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser to President Bush, explained, "There was a broad bipartisan consensus behind the open U.S. policy of providing political and economic support to Iraq during the latter stages of the war with Iran. The U.S. Navy openly intervened in the gulf... Congressional intelligence committees reviewed and concurred with our activities in the region."

"Most of the money still owed by Iraq to the United States," continued Scowcroft, "is for credit guarantees extended during the Iran-Iraq war."

Pointing to Iran's influence, once again growing in the Mideast, the *Wall Street Journal* October 19 commented, "The tilt toward Iraq [during the 1980-88 war against Iran] was not a result of anyone's love for Saddam, but grew out of the fear that Iran, a country with three times the population of Iraq, might win the war... Bush's decision not to wipe out Saddam when he had an opportunity at the close of Desert Storm was based in part on the concept that Iraq still is needed to shield the Gulf oilfields from Iran."

Iraqgate comes on the heels of the Iran-contra scandal, the impact of which continues to rattle the U.S. rulers. In fact, at the very same time that Washington was arming Iraq to fight Iran, a covert operation was being carried out by top government offi-

cials operating out of the National Security Council in the White House to secretly sell arms to Iran to fund and arm, in defiance of decisions of Congress, the mercenary contra army, which was waging war against the Nicaraguan revolution.

Special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh announced September 17 that he would be shutting down the five-year investigation into the Iran-contra scandal and planned to seek no further indictments. Former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger still faces felony charges of having concealed information from Congress about this affair. Clair George, a former top CIA official, faces a second trial after his first ended in a mistrial at the end of August.

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Antigay measure protested in Oregon

Continued from Page 3

officials from eight other labor unions joined Fletcher in urging a "no" vote on Measure 9. "If Measure 9 passes, individuals could be terminated from their employment for what the boss thinks they may be doing in the privacy of their own home," said Mary Botkin, of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Madelyn Elder of the Communication Workers of America (CWA) noted that most employers of CWA members hold state contracts. "Measure 9 could reach at their jobs as well as their personal lives."

All working people have a stake in opposing Measure 9. Such rightist attempts to scapegoat homosexuals for the social crisis engulfing working people will continue, and grow more vicious. A layer of people, especially youths, have accumulated important experiences through this battle in Oregon. They will bring these experiences into the fights to come.

Floyd Fowler is a member of International Association of Machinists Lodge 1005.

Socialist candidate speaks to hundreds in Sweden

BY LASSE JOHANSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Five hundred students at Farsta High School here greeted Socialist Workers presidential candidate James Warren with long and warm applause. The October 16 meeting was part of a two-day stopover in Stockholm by Warren.

Since mid-August, members of the Communist League in Sweden and other supporters of Youth for Warren and Debates in high schools and workplaces in the Stockholm area had been building Warren's tour.

"I have come here not to hunt votes but to discuss with thinking workers and youth, who are the people capable of acting to change the world," explained Warren. "We don't bring promises. We bring a view and an understanding of the world, and a program in defense of working people throughout the world. Because of this approach, what we say to workers in the United States is what we say to workers in the rest of the world."

Warren began his presentation with a history of the movement he belonged to, explaining that it originated from a break in

1928 with the Stalinist perversion of communism. In the Soviet Union, in Europe, and in the United States since then this movement has been fighting against Stalin's falsification of communism and its attacks on working people, Warren said. In the early decades of this fight communists like himself were hunted, put in prison, or killed all over the world by the Stalinist murder-machine.

"That's why we celebrated the victory when the Stalinist regimes were overthrown in East Germany, Eastern Europe, and the Soviet Union," he said.

Warren told of how the SWP has run in the U.S. presidential elections since 1948. "We have never experienced greater openings for our ideas than in this campaign," he added.

One of the first questions was, "what do you think of Cuba and Fidel Castro?" Warren said that Cuba is the most democratic country in the world, where working people had the biggest opportunities to play a part in directing their own destinies and helping other people do the same. He explained that Cuba sent 300,000 troops to Angola between 1975 and 1988, where

they, together with soldiers from Angola and SWAPO [South West African Peoples Organization] at the 1988 battle at Cuito Cuanavale, defeated the invading South African army. This changed the relationship of forces in southern Africa, Warren said. It was a key factor in Pretoria's decisions to give independence to Namibia, to free Nelson Mandela, and to legalize the African National Congress (ANC). Warren noted that Cuba sends more doctors and teachers to the Third World and educates more students from the Third World than any other country. Warren's answer received strong applause.

One journalist, Sven Öste, wrote an article about the event in *Dagens Nyheter*, one of the main newspapers here. Öste expressed his surprise that a communist presidential candidate could get such support, especially for his defense of the Cuban revolution.

Before the meeting TT, the Swedish press agency, made a 45-minute interview.

The headmaster intervened to end the discussion because some students were getting late for their next class. More than 40 students continued the discussion for another hour in a nearby room.

What do you think about abortion, another student asked. "If someone tells you he is for equality between men and women but is against abortion he is not for equality. How can a woman be equal without deciding what happens to her own body,"



Warren talks to students at Stockholm high school meeting

Warren replied.

A student said that 5 percent of Black men in the United States were murdered by other Black men, so he wondered if the right to arms shouldn't be restricted in the United States. Warren responded that it was "a breakdown in solidarity among people, due to lack of a social movement for change, that caused such violence, not the existence of weapons themselves."

The meeting at the high school was covered by a regional television station, which also made a short interview that was broadcast that evening, reaching 2 million viewers.

A local meeting with 20 people, mostly workers from Södertälje, was covered by the local paper *Länstidningen*.

Elias Bakk, a student at Norra Real High School, welcomed James Warren at

Continued on Page 13

Massive job losses in British mines are 'capitalism at work,' says Warren

BY NAOMI CRAINE

"We shouldn't be surprised by the announcement that 30,000 miners in Britain are to lose their jobs," Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president James Warren told 70 students and campaign supporters at a meeting at Queen Mary College in London on October 14. "This is a decision of the worldwide depression we are living through today, and moves like this will become more, not less, commonplace. These massive job losses are nothing other than capitalism at work — dividing us in the most fundamental way, between those in our class who have jobs and those without."

Two days earlier it had been announced that 31 collieries were to be closed, with a loss of 30,000 mining jobs. Warren spoke at a Militant Labour Forum in Sheffield the day of the announcement. There he explained, "There is no in between, either we share the available work or we cut each others' throats. We should reject the rulers' framework, and shorten the workweek with no cut in pay."

"The rulers' reaction to the crisis of the capitalist system is to put it on the backs of working people with no regard for the impact of their decisions. This is capitalism at work."

While in Sheffield, Warren joined a *Militant* sales team at Thoresby colliery in North Nottinghamshire where Paul Galloway, National Union of Mineworkers member and political activist, works. Warren expressed his support for the campaign that Galloway and his supporters have been waging against a recent politically motivated physical assault on him.

The Queen Mary College meeting was the highlight of Warren's London campaigning. It was sponsored by the college's African Caribbean Society, which mobilized to make the meeting a success.

In the discussion, Warren pointed to the role of the struggle in South Africa as "the highest level of political functioning on the face of the earth today. Nelson Mandela, who leads the struggle, understands that history is not made by 'great men'; instead, it is made by ordinary human beings in their mass numbers, organizing, placing their demands, and fighting. Those resisting in South Africa lead the world, and all of us benefit."

The *Caribbean Times* ran an announcement of the Militant Labour Forum, where Warren spoke the same evening. It described the candidate as "the radical socialist alternative to the unholy triumvirate of Bush, Perot, and Clinton."

The forum provided an opportunity for some students, as well as for several workers from GE Lighting and British Rail, to visit the Pathfinder Bookshop for the first time.

Members of the South African Students Organization and a representative of the Cuban embassy attended. The African National Congress, although unable to attend, sent a message of encouragement to the campaign.

Doreen Weppeler in London and Susan Smythe and Anne Howie in Sheffield contributed to this article. Weppeler is a member of the Transport and General Workers Union at Air Canada in London.

Candidate denounces attack on day-laborers

BY GINA MARCH

ALPINE, California — We arrived at the river bed at dusk. Several workers were being interviewed on television. Joel Britton, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from California, introduced himself to Julio Pérez and five other workers who were preparing to sleep on a nearby tarpaulin.

Britton denounced the brutal assault that had taken place here on October 1. Half a dozen thugs wielding baseball bats rampaged through this day-laborers' encampment, seriously injuring José Luis López, Oscar Mendoza, and Leonardo Zarco. "I am demanding the arrest and prosecution of those who carried out this despicable attack," said Britton.

Sheriff's deputies "did find witnesses who saw the attackers," reports *The Daily Californian*, a paper printed here in eastern San Diego County. The attackers were Anglo men; their victims were workers whose residences are in Mexico or National City, California.

As of October 21, no arrests have been made. The Federal Bureau of Investigation says that it is investigating the attack to see if the victims' civil rights were violated.

Press accounts have linked the attack to an alleged rape of a white woman said to have occurred a week before the workers were beaten. Newspapers have said that the attack was believed to be a retaliation.

However, one deputy sheriff told a reporter that the victims of the beating are not suspects in the rape. Another said, "We can't even say with certainty what the ethnicity of the attacker was in the rape case."

Britton said that the alleged pretext for the attack on the day-laborers "is absurd and should be rejected. Instead, the media fans the flames of bigotry and intolerance directed against our fellow workers here — documented and undocumented."

Pérez and his comrades told Britton that they are legal U.S. residents and commute weekly between Alpine and their homes in



Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate Joel Britton (left) meets with day-laborers in Alpine, California, after racist attack the previous week.

Mexico. They get \$5-an-hour jobs available some days on the street here as landscapers and construction laborers, not enough to be able to afford the high rents in this upscale community.

Speaking with the workers, Britton compared the attack to assaults on immigrants by rightists in Germany. He noted that as depression conditions rise and growing numbers of people begin to seek a solution to the crisis, ultra-rightist and fascist elements will seek to scapegoat immigrant and other sections of the working class, which they will try to back up with physical attacks.

While Britton talked with the workers, a car pulled up nearby sporting a "Bo Gritz for President" sign. Gritz is a candidate of the white supremacist right. The driver of the car joined another man who glared in a hostile manner at Britton and the day-laborers as they were talking.

Pérez pointed to the tarpaulin where the

workers would sleep that night. Those sturdy limbs from trees, he noted, would enable them to defend themselves should the thugs return.

Britton called on unions to join Latino community and civil rights groups in condemning the assault on the workers and demanding action by the authorities.

Britton later joined a group of strikers at the National Steel and Shipbuilding Company (NASSCO) shipyard in San Diego, where he talked with Iron workers' local union president, Tom McCammon, who explained what the 2,800 strikers there were up against. Seven unions struck the company October 1 seeking better wages and resisting takebacks in health coverage.

McCammon also denounced the assault on the day-laborers as "grotesque." The laborers "are being denied their basic rights," McCammon said. "Society wants to scapegoat them for the ills of society."

New law tightens U.S. embargo of Cuba

BY SARA LOBMAN

The Cuban Democracy Act, or Torricelli bill, was signed into law by President Bush as part of a military spending bill on October 23. The bill aims at tightening the 30-year-old economic embargo against Cuba by restricting its trade with other countries. The measure has been strongly supported by Democratic Party presidential candidate William Clinton.

Congress's approval of the bill has provoked an angry response from Washington's capitalist rivals.

The bill, which was supported by Jorge Mas Canosa, chairman of the Miami based Cuban American National Foundation, forbids foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies to trade with Cuba and writes into law a current U.S. policy that closes U.S. ports to ships that have called in Cuba within six months. In addition, any ships carrying goods or passengers "in which Cuba or a Cuban national has any interest" would be banned.

The bill also authorizes the president to apply sanctions against any country that provides aid to Cuba by declaring such countries ineligible for foreign aid, arms sales, or debt relief. It imposes a new civil penalty of \$50,000 for violators of the U.S. Trading with the Enemy Act. This act is the main way the U.S. government prevents U.S. citizens from visiting Cuba.

Under a section labeled "Support for the Cuban people," the Cuban Democracy Act deepens the attacks on Cuban workers and farmers already suffering the impact of a worldwide economic crisis and the collapse of equitable trade relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. For example, the bill allows for the export of medicines and medical supplies to Cuba only if the U.S. government is allowed to inspect — onsite — how the supplies are being used. It permits direct mail delivery to Cuba, while forbidding commercial flights that normally carry the mail.

U.S. subsidiaries' trade

U.S. subsidiaries, mainly in Britain, Canada, Spain, Mexico, and other Latin American countries, carried out \$718 million worth of trade with Cuba in 1991. The Torricelli bill has provoked a sharp response from some of these nations, highlighting the growing tensions between them and the United States.

"The British government, not the U.S. Congress, will determine the UK's [United

Kingdom] policy on trade with Cuba," Richard Needham, British trade minister stated. He accused the United States of trying to "superimpose U.S. law on UK companies." London has invoked an existing law, the Protection of Trading Interests Act, to prohibit U.S. subsidiaries in Britain from complying with the terms of the Cuban Democracy Act.

The European Commission (EC) filed a formal complaint with the U.S. State Department on October 7 saying that the tightening of the embargo "has the potential to cause grave damage to the transatlantic relationship."

The Canadian government has also issued an order that not only blocks companies from complying with the U.S. imposed trade restrictions, but also requires them to report to the Canadian attorney general any instructions relating to the restrictions they may receive from corporate headquarters in the United States. Noncompliance with the Canadian order carries a fine of up to \$8,500 or five years in prison.

Canada has maintained diplomatic recognition and full trade relations with Cuba for the past 30 years, in spite of the U.S. embargo. Canadian firms sold almost \$30 million worth of products to Cuba last year.

Mexico pledges continued trade

Mexico's ambassador to Cuba, Mario Moya Palencia, stated on national radio that his country would continue full trade relations with Cuba. "We will do nothing that could harm Cuba," he said. The Mexican congress has indicated unanimous support for a resolution rejecting the Torricelli bill.

Indicating another possible crack in the U.S. drive to strangle Cuba, the *Miami Herald* on October 10 reported that Russia has been trying to boost trade with Havana. "We still need Cuban sugar. We still need Cuban nickel. We still need Cuban citrus," said Vladimir Borodaev, top Cuba analyst at the Latin America Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The Torricelli bill has deepened a debate among Cubans, both in the United States and in Cuba, who oppose the revolution. Ramón Cernuda, a prominent Miami opponent of the Cuban revolution, criticized the bill as "a unilateral U.S. action that violates the essential rights of the Cuban people," and that "seeks to starve the people of Cuba in the name of

human rights and democratic values."

The Cuban Conference of Catholic Bishops also opposes the bill, calling it "ethically unacceptable" and in violation of "the principles of international law." The Coalition of Cuban Americans ran a half page ad in the *Miami Herald* that reprinted the full statement of the Bishops' Conference.

Protests condemning the bill include a rally of 300 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and a

statement signed by more than 10,000 Bolivian students, workers, professionals, artists, and intellectuals. Many prominent figures in Latin America have issued statements criticizing the measures. Ecuador's ambassador to the United Nations has opposed the tightening of the embargo. Giuseppe Lubatti, activities director for the UN World Food Program said that the U.S. blockade hampers the Program's distribution of food.

Cuban youth meets unionists, students during Chicago tour



William Taylor, president of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7-507, presents Cuban youth leader Ibis Alvisa González (left) with OCAW cap at union picnic.

BY JOHN VOTAVA
AND LUIS MADRID

CHICAGO, Illinois — "These kinds of exchanges are good for the peoples of our two countries," said William Taylor in a message read to the September 12 citywide meeting held at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), which concluded Cuban

youth leader Ibis Alvisa's visit to this area.

Earlier that day, Taylor, president of Local 7-507 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, had invited Alvisa to participate in and address his union's annual picnic.

During her one-week stop, the Cuban leader spoke to some 250 people. At Loyola University, Alvisa spoke to a meeting of 40 organized by students who are members of Peace, Bread and Justice. She participated in meetings at the University of Illinois in Champaign, at Illinois State University in Normal, and in Madison, Wisconsin, as well as the citywide meeting in Chicago attended by 75 people.

In every meeting, ample time was allotted for discussion after Alvisa's brief introductory presentation. "I do not want this to be a lecture," she said. "Instead, I would like to think of it as an exchange of views. I also want to learn from you." Alvisa then proceeded to take up every comment and question raised.

The questions at the citywide meeting reflected a wide range of opinions and knowledge about the current situation in Cuba as well as a keen interest in the revolution's advance. They included: "After the fall of the regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, what are Cuba's perspectives in world trade today?" "What is the situation of human rights like in Cuba?" "How was racism dealt with in Cuba?"

Cubans speak on Washington, D.C., campuses

BY EMILY FITZSIMMONS
AND JANICE LYNN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Ibis Alvisa González was joined by fellow Cuban youth leader, José Antonio Concepción Rángel, on her tour of four campuses in the Washington, D.C. area from September 18-21. While here, they spoke to some 400 students and young people about the challenges facing youth in Cuba today.

At Howard University, where their meeting drew 80 people, they were welcomed by the DC city council, through a letter sent by Councilwoman Hilda Mason.

At George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, Alvisa and Concepción spoke to a public meeting of 50 students.

At a September 21 meeting at American University, around 30 of the 75 people who attended were vocal opponents of the Cuban revolution, including many organized by the right-wing Cuban American National Founda-

tion. They attempted to dominate the discussion period with condemnations of Cuban president Fidel Castro and the Cuban revolution, heckling, and talking down the chair. TV Martí and the Voice of America came to tape the meeting. The American University meeting and discussion was able to take place despite the efforts of the disrupters.

The following day, having heard of the attempted disruption at American University, supporters of the Cuban revolution organized by the DC Hands Off Cuba Committee, and other individuals interested in defending a free and democratic discussion, turned out for the final meeting of the tour at George Washington University. The meeting was attended by about 120 people.

Cuban air force pilot Orestes Lorenzo, who in March, 1991, stole a Mig-23 jet and defected to Boca Raton, Florida, attended this meeting. Lorenzo, who said he served

as a fighter pilot in Angola, charged that Cuban forces intervened in the internal affairs of Angola by fighting South African-backed UNITA [Union for the Total Independence of Angola] troops.

Alvisa responded, "I didn't go to Angola confused. I went to fight the apartheid regime." She said that the Angolans have to solve their own internal problems, but that the question of the South African invasion was another thing. "We withdrew when South Africa signed the peace accord. Our goal was not to destroy UNITA. If it had been we would still be there."

She explained she was proud of the Cuban role in helping to achieve the independence of Namibia.

Emily Fitzsimmons and Janice Lynn are members of the International Association of Machinists Local 1759 at United Airlines at Dulles Airport in Virginia.

FIU students support right to free speech

The *Beacon*, a student newspaper at Florida International University in Miami, recently conducted a survey in which students were asked whether two Cuban youth leaders, who spoke there October 1, should have been invited. The meeting, and the attempt by right-wing Cubans to disrupt it, has been an ongoing topic of discussion and debate. Most of the students interviewed said they did have a right to speak on campus. The responses to the survey are reprinted as they appeared in the *Beacon*.



Yes. A university is a place to learn and should endorse free speech.
— Angela Cancia, 20
Undecided



Yes. They have a right to express their opinion even though most people disagree.
— Brad Cartwright, 24
Engineering major



No, because the university should not be used as a conduit for such propaganda.
— Teresita Juame, 21
Education major



Yes. Sharing differing opinions is what college is all about.
— Fance-Luce Benson, 18
Creative writing major



The lecture should have been handled differently, but they should be able to speak.
— Martha Fernandez, 19
Math major



We should be interested in what they had to say because most hold opposing opinions.
— Leo Hart, 21
Biology major

Should FIU have invited the pro-Castro youth leaders to speak?

Compiled by Nat Bouskela and Christine Keen

Effort now can get 'Militant' subscription drive on schedule

BY SARA LOBMAN

At the end of the second week, the subscription drive has fallen nine percent behind schedule. To meet the goal of winning 2,350 new readers by the end of November, some 300 *Militant* subscriptions must be received in the business office each week for the remaining five weeks of the circulation campaign. This equals the amount of subscriptions supporters have sent in during the first two weeks of the drive. Clearly, *Militant* supporters need to organize a fight to put the circulation effort on a campaign footing to meet the goals.

This week provides opportunities to begin meeting this challenge. As the *Militant* comes off the press, we are one week away from the November 3 elections. Socialist Workers campaign supporters will be trying to convince hundreds of youth and working people the one of the best ways to continue to follow and be part of the working-class resistance to the capitalist assault on our livelihoods after election day is to buy a subscription to the *Militant*. Supporters should use

column each week, make it clear that there is a greater hunger for the political perspective that the *Militant* offers than in many years. From coal miners in Britain to auto workers in the United States and Canada, from opponents of police brutality in Minnesota to immigrant workers in Nebraska, fighters who resist the effects of the worldwide economic crisis need the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International*.

Cleve Andrew Pulley reports that a sales team from Des Moines, Iowa, recently sold 35 copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, along with 3 subscriptions in Grand Island, Nebraska. The Monfort packinghouse in Grand Island was the site of a massive immigration raid in late September. More than 300 workers were arrested when hundreds of cops invaded the plant. Workers were in the middle of a union organizing effort. The company then forced the 1,300 remaining workers to produce documents proving their citizenship or permission to work in the United States (see article page 16). Further regional teams to areas

election campaign. Special sales teams can be organized in those areas. This is a good time to invite young activists who have recently met the socialist campaign to join others in helping out in the remaining weeks of the circulation effort.

Socialist campaign supporters sold 7 subscriptions to the *Militant* at a rally in St. Paul, Minnesota. The event was the last speaking engagement by Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates during a brief tour stop in Minnesota. Dozens of young campaign supporters and others participated.

Marea Himelgrin reports that rally organizers had placed envelopes with campaign endorser cards on everyone's chair. The cards had a place where people could check off if they wanted a subscription to the *Militant*. Four young people decided to take advantage of the offer, including money for the subscription along with their campaign contribution.

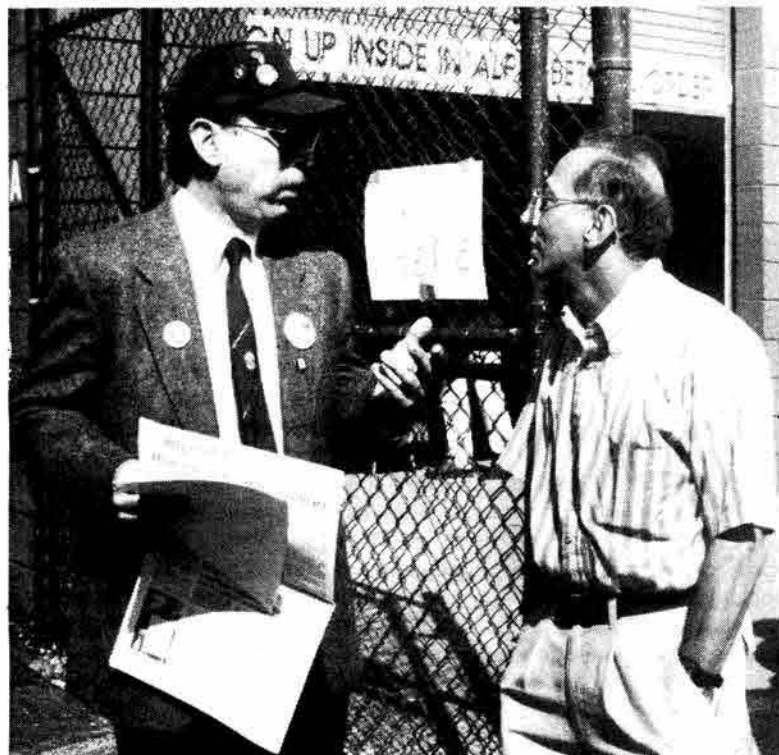
Subscribers at the event included a young woman from the Racism Awareness group who had spent the day campaigning with the socialist candidates, a meat-packer, and an auto worker.

Ten Steelworkers on strike against Trinity Industries in Bessemer, Alabama have subscribed to the *Militant*. Supporters in Birmingham report that introducing the paper to workers on the picketline has been a regular part of their solidarity work since the strike began in September.

Supporters in each city should draw up a detailed plan of action for the next five weeks that includes taking a fresh look at door-to-door sales in working-class communities in the city and in the region, political events planned in each area, and plant gate sales. Special attention should be given to sales at high schools and college campuses. Part of the circulation campaign should be organizing teams to call readers, whose subscriptions are about to expire, to renew. In many cases a worker or a young person will be so interested in the paper that they will decide to get a subscription on the spot. More often it takes a second or even a third discussion.

The *Militant's* deadline for counting subscriptions for the scoreboard is now Sunday at 3:00 pm. EST.

Distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International* are encouraged to sent in stories for this column each week by Saturday evening.



Militant/Sara Lobman
Anthony Dutrow, socialist candidate for U.S. Congress, offers 'Militant' to USAir worker at recent contract vote meeting in Pittsburgh.

the last few days of the international target week of the subscription effort to pick up the pace of sales and gain momentum for the remainder of the drive.

Reports from around the world, some of which have appeared in this

with meat-packing plants need to be organized.

Many of the more than 100 Socialist Workers candidates and their supporters are taking time off from work or school to campaign full time during the last few days of the

Caravan of aid for Cuba planned

BY SARA LOBMAN

As the U.S. government tries to tighten its embargo of Cuba, final plans are underway for a caravan of material aid for the island. Tom Hansen, national co-coordinator of Pastors for Peace, which is organizing the caravan, explained that the U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment, as the effort is called, will bring powdered milk, medicine, school supplies, and bicycles to Cuba.

Organizers are calling for an end to the embargo, an end to U.S. hostilities toward Cuba, and normalization of relations between the two countries.

"The Torricelli legislation simply makes the Friendshipment more necessary than ever," said Rev. Lucius Walker, Jr., Executive Director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, the sponsor of the proj-

ect. "It will increase hunger and decrease health care in Cuba, making our mission more critical than ever. We will deliver badly needed humanitarian aid, but we will also stand with our Cuban brothers and sisters at a time when our government is increasing its hostilities toward the island."

According to Hansen, the caravan will include 50 vehicles and 110 drivers. They will depart November 6 from Boulder, Colorado; Detroit; Madison, Wisconsin; Miami; Minneapolis; New York; Portland, Maine; and Seattle. Before meeting in Texas on November 17 the caravans will stop in 90 additional cities for educational presentations and aid collections by local committees.

The group will then travel to Mexico where donations will be loaded onto a Cuban freighter for shipment.

The volunteer drivers will spend eight days in Cuba helping to distribute the aid. The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center in Havana, and a coalition of Cuban churches are organizing the Cuban end of the project.

Project organizers hope the Friendshipment will help provide a national platform for organizing against the U.S. embargo. They point to the success of the 1988 Veterans Peace Convoy, which delivered food, clothing, and medicine to children in Nicaragua, then suffering under a U.S. embargo.

To find out more about the Friendshipment, contact Pastors for Peace, New York: 402 W. 145 St., New York, NY 10031. Phone: (212) 926-5757, or in Minneapolis: 331 17th Avenue S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414. Phone: (612) 378-0062.

SUBSCRIPTION SCOREBOARD

AROUND THE WORLD

	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		New International Single Issues	
	SOLD	GOAL	%SOLD	SOLD	GOAL	SOLD	GOAL
UNITED STATES							
Los Angeles	42	125	34%	21	75	18	70
Twin Cities, MN	27	85	32%	1	13	0	30
Chicago	22	75	29%	2	19	3	35
Salt Lake City	18	65	28%	1	13	1	20
Birmingham, AL	17	65	26%	0	3	0	35
Washington DC	16	70	23%	2	20	1	35
Seattle	17	75	23%	0	23	0	35
Houston	14	65	22%	1	13	3	30
St. Louis	17	80	21%	1	3	7	35
Cleveland	12	60	20%	0	6	0	40
Detroit	15	75	20%	0	6	2	35
San Francisco	19	95	20%	2	35	9	60
New York	33	175	19%	5	50	35	90
Miami	13	75	17%	3	20	4	40
Pittsburgh	12	70	17%	0	3	4	35
Greensboro, NC	11	65	17%	0	5	5	30
Des Moines, IA	11	80	14%	1	16	4	40
New Haven, CT	2	15	13%	1	1	1	6
Newark, NJ	14	125	11%	5	35	9	65
Atlanta	7	65	11%	0	5	1	30
Philadelphia	7	75	9%	1	13	4	35
Cincinnati	1	25	4%	0	5	3	5
Baltimore	2	75	3%	0	6	0	25
Boston	2	90	2%	0	25	11	45
Morgantown, WV	1	50	2%	0	2	5	30
Santa Cruz	0	0	0%	0	0	0	4
Portland	0	12	0%	0	1	0	10
U.S. TOTAL	352	1,932	18%	47	416	130	950
AUSTRALIA	1	25	4%	0	6	10	15
BARBADOS	0	6	0%	0	0	0	5
BELGIUM	1	6	17%	0	4	3	10
BRITAIN							
London	11	45	24%	0	5	5	40
Manchester	4	35	11%	0	2	4	30
Sheffield	4	35	11%	0	3	0	20
BRITAIN TOTAL	19	115	17%	0	10	9	90
CANADA							
Vancouver	12	60	20%	2	10	6	20
Montreal	5	50	10%	0	20	9	50
Toronto	3	60	5%	0	15	11	40
Quebec City	0	3	0%	0	0	0	2
CANADA TOTAL	20	173	12%	2	45	26	112
FRANCE	2	3	67%	11	2	6	10
ICELAND	2	15	13%	0	1	0	5
MEXICO	0	1	0%	0	5	0	3
NEW ZEALAND							
Christchurch	10	25	40%	0	1	4	8
Wellington	11	35	31%	1	1	2	10
Auckland	10	40	25%	0	3	1	8
N.Z. TOTAL	31	100	31%	1	5	7	26
PUERTO RICO	0	2	0%	1	5	2	4
SWEDEN	9	40	23%	3	15	10	20
TOTAL	436	2,406	19%	65	514	203	1,245
SHOULD BE		658	28%		126		336
DRIVE GOALS		2,350			450		1,200

IN THE UNIONS

Union	Militant/PM			NEW INTERNATIONAL	
	SOLD	GOAL	%SOLD	SOLD	GOAL
UNITED STATES					
IAM	42	110	38%	1	42
UTU	16	45	36%	0	15
UFCW	13	40	33%	1	15
UMWA	5	18	28%	0	6
UAW	19	80	24%	1	35
USWA	20	90	22%	0	30
OCAW	9	50	18%	1	20
ACTWU	3	48	6%	1	26
ILGWU	2	32	6%	1	9
U.S. TOTAL	129	513	25%	6	198
SHOULD BE	144		28%		
CANADA					
ACTWU	0	10	0%	0	4
CAW	0	15	0%	0	8
IAM	0	6	0%	0	4
USWA	0	7	0%	0	3
CANADA TOTAL	0	38	0%	0	19
SHOULD BE	11		28%		
NEW ZEALAND					
MWU	1	2	50%		1
UFCW	1	5	20%		1
EU		5	0%		1
N.Z. TOTAL	2	12	17%	0	3
SHOULD BE	3		28%		
SWEDEN					
Metal Workers	2	7	29%	3	2
Food Workers	0	3	0%		1
SWEDEN TOTAL	2	10	20%	3	3
SHOULD BE	3		28%		

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; CAW — Canadian Auto Workers; EU — Engineers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MWU — Meat Workers Union; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFCW (U.S.) — United Food and Commercial Workers; UFCW (New Zealand) — United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA — United Mine Workers of America; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union

Vote Socialist Workers November 3!

SWP fields 115 candidates in 25 states and Washington, D.C.

The Socialist Workers candidates for president and vice-president, **James Warren** and **Estelle DeBates**, will be listed on the ballot in 13 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, the Socialist Workers Party is fielding 113 local candidates for election in 21 states and the District of Columbia. Their names and the offices for which they are running are listed below.

The SWP candidates are in the forefront of the resistance that working people the world over are beginning to organize against the effects of a deepening world economic depression. They include students and unionists in the garment, textile, meat-packing, steel, auto, oil, chemical, and electrical industries.

Socialist Workers candidates have walked the picket lines of auto workers on strike against General Motors and airline workers striking USAir. They have joined thousands of young fighters from Buffalo, New York to Houston, Texas, in defending abortion clinics from right-wing attack. They have participated in protests against police brutality.

The socialist candidates have campaigned in defense of the Cuban revolution and have celebrated with others the advance of the massive revolution unfolding in South Africa.

Because of undemocratic election laws designed to keep working-class candidates off the ballot, most of the SWP candidates will not appear on the ballot. Votes can be registered by writing in their names. In some cases states allow "official" write-in status for candidates who pay certain fees or fulfill petitioning requirements: these are indicated by an asterisk (*). In a few cases, SWP candidates have been able to meet the petitioning requirements and fees for ballot status: these are indicated by double asterisks (**).

An asterisk or double asterisk next to a state's name indicates that Warren and DeBates are on the ballot or official write-in candidates.

Reactionary laws often prevent young people from participating in the elections. National campaign chairperson Willie Mae Reid will serve as a stand-in for vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates in states where such laws prevent her name from appearing on the ballot or as an official write-in candidate.

* * *

ALABAMA**

Frances Farley — U.S. Senate
Daniel Furman — U.S. Congress, 4th C.D.
Alyson Kennedy — U.S. Congress, 6th C.D.
John Hawkins — U.S. Congress, 7th C.D.**
Raúl Gonzalez — Public Service Commissioner
Denise McInerney — Jefferson County School Board

CALIFORNIA

Joel Britton — U.S. Senate (full term)*
Joe Swanson — U.S. Senate (short term)
Michael Goldwater — U.S. Congress 8th C.D.
Omari Musa — U.S. Congress, 9th C.D.

ELECTION DAY OPEN HOUSES

**TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 3, 6 PM**

The Socialist Workers campaign will be sponsoring election day open houses across the United States. Supporters will be able to follow the election results and discuss the meaning of the elections with socialist candidates and supporters. The open houses will take place at addresses listed on page 12. Call for more information.

HEAR SOCIALIST WORKERS CANDIDATES:

NEW YORK

JAMES WARREN
 for U.S. president
 5 p.m.
 191, 7th Av., 2nd fl.
 (corner 21st St.)

LOS ANGELES

ESTELLE DeBATES
 for U.S. vice-president
 7 p.m.
 2546 W. Pico Blvd.



Militant/Dave Wulp

Willie Mae Reid (left) is a national chairperson of the Socialist Workers 1992 campaign. Due to undemocratic election laws Reid will stand in for Estelle DeBates as candidate for U.S. vice-president in some states. DeBates is 32 years old. **Michael Goldwater (right)** is running for U.S. Congress in California's 8th C.D..



Militant

Ellen Berman — U.S. Congress, 12th C.D.
Andrew Hunt — U.S. Congress, 16th C.D.
Kim Allen — U.S. Congress, 27th C.D.
Juan Villagómez — U.S. Congress, 30th C.D.
Carole Lesnick — U.S. Congress, 32nd C.D.*
Gale Shangold — U.S. Congress, 33rd C.D.
Virginia Halstead — U.S. Congress, 34th C.D.
Eli Green — U.S. Congress, 35th C.D.
Thabo Ntweng — U.S. Congress, 37th C.D.

Kevin Jones — U.S. Congress, 38th C.D.
Albert Grigorian — State Senate, 21st dist.
Georges Mehrabian — State Assembly, 13th dist.
INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE ENDORSED BY SWP:
Milton Chee — San Francisco Board of Supervisors**

CONNECTICUT*

Will Wilkin — U.S. Senate*
Peter Krala — U.S. Congress*

FLORIDA

Daniel Fein — U.S. Senate*
Jill Fein — U.S. Congress, 17th C.D.*
Laura Garza — U.S. Congress, 18th C.D.

GEORGIA*

Miguel Zárate — U.S. Senate*
Ed Hill — U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D.*
Virginia O'Riley — U.S. Congress, 5th C.D.*
Susan LaMont — U.S. Congress, 6th C.D.*
Bob Braxton — U.S. Congress, 11th C.D.*

ILLINOIS**

Kate Kaku — U.S. Senate**
Ellen Haywood — U.S. Congress, 12th C.D.
Patricia Smith Chiloane — University of Illinois Board of Trustees**
Margaret Savage — University of Illinois Board of Trustees**
John Votava — University of Illinois Board of Trustees**

IOWA**

Cleve Andrew Pulley — U.S. Senate**
Ruth Nebbia — U.S. Congress, 4th C.D.
Priscilla Schenk — State Senate, 36th dist.
Maurice Williams — State Representative, 72nd dist.
Mike Galati — Polk County Supervisor
Mitchel Rosenberg — Polk County Auditor

MASSACHUSETTS

Danny Booher — U.S. Congress, 5th C.D.*
Lisa Boehmer — U.S. Congress, 6th C.D.*
Margo Storsteen — U.S. Congress, 8th C.D.*
Karen Ray — U.S. Congress, 9th C.D.*

MARYLAND*

John Gaige — U.S. Senate*
Traci Castro — U.S. Congress, 2nd C.D.
Robert Miller — U.S. Congress, 4th C.D.
Glova Scott — U.S. Congress, 7th C.D.*

Continued on next page

Defense organized for Nebraska socialist

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — "Being denied Ballot Spot Doesn't Deter Socialists," read the headline in the October 16 *Omaha World-Herald*. The article reported on a trip to Omaha by Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate. DeBates took time from her national campaign tour to travel to Nebraska to protest efforts by state officials and police in Lincoln, the state capitol, to harass and victimize campaign supporters.

DeBates was joined by Doug Lee-Regier, a long-time supporter of the party and political activist in Nebraska. State authorities have alleged that Lee-Regier forged signatures on the party's nominating papers, a felony charge that carries 25 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine. He had helped circulate petitions to get the party on the ballot, and submitted those in Lancaster County, where Lincoln is located.

Under court order, Lee-Regier was subjected to a two-hour session at the Lincoln police station and forced to provide handwriting samples of his name and others which were on the petitions.

With DeBates and Lee-Regier were Derek Bracey, a national chairperson for the Socialist Workers campaign committee, and John Studer, coordinator of the Political Rights Defense Fund, who has been helping to pull together a network of political rights activists in Nebraska and Iowa to organize support for Lee-Regier.

The *World-Herald* article reports that DeBates's visit was aimed at launching a campaign to halt the attack on Lee-Regier. It notes that Lee-Regier and his supporters strongly deny having committed fraud. Instead, the article reports, Studer "said authorities have 'targeted' party members 'for harassment and potential victimization.'"

The attack won't stop the socialist campaign, Lee-Regier told the paper. "It doesn't keep us quiet," he said.

DeBates explained, "We believe that the central question facing working people is the worldwide depression and the drive toward war that is the result of the economic crisis in the world today."

In addition to the interview with the *World-Herald*, DeBates and Studer were in-

terviewed by *Gateway*, the newspaper at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, by the Associated Press in Lincoln, and by radio station KAFB.

Tim Rohwer, news editor at *Gateway*, had written an article about the socialist petition drive at the end of July. He interviewed petitioners on the campus, and reported on how they got signatures, by explaining the political stands of the socialist ticket and the need for an alternative to the two capitalist parties of war, racism, and economic depression.

The AP reporter who interviewed DeBates also told her that he had been approached by petitioners for the Socialist Workers Party in Lincoln. He was impressed with the way they approached people, explaining that political issues, not personalities, were decisive, and asked people to help put the socialist alternative on the ballot. Based on his own experience, he told DeBates, he found state officials' charge that Lee-Regier copied petition signatures out of a phone book absurd.

Socialists fight harassment

AP had already put one story on the national wire reporting on the attack on Lee-Regier. DeBates reported that she saw it in the daily paper in Birmingham, Alabama.

DeBates's visit was followed by a public meeting Saturday night in Des Moines, Iowa, October 17. Lee-Regier was joined by Bracey and Héctor Marroquín, another co-chair of the Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign Committee, at a public forum sponsored by the Political Rights Defense Network. The Network is a group of defenders of political rights who have come together to publicize the attack on Lee-Regier and raise the funds to pay Mark Cohen, a prominent civil liberties lawyer who has agreed to represent Lee-Regier, in an effort to prevent any charges from being filed.

Lee-Regier told the meeting how he had helped gather the signatures in Nebraska to fight to get the socialist ticket on the ballot. He explained he had petitioned at a rally against the death penalty in Lincoln as well as other times. He housed other petitioners when they came to Omaha, and helped in every way he could. He submitted the so-

cialists' petitions in Lancaster County.

"Then I got a call from an officer Duckworth down in Lincoln," Lee-Regier told the meeting, "who told me he wanted to 'interview' me. Well, I thought of lawyer Mark Cohen right away and called him. He told me that I didn't have to talk to them, because they hadn't charged me with anything."

"Then I called the Pathfinder Bookstore in Des Moines, and we discussed putting a political defense together. It was a great relief to me to have comrades willing to stand beside me and defend me," Lee-Regier explained.

He related how the cops then got a court order forcing him to report to have his handwriting analyzed. Accompanied by Cohen, he went to Lincoln.

'Charge is ridiculous'

"The cop who is in charge of this 'investigation,' Officer Duckworth, is one of four in Lincoln's 'white collar crime division,' which is located in the office of the Election Commission. This is the office where the charge that I committed fraud came from," Lee-Regier reported.

"The charge is ridiculous," he said. "Our goal, after all, is to go out and talk to people, to introduce them to our politics. You can't have a political discussion with a phone book."

"The only thing we are guilty of is opposition to the two party system. That's the real reason they are going after us."

"We are going to win this fight. And here and now I volunteer to head up the next SWP petitioning drive in Nebraska," Lee-Regier concluded.

He asked people to send messages to Nebraska secretary of state Allen Beermann, State Capitol Suite 2300, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68509, urging that this campaign of harassment and threats of victimization be stopped.

Activists at the meeting contributed \$55 to help get the defense fight going.

Further contributions, and copies of messages to Secretary of State Beermann, can be sent to the Political Rights Defense Network, c/o Doug Lee-Regier, 3815 Charles, Omaha, NE 68131.

MICHIGAN

Diane Sarge — U.S. Congress, 13th C.D.
Rose Ana Berbeo — U.S. Congress, 14th C.D.
James Harris — U.S. Congress, 15th C.D.**
David Alvarez — U.S. Congress, 16th C.D.
Arlene Rubinstein — Detroit School Board, At-Large

MINNESOTA**

Jo Rothenberg — U.S. Congress, 4th C.D.**
Chris Nisan — U.S. Congress, 5th C.D.**
Suzanne Derby — State Senate, 61st dist.
Gerardo Sánchez — State Senate, 66th dist.

MISSOURI

David Sandor — U.S. Senate
Deborah Lazar — U.S. Congress, 1st C.D.
Mary Zins — Governor

NEW JERSEY**

Olga Rodriguez — U.S. Congress, 2nd C.D.
Simone Berg — U.S. Congress, 6th C.D.**
Jason Redrup — U.S. Congress, 8th C.D.**
Raymond Parsons — U.S. Congress, 9th C.D.
William Leonard — U.S. Congress, 10th C.D.**
Jane Harris — U.S. Congress, 13th C.D.**



Militant/Angel Lariscy

Kate Kaku (left), Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Illinois, and Mark Gilsdorf, SWP candidate in Ohio's 30th district, campaigning.



Militant/Valerie Libby

NEW MEXICO**

NEW YORK**

Ed Warren — U.S. Senate**
Nancy Rosenstock — U.S. Congress, 12th C.D.
Melissa Harris — U.S. Congress, 14th C.D.
Mary Nell Bockman — U.S. Congress, 15th C.D.
Dennis Richter — U.S. Congress, 16th C.D.

NORTH DAKOTA**

NORTH CAROLINA*

Bruce Kimball — U.S. Senate*
Jane Roland — U.S. Congress, 6th C.D.

OHIO

Brian Taylor — U.S. Congress, 1st C.D.
Emily Roughen Wood — U.S. Congress, 2nd C.D.
Peter Thierjung — U.S. Congress, 10th C.D.
Ronald Garmez Parks — U.S. Congress, 11th C.D.
Don Mackle — U.S. Congress, 19th C.D.

Elections will not end economic crisis

Continued from front page

intending to vote for the lesser evil is very common. I tell them that if you plan to limit your choices to those three, it doesn't matter who you vote for.

"This is the worst time to practice lesser evil politics. Each of these candidates fully intends to continue the assaults on workers in an attempt to prop up the bosses' system. In this period, all the policies workers hope to avoid are endorsed by both parties. Going with the lesser evil will get you evil.

"What the socialist campaign raises is that the question for workers is whether we begin now to organize resistance to the plan of the boss to make us pay for their crisis," Warren stressed. An important first step is joining the resistance taking place today, as seen in struggles from Caterpillar to Ravenswood, the *Pittsburgh Press*, among airline workers, coal miners, and more.

Part of this perspective is also joining social protests that are taking place, such as the fight to defend abortion rights; the battle in Oregon against Measure 9 and a similar measure in Colorado, which seek to legalize discrimination of homosexuals; the fight against police brutality; and other fights.

"Workers need to turn to this resistance as part of the process of a generalized rejection of the bosses' perspectives," Warren noted. "Voting for Socialist Workers candidates is also a part of this process. No matter who you vote for, however, what is important is what you do in the streets, on the job, or in your school."

Warren also talked about the appeal of Clinton for the capitalists. Growing numbers of business leaders and capitalist commentators have turned to the Democratic candidate.

"That is because Bush has failed. Now most of them see him as useless. That's why there is such favorable coverage of Clinton in the big-business media," the presidential candidate pointed out. "They need a conservative Democrat, one who is committed to the same policies that Bush tried to carry out, to give the impression of change without any change actually taking place.

"They can't do what they need to accomplish in the next years with Bush. He is too connected with the failures they have experienced recently, including the fiasco with Iraq. So they believe they are in a better position to try to advance their interests with Clinton.

"The problem with Clinton," Warren continued, "is that he isn't a very attractive choice. The character flaws he brings with him and the scandals that come from them, erode confidence in him. As president, Clinton will have less authority to carry out the necessary austerity policies against workers. He will go into the White House weakened from these character flaws, as Bush points out. But despite his problems, Clinton is not

Bush, he didn't fail in the eyes of the bosses.

"No matter who wins the election," Warren said, "the White House and Congress will implement Perot's austerity social program, rather than the pronounced program of either of the two major parties."

Warren reported that the Socialist Workers campaign has received a very wide hearing among workers and youth. "The most important aspect of this campaign is that the political perspectives we are presenting are getting the most serious response we have gotten in decades. This is especially true at workplaces and in the high schools," he said.

On October 26, Warren addressed more than 100 high school students in Kentucky just across the river from Cincinnati, Ohio. "I have found that many of the ideas we raise—not looking at the world as 'Americans,' the need for basic solidarity among workers, the idea that to defend your living

conditions, you must defend the conditions of the entire working class, the need to fight for those who are the worse off under capitalism — many workers and youth accept these concepts," Warren said.

"Another example of the serious consideration our ideas are getting is that many reporters in the print and electronic media, are reporting our ideas much more factually and clearly, despite views of the editors of these major newspapers. Many reporters have themselves experienced the types of attacks and cutbacks that our campaign is discussing.

"Myself, my running mate, Estelle DeBates, and our local candidates," Warren concluded, "plan to continue to reach out to workers and youth aggressively, going to workplaces, college and high school campuses, and reaching out to those in struggle, on through the election."

Where socialists stand on state referenda

CALIFORNIA

Right to die with dignity

Proposition 161 would authorize terminally ill, mentally competent adults to request "aid in dying." In such cases it authorizes the physician to terminate life in a "painless, humane, and dignified manner." The primary opposition to the initiative is being organized by the Catholic Church and the American Medical Association.

Joel Britton, Socialist Workers candidate for Senate, explained that in supporting the aid in dying initiative his campaign also demands decent health care for all. "Even when this demand is won," Britton pointed out, "there will be people who decide they do not want to go through the final months of a debilitating disease. In such a situation, having the right to decide how and when to die gives the greatest value to human consciousness and the ability of a person to control decisions regarding his or her life."

No on anti-welfare initiative

"Proposition 165 is part of the current budget trimming efforts in California that scapegoat those working people who are suffering the most under the impact of the capitalist economic crisis," said Joe Swanson, socialist candidate for U.S. Senate.

The SWP candidates call for the defeat of this measure, which points away from the fight for jobs for all. "What working people need to do is fight to shorten the work week with no cut in pay," Swanson explained. "This would spread the available work around.

The initiative would reduce Aid for Dependent Children (AFDC) payments, eliminate any increase in payments when additional children are born, reduce Medical Assistance Programs, and eliminate cost-of-living adjustments that are now automatic in AFDC and Social Security payments. It restricts how much assistance someone new in the state can receive for the first year they live in California.

IOWA

Equal Rights Amendment

The Socialist Workers candidates in Iowa are urging passage of Amendment 1, which will add to the Iowa state constitution a section on equal rights for women. "The legal recognition, by the state of Iowa, of women's equality, can only strengthen the hands of the thousands of young men and women who have mobilized in cities across the country to defend abortion rights and to fight against the oppression of women," said Ruth Nebbia, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, in the 3rd District.

MARYLAND

Abortion rights referendum

Working people should vote yes on the referendum on Senate Bill (SB) 162, which, if enacted, will place the fight for abortion rights on stronger ground. SB 162 gives women over the age of majority sole decision-making power over whether or not to have an abortion prior to viability of the fetus, and thereafter in cases affecting the life and health of the woman or in the case

Mark Gilsdorf — State Representative, 30th dist.
Valerie Libby — State Representative, 31st dist.

PENNSYLVANIA

Deborah Liatos — U.S. Senate
Mark Wyatt — U.S. Congress, 2nd C.D.**
Joanne Kuniansky — U.S. Congress, 14th C.D.**
Anthony Dutrow — U.S. Congress, 18th C.D.
Josefina Otero — U.S. Congress, 20th C.D.
Mark Mateja — U.S. Congress, 21st C.D.
Arnold Weissberg — Attorney General

TENNESSEE**

TEXAS

Jerry Freiwerth — U.S. Congress, 18th C.D.
William Lambert — U.S. Congress, 22nd C.D.
Matthew Herreshof — U.S. Congress, 25th C.D.
Patti Iiyama — U.S. Congress, 29th C.D.

UTAH**

Patricia Grogan — U.S. Senate**
Eileen Koschak — U.S. Congress, 2nd C.D.**
Nels J'Anthony — U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D.**
Eleanor Garcia — Governor**
William Arth — Lt. Governor**

VERMONT**

WASHINGTON D.C.**

Sam Manuel — U.S. Congress, Delegate*
Aaron Ruby — Council, At-Large
Ellen Whitt — Council, At-Large
Margrethe Siem — Council, Ward 2

WASHINGTON**

Mark Severs — U.S. Senate
David Warshawsky — U.S. Congress, 7th C.D.*
Kathleen Wheeler — Governor

WEST VIRGINIA

Chris Rayson — U.S. Congress, 1st C.D.
Bernie Senter — Governor
Curt Jayne — Secretary of State
Nancy Burroughs — Attorney General
Maurice Peret — House of Delegates, 44th dist.
Jeanne FitzMaurice — House of Delegates, 44th dist.

WISCONSIN**

of serious fetal deformity, abnormality, or genetic defect.

Antiabortion forces in Maryland collected more than 33,000 signatures to force a referendum on the bill after it was approved by the State Senate and signed into law by the governor in 1991. They are campaigning to have the bill overturned, while pro-choice activists have been campaigning vigorously for its passage.

OREGON

Vote 'no' on antigay Measure 9

The SWP urges a no vote on Measure 9, which aims to foster discrimination based on sexual preference (See article on page 3).

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Oppose the death penalty

The initiative being proposed by Congress entitled "Mandatory Life Imprisonment or Death Penalty for Murder in the District of Columbia" would be the most sweeping death penalty law in the United States. It would broaden the type of murder for which someone could be executed and sharply restricts the right of appeal.

"The death penalty is reserved exclusively for working people, especially Blacks, Latinos, and Native Americans," said Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers candidate for Delegate to the House. "As depression conditions deepen, prompting more struggles on the parts of labor and oppressed nationalities, the rulers will use the death penalty even more broadly to silence and intimidate us."

What led to 1962 'Cuban missile crisis'

"One other thing is whether we should also think of whether . . . there is some other way we can get involved in this — through Guantánamo bay or something or whether there's some ship — you know, sink the *Maine* again." — Robert Kennedy, U.S. attorney general, October 16, 1962.

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

A provocation, such as that suggested above by Robert Kennedy, is what top U.S. government officials seriously considered as they prepared their war plans against Cuba 30 years ago, bringing the world a hair's breadth away from nuclear catastrophe. In the last two weeks U.S. television networks have aired numerous documentaries on what is referred to in the United States as the "Cuban missile crisis," on the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary. Magazines and newspapers have also been filled with articles and opinion columns on the same theme.

Millions of people heard Robert Kennedy making his outrageous proposal, quoted above, to stage the sinking of a U.S. ship, on the ABC documentary "The Missiles of October: What the World Did Not Know." The show, narrated by Peter Jennings, was first aired October 17. PBS, NBC, and the Arts & Entertainment networks ran similar documentaries. Jennings played an audio tape of the October 16, 1962, meeting of the Executive Committee (ExComm) that then President John F. Kennedy had handpicked to hammer out government policy during the "missile crisis."

Robert Kennedy, an ExComm member and the president's brother, proposed that the U.S. government stage an attack on one of its own ships in order to use it as a pretext to launch a military invasion of Cuba. He was referring to the sinking of the USS *Maine* in Havana harbor by the U.S. military itself on February 15, 1898, during the Spanish-American War.

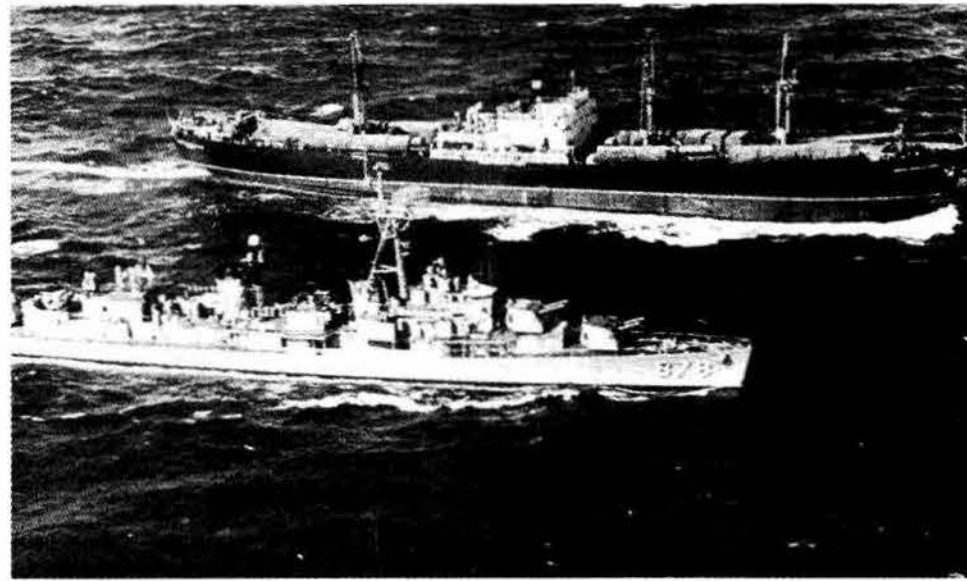
The U.S. government used that fabricated incident as the excuse to begin its war against the Spanish colonial rulers of Cuba. Following the defeat of Spain by Cuban independence fighters, Washington, which had considered annexing Cuba as a colony, dominated the Caribbean island for more than half a century, until a successful revolution overthrew the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista on January 1, 1959. U.S. marines landed on Cuban shores in 1898, 1906, 1912, and 1917 in order to maintain imperialist domination of the island.

Many commentators today attempt to portray Cuban president Fidel Castro's government as a warmongering regime, one that initiated the crisis that brought humanity to the brink of nuclear war. Nothing can be further from the truth.

Following the 1959 overthrow of the U.S.-backed dictator by Cuba's working people, the Cuban revolution became the target of Washington's unremitting hostility.

In April 1961 the U.S. government organized an invasion of the country by counter-revolutionary Cubans at the Bay of Pigs. It was quickly defeated by Cuba's revolutionary armed forces. Washington then made contingency plans to attack Cuba directly.

Throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 1962, the U.S. military conducted a series of highly visible exercises simulating an



U.S. destroyer intercepts Soviet freighter at peak of crisis. Top U.S. officials had earlier discussed how to stage provocation to draw Cuba into war.

invasion of Cuba. One of those was a mock military assault on the island of Vieques, off Puerto Rico, with the stated aim to overthrow a leader named "Ortsac"—Castro spelled backward.

Under these circumstances, the governments of the former Soviet Union and Cuba entered into a military pact, which included the deployment of 40,000 Soviet troops in Cuba, and at the suggestion of Moscow, 42 medium-range nuclear missiles.

The Cuban leadership urged that the military agreement and the existence of the nuclear weapons in Cuba be made public, but Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev insisted on keeping the matters secret.

On October 22, 1962, the U.S. government charged that there were "offensive missiles" in Cuba. President Kennedy ordered a full naval blockade of the island, placed U.S. armed forces on war alert, and threatened military action against Cuba and the Soviet Union.

Tens of thousands of U.S. troops moved into position in Florida and Georgia in preparation for an invasion. Almost 300 U.S. Navy ships steamed towards Cuba to enforce the military blockade. Three U.S. marine battalions arrived to reinforce troops already stationed at the Guantánamo naval base, which is still occupied by Washington, on the southeastern coast of the island. Wives and children of military personnel were ordered to evacuate Guantánamo.

In an October 26 letter to Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev Cuban president Fidel Castro warned that a U.S. military assault could be imminent. If "the imperialists invade Cuba with the goal of occupying it," Castro wrote, "the danger that that aggressive policy poses for humanity is so great that following that event the Soviet Union must never allow the circumstances in which the imperialists could launch the first nuclear strike against it."

After an agreement with Kennedy on October 28, Khrushchev ordered the missiles withdrawn from Cuba in exchange for "promises" from Washington to lift the blockade and not invade Cuba. The Cuban government was not, however, consulted. In an October 31 letter to Khrushchev, Castro "expressed sorrow and bitterness over the manner in which the USSR and the United

States reached a settlement behind Cuba's back."

As part of a series of articles on the October 1962 events, we are reprinting below a *Militant* editorial, written at the apex of the crisis. Titled "Cuba and the Road to Peace," it appeared in the November 5, 1962, issue of the *Militant*.

'Militant' editorial from November 1962

The Cuban Revolution remains in grave danger.

Kennedy's objective is still the destruction of the Cuban Revolution.

It was not "offensive Soviet weapons" which started U.S. imperialism on its drive to strangle and crush the Castro government but the example which Cuba affords to the oppressed millions of the rest of Latin America. Cuba is living proof that by dumping U.S. corporations off their backs, these peoples can conquer illiteracy, wipe out racial discrimination and provide adequate food for all their children, however humble their birth.

Washington's drive to crush the Cuban Revolution began long before Cuba was forced to get arms from the Soviet Union. The removal of a few weapons from Cuba is not going to satisfy Wall Street or the Pentagon or Kennedy.

Kennedy has demanded the removal from Cuba of what he deems to be offensive weapons. The attacker demands the right to say how his intended victim shall be armed. Is there any doubt that for Kennedy all arms capable of effectively staying off an attack are to be defined as "offensive"?

Kennedy, in effect, demands the disarming of Cuba in return for a vague promise not to invade — at least not right now.

Khrushchev's action under pressure of Kennedy's nuclear-war threat still leaves posed the question of the reliability of Kennedy's word — a badly tarnished item where invasion of Cuba is concerned.

The Cubans, fully aware of this — and from their record, not the kind of leaders to panic in a tight spot — have pointed out that "the guarantees of which President Kennedy speaks against invasion of Cuba will not exist without the elimination also of the naval blockade . . . and adoption, among other, of the following measures:"

1) The end of attempts to strangle Cuba economically. 2) The end of espionage, sab-

otage and counter-revolution organized by the U.S. 3) The end of pirate attacks. 4) The end of violations of Cuban air space and coastal waters. 5) Withdrawal by U.S. forced from the base at Guantánamo.

These are minimum points and most reasonable. Kennedy advances the argument that "Soviet weapons" in Cuba are threat to the U.S. By his own logic then, how much greater is the threat to Cuba of U.S. weapons at Guantánamo? That base is the first thing that should be removed and no United Nations inspection team is required to accomplish that task. The U.S. should just leave and let the Cubans have their own territory back.

In addition, the U.S. should restore normal diplomatic relations with Cuba. It should agree to negotiate directly with the Cubans on all outstanding differences. It should restore normal trade and restore the right of U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba. It should provide economic aid to Cuba to help her in the building of her economy and raising the living standards of her people.

Cuba has never been a military threat to the U.S. and it has armed itself only because the U.S. government organized continuous, overt, military acts of aggression in an attempt to crush the revolution. A friendly policy by the U.S. government toward Cuba would automatically eliminate any possibility of military confrontation. That is the only solution to the "Cuban crisis."

The manner in which President Kennedy brought the U.S. people to the brink of nuclear war was frightening and criminal. Kennedy took a gambler's chance of precipitating nuclear war and he did so on his own.

As James Reston said in the Oct. 26 *New York Times*: "The President did not assemble the National Security Council or the Cabinet into formal session to debate the selective blockade of Cuba. He discussed personally with some members of his Cabinet and staff, made up his mind, and then called them into formal session to tell them what he had decided to do." Reston points out that Kennedy did not consult with Congressional leaders or with the ambassadors of the government's military allies before making the decision.

He did it on his own. There was no check on his power to risk nuclear holocaust against the sentiment of the majority of the American people as shown in numerous polls published shortly before Kennedy made his decision. The bi-partisan Congress, before it adjourned, gave Kennedy a blank check to do just that.

This points up the need to take the power to make war out of the hands of these irresponsible politicians who are blinded by their desire to defend the profit system. Let the people vote on war! A national referendum should be required before this country's military forces can be committed to any act of war or on any foreign battlefield.

As long as U.S. politics is monopolized by parties controlled by big business, which is adamant on defending the profit system anywhere and at all costs, the American people will risk being dragged into war and nuclear destruction at the whim of such people as Kennedy.

Only independent political action by the working class, the social force whose interests are not tied to the profit system, can eliminate this terrible threat. The road to peace is independent labor political action. Support for the Democratic or Republican parties is not only political scabbery, it is courting nuclear suicide.

Cubans determined to resist embargo

Continued from front page
threaten above all the weak countries," the editorial notes, "those that can be forced to give in by promises to decrease their foreign debt, threats to reduce aid," or other forms of pressure.

Protests against bill

In the face of these attacks by the U.S. rulers, *Granma* asked, "Do they think Cuba will let itself be intimidated and will give up being free, sovereign, independent, and socialist?"

It answered, "Cuba will maintain its gains under the most difficult conditions, will confront the harshest adversities in an exemplary manner, and, without wavering, will defend the revolution that we carried out

alone, are sustaining alone, and will carry through to victory."

Liliu Pérez González, a bread vendor in Havana, told *Granma*, "We aren't surprised by this Yankee position, even though it's an outrageous injustice. But we'll be able to get out of these bad times by working."

"Every country has the right to choose its way of life, and we chose ours many years ago," said Heriberto Denis Morales, who works at the Industrias Locales de Cerro plant. "We decided to pursue a just, humane, and revolutionary existence and we're not going to change our course. The Cubans who are fighting for the revolution are going to keep working for it, even under the most difficult conditions."

Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today

Hear: MARY-ALICE WATERS

Editor *New International*, just returned from Cuba.

MONTREAL * Saturday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Celebrate the publication of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* by Carlos Tablada, in French.
6566 boul. St-Laurent. For more information call (514) 273-2503.

NEW YORK CITY * Sunday, Nov. 15, 4:00 p.m.
A report back from Waters's recent trip to Cuba.
Location to be announced. For more information call (212) 727-8421

MIAMI * Saturday, Nov. 21
Celebrate the publication during the Miami book fair of the new Pathfinder book *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' Doesn't End*. Waters is the editor of this book.
Location and time to be announced. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

'Cuba's only true wealth is its people'

Cuban foreign minister Ricardo Alarcón speaks at UN on the U.S. embargo

The following is an excerpt from the September 28 speech by Cuba's Foreign Minister, Ricardo Alarcón, to the United Nations General Assembly. The subheads, and the translation from *Granma Internacional*, are by the Militant.

I am addressing this assembly at an extraordinarily difficult time for Cuba.

The economic, commercial, and financial blockade the United States has imposed on the Cuban people for more than 30 years is today being intensified and widened.

While speaking hypocritically of peace and international cooperation, Washington bans the entry into U.S. ports of foreign vessels involved in any kind of trade with Cuba and seeks to force companies based in other countries to observe its anti-Cuba policy. Such actions not only grossly violate my people's most elementary rights; they also violate the sovereignty of other countries and the fundamental principles and norms of international law.

At a time when former adversaries have become partners and when Washington is applying economic sanctions against a shrinking number of countries, the budget and resources of the government office in charge of enforcing these sanctions is being increased. Furthermore, it is publicly acknowledged that this is being done to ensure that the blockade against Cuba is tightened.

The United States harasses Cuban economic and commercial activity throughout the world. In an obstinate and criminal effort to starve our people into submission, it tries to prevent us from acquiring fuel, food, and medical supplies; it applies pressure against investors and businesspeople; and on more than one occasion it has succeeded in intimidating others and bringing entirely legitimate operations to a halt.

Never before has a people been attacked in such a severe, prolonged, and full-scale way in peacetime.

What they are attacking is a small, poor country with scant territory, extremely limited natural resources, and no significant sources of energy. They are attacking a country whose possibilities for development are inexorably linked to foreign trade, a country that receives no loans or financial assistance from international organizations, and one that is even subjected to limits as to what types of humanitarian assistance it may receive. And now they want to prevent us from engaging in trade as well.

Difficult economic situation

The blockade is being intensified just as Cuba is going through an extremely difficult economic situation stemming from the dissolution of the socialist camp, the disintegration of the Soviet Union, abrupt and radical changes in relations with the countries with which we conducted 80 percent of our trade, and abrupt elimination of the fair and equitable prices under which that trade took place. For Cuba this has meant a loss of 70 percent of its purchasing power, which fell from \$8.14 billion in 1989 to \$2.2 billion this year. In reality, Cuba faces a double blockade that is becoming tighter and more implacable each day.

Today we face situations that are extremely critical and enormously harmful to our economy, situations that have an inevitable impact on people's living standards and levels of consumption, as well as on our plans for production and development. In these difficult conditions, the imperialists hope that making the blockade harsher and more oppressive will create conditions of such poverty and hunger that our people will surrender.

Such a hope is born of stupidity. Those who seek to annihilate us are ignorant of the fact that Cuba's central resource, its only true wealth, is its people.

Only a people united, informed, strong, and prepared to fight for its victories — a people whose social relations are governed by equality and solidarity — could confront this difficult period, pull themselves together, and fight to move forward. Only in a society like Cuba's could it happen that despite such terrible conditions not a single school has been closed; not a single child, old person, woman or man has been deprived of medical care; and not a single citizen has been left destitute. Can any of our most implacable enemies say the same? Any of



UN photo 178393/M. Grant
Cuba's foreign minister Ricardo Alarcón

our hypocritical critics?

There is no better proof of the strength of our social system and of the unshakeable determination and unity of the Cuban people in defense of their revolution than their heroic resistance to the imperialist assault. How many other countries could have withstood such a test?

Unites States attacks

This genuine, full-scale war on the economic front is not the only weapon aimed

against Cuba. Part of its territory is still occupied by a U.S. military base, a source of frequent provocations. Our air space and territorial waters are the site of constant military maneuvers by the power threatening us. More than 1,500 hours of hostile radio programming are beamed into Cuba each week, and they have tried without success to invade our television frequencies as well. U.S. territory is used shamelessly and openly — with the obvious complicity of the authorities — to launch terrorist attacks against Cuba. And a systematic campaign of lies has been launched against Cuba in an attempt to distort the image of a country that refuses to give up its independence.

Since it cannot make us surrender, the United States threatens us with extermination and seeks to force the rest of the world to take part in its genocidal infamy. The U.S. blockade is a brutal violation of the rights of all Cubans, of international law, and of the sovereignty of other countries. It is above all an enormous moral outrage.

Those who think they can bring Cuba to its knees are mistaken. Our people traveled a long road to win their full freedom.

They began along that path completely alone more than 120 years ago. For more than three decades, on a small island, without allies or material support from any government, they fought a superior military force larger than the army Spain had used to confront rebellion in all its other colonies combined. Then as now an attempt was made to isolate our people from the rest of the world.

Company attempt to frame up Yellowknife strikers weakens

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Safety inspectors who went through the Royal Oak Company's Giant gold mine in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, after a September 18 explosion that killed nine replacement workers, found bags of explosives with blasting caps in more than 20 improper locations, reported the *Vancouver Sun* October 16. Dave Turner, chief mining inspector for the Northwest Territories, explained that the company was given until October 23 to clean up the mess and that no charges were brought under the Mine Safety Act because regulations are too vague.

The Royal Oak mine in Yellowknife has been the battleground since May 23 of a determined strike by 240 gold miners, members of the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers (CASAW) Local 4. From day one the strikers have come up against the company's use of replacement workers to break the union, as well as cop violence and intimidation. One hundred and ten strikers face false criminal charges related to picket line activity. The main issue in the strike is the company's demand for concessions on health and safety and seniority rights.

A hysterical frame-up campaign blaming the striking miners for the September 18 explosion has been promoted by the mine bosses, the cops, and the big-business media.

The latest revelations go in the direction of exposing the frame-up against the striking miners and point to company responsibility for the September 18 tragedy.

Despite this new evidence, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has continued to harass and question striking union members and their families about the explosion and other picket line activity. Some 50 members and their families have now been questioned.

Harry Seeton, president of CASAW Local 4, said in an interview that support for the striking local members is picking up.

"So far we have received \$18,000 from various union locals for the 'adopt a striker' family program. Five are Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) locals.

"Over the next week a representative of CLASS [CASAW Ladies Association for Strike Support] will be in Ontario speaking to unions about solidarity," said Seeton.

The Hospital Employees Union (HEU) in British Columbia, representing 30,000 hospital workers in the province, adopted a resolution of support at its convention October 5-9 in Richmond, British Columbia,

and voted to donate \$2,000 to the striking CASAW members in Yellowknife.

The Vancouver District Labor Council, representing 150,000 union members in the Vancouver area, is organizing a solidarity meeting October 27 for the Yellowknife gold miners. The battle in Yellowknife and the outcome of the fight against the bosses' frame-up has big stakes for the entire labor movement in Canada.

Send messages of support and donations to CASAW, Local 4, P.O. Box 1628, Yellowknife, NWT. X1A2P2

Ned Dmytryshyn is a member of International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 213.

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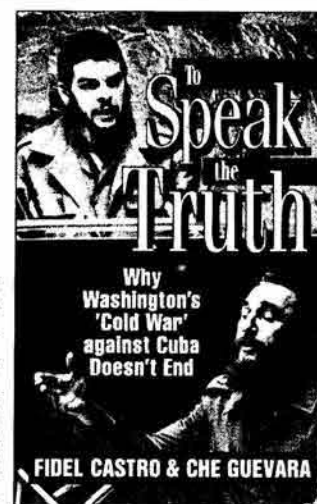
TO SPEAK THE TRUTH

Why Washington's
'Cold War' against
Cuba Doesn't End

BY FIDEL CASTRO
AND CHE GUEVARA

Using the forum of the United Nations, the two central leaders of the Cuban revolution explain to the world why the U.S. government is determined to destroy the example set by that revolution, and why this effort will continue and ultimately fail.

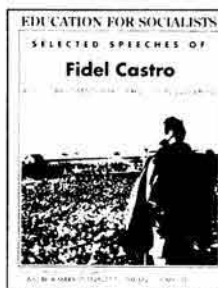
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Miners protest pit closures in Britain

Continued from front page

Park chanting, "Sack [British Prime Minister] Major, not the miners." The day after the demonstration, it was announced that five more hospitals are to be shut down.

More than 1,000 construction workers at the Sellafield nuclear power plant downed their tools and staged a mass meeting in support of the miners' action. A further thousand workers at Drax power station in North Yorkshire walked out for the day, as did 600 workers at a power station in Nottinghamshire. Under present law, all these strikes were technically illegal.

The demonstration also attracted young people and students in large numbers. A delegation of 30 students from Southwark College in south London left their classes and joined the protest.

Government changes plans

On the day of the demonstration, the government announced a different procedure for closing the pits. They have now called in consultants to advise on the "viability" of 21 of the 31 pits earmarked for closure. In the meantime these pits will remain operational. The consulting firm hired for this is the same one advising the government on coal privatization.

Under this new plan the other ten pits, which originally were to have been shut down within a few days, are now scheduled for closure at the end of a 90-day period.

Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, called these measures a "swerve by the government, not a U-turn." The government's "concessions" were sufficient to persuade a number of Conservative Party members of parliament to not vote against the government on a motion on the pit closures. The government won the vote in parliament on its plans. Six Conservatives voted with the Labour Party and a further five abstained.

Miners were seething over the government's so-called concessions. Vince McCullough, a miner from Rossington Colliery, explained, "we don't want it done in three months, six months, or a year."

Securing a majority in Parliament by no means helps stabilize the John Major-led Conservative government. Articles in the major dailies focus consistently on the "slump-like" conditions facing Britain. The *Sunday Times* last week led with a banner headline declaring, "Recession leads to Depression."

Only a month ago, the government was thrown into crisis after Britain's withdrawal from the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) and the subsequent devaluation of the pound. The popularity of the Conservative government, which was elected in April of this year, has dropped massively. The opinion poll firm MORI reports that John Major is now the most unpopular prime minister since opinion polls started.

In the face of this deepening crisis, the government not only did not retreat from its course of pit closures, but has reiterated its intention to drive ahead with a pay freeze on public sector workers and further job cuts in other industries.

Hundreds of thousands march in London

On October 25, hundreds of thousands of miners, other workers, and young people, undeterred by a torrential rain storm, marched through the streets of London. The police estimated the size of the crowd to be 200,000, while the march organizers estimated 500,000. The demonstration was called by the Trades Union Congress (TUC), the union federation to which all trade unions in Britain are affiliated. Originally called to protest the planned pit closures, the march had broadened out into a general protest against government economic policy.

The marchers were trade unionists in their overwhelming majority. Led by banners of the NUM, the march included contingents from many other workplaces. Two banners were present from agricultural laborers, and there was a large contingent of hospital workers. Local government workers, teachers, and civil servants, all of whom are facing a possible wage freeze, turned out in large numbers.

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

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Columbus, Capitalism, and the Conquest of the Americas. Sat., Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m. 508 N. Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325. Translation to Spanish.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Labor Resistance Today. A panel discussion. Sun., Nov. 1, 4 p.m. West Coast SeaTac Hotel, Cascade Room, 18220 Pacific Hwy S. (Across from entrance to SeaTac Airport.) Donation: \$5. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Translation to Spanish.

BRITAIN

London

No Closures! How We Can Defend Jobs in the Depression. A panel discussion. Sat., Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Tel: 71-928-7993.

Manchester

A New Stage in the South African Revolution. Speaker: Shellia Kennedy. Sat., Oct. 31, 6 p.m. 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Tel: 061-839 1766.

CANADA

Montréal

Giant Gold Mine Strikers Under Attack: Eyewitness Report from Yellowknife. Speaker: Roger Annis, just returned from a visit to Yellowknife, member of Canadian Auto Workers. Thurs., Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. St-Laurent. Donation: \$4. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Toronto

After the Referendum: Will a 'no' vote lead to

economic collapse? Speaker: Susan Berman, Communist League, and member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 303A. Sat., Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. West. Donation: \$4. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

ICELAND

Reykjavik

Trade Unions: Their Past, Present, and Future. Sat., Oct. 31, 1:30 p.m. Klapparstíg 26. Tel: (91) 17513. Sponsor: Internationalist Forums Association.

Socialist election campaign rallies

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Sun., Nov. 1, dinner at 2 p.m., rally at 4 p.m. Speaker: Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate. 2552-B W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 rally. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Translation to Spanish.

San Francisco

Sat., Oct. 31, 6 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Sun., Nov. 1, 4 p.m. Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers presidential candidate. 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$5. Tel: (312) 829-6815.

IOWA

Des Moines

Sat., Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Estelle De-

sociation.

Free Trade and Protectionism. Sat., Nov. 7, 1:30 p.m. Klapparstíg 26. Tel: (91) 17513. Sponsor: Internationalist Forums Association.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

The Trial that Exposed the FBI. Speaker: Birgitta Isaksson, member Metalworkers Union. Sat., Oct. 31, 4 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

Bates, Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$5. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Sun., Nov. 1, 4 p.m. 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene Street. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Fri., Oct. 30, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

CANADA

Montreal

Sat., Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. St-Laurent. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Farm workers in Washington win strike

Continued from Page 16

wouldn't have to pay them anything. Many people thought everyone would be fired before the picking was over so we walked out."

Some of the workers reported other grievances taken up by the walkout. "The foreman fires people for no reason," said one, "If they want to fire someone they just say we're bruising the fruit." Others commented, "The foreman's wife is a checker and she insults and shouts at the Mexican workers for nothing," and "The day before the strike the foreman insulted one woman who works here. He called her 'stupid.' When we walked out he had to apologize to her."

On the morning of the strike the workers called the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS) union hall. "We all walked out to the highway but the boss refused to talk to us," said one worker. "Then Tomás [Villanueva, leader of the UFWWS] came from Granger and negotiated for us. We got a settlement."

"In the beginning the manager refused to negotiate with us," continued Villanueva. "He said he would only talk to the permanent workers. I told him 'that's fine. They're your apples on the trees, they're not mine.' I started back to the highway to tell the

brothers and sisters we'd have to set up picket lines. Before I got that far the boss called us back to talk."

The growers are more vulnerable to strikes this season. In past years, with the use of the chemical alar, growers were able to control the pace of maturity of the fruit. Since the banning of alar at the end of last year's harvest, and with unusually good weather, the apples this season are maturing at about the same time on all the farms. This has made for a shorter picking season and a shortage of labor on farms that pay the lowest wages.

As a result of the work stoppage all 25 workers were hired back on the spot and the manager agreed to immediately pay the bonus for the Reds and Goldens. In addition, workers won a dollar-per-bin pay raise and agreement that no wages would be withheld for the rest of the year.

"Yeah, this strike was great," said one of the leaders of the walkout. "The growers do the same thing with our bonuses every year. This time we all stood up together and that's what made it possible. I'm owed \$350.00 in bonuses and my wife about the same. We would have lost it all."

Several workers at the orchard wondered why they were confronted with such discrimination and abuse in the United

States. "We Mexicans come here to work," said one "We're just workers. So why do they always mistreat us so much?" "We're from Los Angeles," said another woman, "but there's no work there now. Especially after the riots. A lot of the factories and shops were burned down."

The resistance shown by the farm workers here is inspiring, and a good example of what's possible when workers stand up to the bosses.

Kathleen Wheeler is a member of United Transportation Union Local 845, and the Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Washington State.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Celebrate the Life of Pearl Chertov: 56 Years in the Struggle for Socialism. Pearl Chertov, a founding member and longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party, died October 15. Come and participate in this celebration of her life. Sunday, November 1, 3 p.m. Friends Center, Rufus Jones Room. 1501 Cherry St. Donation \$5. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

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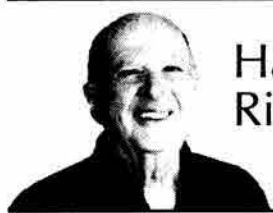
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Capitalism, it's wunnerful — In Tokyo, Nomura Securities, reportedly the world's biggest brokerage,



Harry Ring

said it will eliminate 2,000 jobs over the next five years. Most of those getting the heave-ho will be women. A spokesperson said women tend to quit sooner, usually after marriage. She said women employees work mainly as clerks or sales assistants.

The silver shroud — The number of people killed in job accidents declined 5 percent last year. An increase in safety measures? Nope. The National Safety Council says it's the recession. More people jobless means fewer on the job to get killed.

Theory and practice — A dispatch from Beijing said there was "one nagging problem" with the drive by the Chinese regime for a "socialist market economy" — "nobody knows what it means." But a Shanghai paper clears it up. Saluting veteran party boss Deng Xiaoping as architect of the plan, the paper recalled that in the 1920s in Paris, Deng had financed his

studies by opening the Chinese Beancurd, a small restaurant.

See, it's easy to make money — Four North Carolina banks reported a big jump in profits for the first half of the year. A local news report explained, "A steady decline in interest rates has been a major factor in the banks' skyrocketing income. Rates paid on deposits tend to go down more rapidly than rates charged for loans..."

And get a good return — "Study indicates well-off give most in politics" — News headline.

Green as a \$ — The Jungle Beach Corp. of Honolulu is offering

a line of all cork clothing. "Cork is a great product because it sheds from trees naturally," the company explains. "We have an overabundance of it." Which may also explain why it's so cheap — \$230 for a skirt, \$520 for a raincoat.

Royal roost — In England, for the first time, common folk will be able to sleep in a royal palace (at least as a registered guest.) At Hampton Court Palace, a kingsized castle no longer used as a royal residence, two large rooms will be made available for paying guests. How much per night? Like they say, "If you have to ask..."

Can't have guns and TP — A

Chicago reader says her son came home from school with the now customary list of classroom needs — pencils, papers, crayons, etc. And, also, toilet paper. She assumed that perhaps this was needed to wipe up spilled paint. No, her son assured, it was needed to serve the function for which it was designed.

Country modern — Country music is reported as increasingly focused on the current situation. Like, "Them politicians treat me like a mushroom, 'cuz they feed me bull and keep me in the blind," and Why is the rich man busy dancin' while the poor many pays the band? ... They're billin' me for killin' me."

Pro-choice activists counter antiabortion actions

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Hundreds of supporters of women's right to choose abortion participated in actions in several cities during the month of October, in response to demonstrations by anti-choice forces organized under the title "Chain of Life."

Nearly 1,200 people in New York attended an October 18 demonstration called by the New York Clinic Defense Task Force, a coalition of reproductive rights organizations in the New York City area. Following a rally, demonstrators marched down Fifth Avenue chanting "Abortion is health care; health care is a right!" Some 300 antiabortion protesters formed a "Chain of Life," shuffling their forces to make it appear that their line extended the full 25 blocks of the march route.

Two weeks earlier, on October 4, 700 pro-choice activists marched in Cincinnati to counter a similar "Chain of Life."

The same day more than 100 abortion rights supporters marched in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Despite being outnumbered 20-to-1 by "Chain of Life" participants, the pro-choice demonstration was enthusiastic and determined, marching behind the line of right-wingers and chanting, "Not the church, not the state, women must decide our fate."

The Williamsport demonstrators rallied in front of a shopping center in the middle of the antiabortion demonstration. Motorists honked in solidarity when passing the pro-choice group, many displaying a "thumbs up."

Discussion among the Pennsylvania activists centered on how to build more effective mobilizations to counter the anti-choice forces.

Interest in socialist campaign

The elections were another topic of discussion and debate at the abortion rights rallies. While many speakers at the New York action pointed to the election of "pro-choice" politicians as the way to defend abortion rights, a speaker from the Latina Women's Round Table said that "neither candidate [George Bush or William Clinton] offers a serious agenda on women's issues."

Speaking at the Cincinnati demonstration, Emily Wood, 18, and a Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, said, "Young people have to take a stand to defend

abortion rights at the clinic doors. These mobilizations, not relying on Democrats or Republicans, are the way forward." A socialist campaign table was crowded with young people coloring in their own stickers issued by the campaign that read, "Pro-Choice," "Defend Abortion Rights," "Stop Police Brutality," and "Support the socialist alternative to war, racism, and economic depression."

A campaign table set up at the New York rally by supporters of the Socialist Workers candidates also attracted attention. "I met your candidate Estelle in Houston and was really impressed," said one young woman, referring to the defense of abortion clinics in that city at the time of the Republican Party convention. Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president, joined the defense lines there.

Stepped up attacks on abortion rights

In Detroit, "Chain of Life" forces numbering several hundred lined a seven-mile stretch of Woodward Avenue October 4. There was no counterdemonstration.

Antiabortion forces in Michigan have stepped up their attacks on women's right to choose. In September attackers shot at, spray-painted, and stink-bombed — sprayed with a foul smelling acid — 15 clinics that provide abortions and related services.

More than a dozen gunshots were fired at a Planned Parenthood office in Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 30, before the office was opened for the day. No one was hurt. The facility provides counseling and medical services, but not abortions.

The same office was stink-bombed September 22. Eight Detroit area clinics were also stink-bombed within a week of each other. Thousands of dollars worth of equipment had to be thrown away, and at least one clinic closed for a day.

"These people are terrorists," stated Deborah Spicer, public affairs coordinator for the Planned Parenthood Centers of Western Michigan, to the *Detroit News*.

Laura Kamienski in Williamsport, Pennsylvania; Valerie Libby in Cincinnati; and Max Monclair in New York contributed to this article.

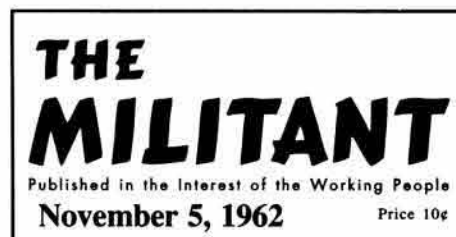


Militant/Valerie Libby

Cincinnati pro-choice demonstration, October 4.

- 30 AND 50 YEARS AGO -

The title of the 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO column has temporarily changed, in order to focus on the *Militant's* response to the Cuban missile crisis 30 years ago.



NEW YORK — Record-breaking demonstrations here over the weekend protested Kennedy's blockade of Cuba. On Saturday, Oct. 27, 2,000 persons picketed in Hammerskjold Plaza, near the United Nations, in defense of Cuba against this attack. Called by several organizations, including the Impromptu Committee to Halt World War III and the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, the picket-line was the biggest ever held at the UN in defense of the Cuban revolution.

The following day, some 10,000 persons demonstrated in the same place in opposition to the war threat. This peace walk and rally, called by a number of peace groups, was the largest demonstration ever held at the UN.

"Hands Off Cuba!"; "Respect Cuban Sovereignty!"; and "One Line Against the War!" were popular slogans on Saturday's picket-line.

A meeting sponsored by the N.Y. Student Peace Union, under the slogan "U.S. - U.S.S.R. - No War Over Cuba," was just ending when the "Hands-Off-Cuba" line began. The shouted slogan for unity brought the bulk of the students onto the picket-line despite objections of a few peace-group officials about association with persons supporting the Cuban Revolution.

The line was further swelled by a group which had marched downtown from an outdoor rally in Harlem sponsored by the Harlem Anti-Colonial Committee.

Sunday's demonstration was called after the Saturday one had been announced. It's

official slogans were designed to exclude "taking sides" with Cuba, but they did oppose the blockade. The mood of the great bulk of the crowd, however, was far more critical of the Kennedy administration than were the official placards. When speakers made points scoring Kennedy's policy they received loud applause.



November 7, 1942

The administration was reported to be moving closer to the regimentation of labor as President Roosevelt today studied recommendations submitted by the War Manpower Commission's labor-management committee early this week.

WMC Chairman Paul V. McNutt, who had previously called for the passage of a "national service" bill giving the WMC complete control of hiring and transferring labor, announced that he was fully satisfied with the recommendations of his labor-management committee.

Although the details of these recommendations have not been officially divulged as this issue goes to press, Washington newspapermen report that they include the following provision:

That President Roosevelt issue an executive order establishing the United States Employment Service, now under the jurisdiction of McNutt, as the sole agency for all employment. The only exceptions to this arrangement would be for union hiring halls considered "satisfactory" by the WMC.

Under this provision no worker would be able to change his job without the approval of the USES. No employer with a war contract would be able to hire workers without the approval of the USES.

A worker would still presumably be able to quit his job. But obviously, since the only way he could get a new one would be through the USES, his real right to leave the job would be considerably restricted.

Socialist candidate in Sweden

Continued from Page 5

a public meeting attended by 40 workers and students. She said, "James Warren has walked the picket line at Ravenswood and Caterpillar, and was part of the protests against the release of the cops who brutalized Rodney King."

The meeting had been built at eight high schools in Stockholm and two high schools in Uppsala, a city north of Stockholm. Four young supporters of Youth for Warren and DeBates made a leaflet to advertise the meeting, and distributed it at a demonstration of 15,000 protesting the government's austerity measures.

James Warren began by explaining, "The most important factor of life in this world is the reality of the depression that has already begun. This is the crisis of capitalism, of the market system. This is where capitalism ends up."

After an hour-long discussion about Stalinism and Cuba one student asked, "What can we do leaving this meeting?"

Warren summed up, "The Socialist Workers election campaign consists of both ideas and action. Join the activities, work with the supporters of Pathfinder and the Communist League in Sweden. Raise the perspective of this view of the world."

"This program is laid out in the pamphlet *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, and in the article 'Opening Guns of World War III' in the *New Internationalist* magazine. This is also what we try to capture in the *Militant*," Warren said. "We have to resist becoming what they are trying to force us to become. We have to fight against this. If not we will lose our humanity." Warren concluded with the call to, "Join the fight; build a different world."

The following day in central Stockholm a man walked up to the Pathfinder booktable and asked, "Do you have a book by the man who spoke at Farsta High School and was on television last night?" He left with a subscription to the *Militant*.

Vote Socialist Workers!

The elections in the United States on Tuesday, November 3, take place in the context of a deepening economic and social crisis in the United States and throughout the capitalist world. George Bush, William Clinton, and Ross Perot have put forward their answers to the crisis of the market system: further sacrifices by working people combined with a drive to war, which is always the ultimate answer of the imperialists to economic depression.

Each of the candidates of the capitalist parties urges a vote for them as the answer to this crisis, making hollow promises to improve the lot of "middle-class America" or the "American worker." The Socialist Workers campaign takes the opposite approach. Socialist candidates explain that the solution to these problems will not be found in being herded to the polls on November 3 to vote for a candidate who appears to be a "lesser evil" than their opponent. Nor will the solution be found by viewing the economic devastation and social instability of U.S. society as somehow separate from what is happening in the rest of the world.

James Warren, Estelle DeBates, and the other socialist candidates put forward a perspective of fighting outside of the electoral arena and independently of the twin parties of war, racism, and depression — the Democrats and

Republicans. They explain that world politics will continue to be shaped primarily by the deepening depression of the capitalist system; that the response of the capitalist ruling classes and their representatives will be to further attack the rights and living conditions of working people in every corner of the globe as they prepare for further wars; and that the only way for workers and young people to resist this attack is to unite in struggle, recognizing that we have common interests and a common enemy.

The socialist campaign rejects the attempts by the rulers to use nationalism to fool working people into thinking we have something in common with our oppressors. Whether this comes disguised as the "progressive" opposition of many union officials and others to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), or in its ultrarightist form, such as Patrick Buchanan's proposal to build a trench along the U.S.-Mexico border to prevent Mexican workers from entering the United States, the socialists have explained that the virus of national chauvinism must be combated if we are to prevent the rulers from dragging us into a third world war.

The *Militant* encourages its readers, and all working people who can vote in these elections, to vote for candidates who represent the interests of our class: the Socialist Workers candidates.

End embargo against Cuba

The so-called Cuban Democracy Act, signed into law by President Bush October 23, is an affront to the basic human rights of working people in Cuba and the world over. It adds to a 33-year campaign by the U.S. government to isolate and destroy the Cuban revolution. Ricardo Alarcón, Cuba's foreign minister, was correct when he told the United Nations General Assembly that the new law "grossly violates not only the most elemental rights of [the Cuban] people but also the sovereignty of other countries and the fundamental principles and norms of international law!"

The tightening of the embargo, like the blockade in general, was supported in the end by both Bush, and the Democratic presidential challenger, William Clinton. In fact, it is Clinton who took the lead in the anti-Cuba campaign, coming out in support of the Torricelli bill weeks before Bush. The U.S. embargo of Cuba has been carried out consistently by eight consecutive Democratic and Republican presidents, from Dwight Eisenhower to George Bush.

The bill was signed in spite of the opposition of a significant layer of the capitalist rulers both in the United States and around the world. Bush chose to sign the bill into law, putting the interests of a faction of the Republican party ahead of the interests and wishes of a big chunk of the wing of the capitalist class he represents. Several significant U.S. corporations and those in Canada, Britain,

and Mexico, resent the infringement on what they see as their prerogative to make use of markets wherever they can.

The U.S. ruling class would have working people believe that the embargo is a "peaceful" way to overthrow a brutal dictatorship and enable the Cuban people to find the road to democracy. But nothing could be further from the truth. The embargo is part of a violent campaign to punish the Cuban people for breaking free of imperialist domination over 30 years ago. The rulers hope to wipe the example of the Cuban revolution from the face of the earth.

In their efforts to accomplish this they have been anything but peaceful. The terrorist groups based in Florida that carry out armed assaults on Cuban territory gain encouragement from the bipartisan drive to strangle Cuba through measures such as the Torricelli bill.

This month marks 30 years since the Cuban "missile crisis." At that point, the U.S. rulers, preparing their war plans against the Cuban revolution, brought the world to the edge of nuclear catastrophe.

Only a year earlier, mercenaries, trained in the United States, and with the support of the U.S. government, had invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. Cuban volunteer troops repelled the invasion in 72 hours.

Working people and youth around the world should demand a repeal of the Torricelli bill and an end to the embargo of Cuba.

Miners in Britain continue fight

Within days of the October 13 announcement by British Coal that they intended to close 31 mines, with job losses of 30,000, the British government discovered that coal miners and other working people were not prepared to simply accept this assault on their livelihoods. Two major demonstrations in London, combined with smaller protests in cities and communities throughout the country, have caused the government to reconsider how far and how fast they can carry out these attacks.

But their determination to implement massive pit closures, throwing tens of thousands of miners out of work, was made clear on October 21. The government announced a delayed timetable for the closures, which they presented as a "concession."

The mass demonstrations held in Britain last week are examples of the kind of mobilizations that will be needed to prevent the government from imposing their proposals. These demonstrations were also powerful examples of the potential to win allies to this fight on a broad front. Trade unionists in industries such as rail that are closely related to the mines; workers in other industries and vocations, including hospital workers and teachers, who are also threatened by the government's austerity drive; and students were all represented in large numbers at the October 21 and 25 demonstrations in London.

Responding to the widespread anger among working people to the announced closures, a number of the major big-business daily newspapers in Britain came out in support of the two demonstrations last week. The form that this "support" for the miners takes, however, is to criticize

the Major government for being "unpatriotic" and to refer to the miners' struggle as a "fight for Britain," staving off "the danger of a pit-less Britain being held to ransom by foreign supplies." The leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has made pronouncements along these lines as well.

Militant supporters attending the October 21 march found that "what was noticeable at the demonstration was the lack of such sentiment being strongly expressed, either in slogans or banners." For example, miners wearing "British Coal" coats had crossed out the word "British" and written "Not Dole" under "Coal." ("Dole" is a term for public assistance in Britain).

To wage an effective fight it will be necessary for the miners in Britain to reach out to their brothers and sisters beyond the borders of the United Kingdom and to reject the idea that they should fight for "British interests." The bosses and their mouthpieces will always invoke the interests of the "nation" to try to gain acceptance for their attacks on workers' rights and working conditions. As workers, we have to recognize that our interests are irreconcilable with those of the exploiters; a miner in Britain has much more in common with workers in other parts of the world than they have with the ruling-class figures who speak of the "national interest."

Similarly, workers in other parts of the world, from miners in South Africa to General Motors workers in the United States, have a stake in this fight. We can play an important role by organizing through our unions to lend solidarity to the miners in Britain.

Who is the 'real enemy?'

On October 3, Sinead O'Connor, performing on the "Saturday Night Live" television show, tore up a photograph of Pope John Paul II. She had just finished singing "War," a song condemning war and racism, by Bob Marley.

After the song, O'Connor held up a photo of the Pope. "Fight the real enemy," the singer shouted as she tore up the picture.

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

O'Connor later said that her stunt was a protest against the policies of the Catholic Church and that she was trying to expose the church's role in child abuse, as well as its role in starvation, genocide, and other evils taking place around the world. O'Connor has also denounced the Catholic Church's stand on abortion and earlier this year led a pro-choice march in Dublin.

In an interview in the October 29 *Rolling Stone* magazine, O'Connor says that the Catholic Church is "running the world, they're running every government in the world. They are the World Bank. I don't have proof of that, but I know that it's true."

In a letter printed in the October 23 issue of the *Militant*, Norm Allen Jr. says that an earlier column in the newspaper "handle[d] Catholicism with kid gloves." Allen wrote, "It is just too bad that so few socialists today have the courage to oppose oppressive religious teachings in an uncompromising manner."

The Catholic Church hierarchy expresses reactionary political views, and they appeal to those who maintain the Catholic faith to also adopt these views. They defend the interests of the classes that accumulate wealth through the exploitation of the vast majority of the world's people. James P. Cannon, a past leader of the Socialist Workers Party, once said of the Catholic Church, "[It] exploits the religious sentiments of its communicants to support reaction and oppression everywhere."

Socialists, knowing this about the Catholic Church, also understand that all denominations of Protestantism, Islam, Judaism, as well as other religions, have leaders who just as aggressively defend the interests of the oppressor class.

Neither the Catholic Church, nor its central leader, the Pope, are the real enemy. It is the capitalist ruling classes that launch attacks on workers and farmers. It is the capitalist governments that lead the assault on abortion rights and other attacks on women, the attempts to crush democratic rights, and the drive to break down the living standards of the world's exploited masses. The capitalists, not the Catholic Church, are the real enemy.

Socialists consistently explain the role of religious leaders such as those in the Catholic Church hierarchy in supporting the ruling class in their assaults on workers. However, socialists also point out that these religious figures do not lead assaults on workers, but fall in behind the assaults that are led by the ruling rich and their representatives in government.

More important in understanding why O'Connor's stunt cannot be the approach of conscious fighters against capitalism is that she contributes to a confusion that rightist forces can take advantage of. A feature of the politics of depression, such as we are living in today, is an attempt by the capitalist class to blame other forces for the crisis they created. Anti-Catholic prejudice, like anti-Semitism, is used in the United States as a way to scapegoat other forces for the misery that workers are increasingly facing.

An important aspect of "being an American" is being a Protestant. U.S. rulers have historically sought to rally workers against those who follow other religions, including Catholics. Anti-Catholic prejudice in this country goes back at least as far as the early nineteenth century.

Examples of this include riots against Catholic immigrants, who were primarily Irish, in the mid-1800s, and the rise of the Know-Nothing movement before the Civil War, which had an anti-Catholic character. Catholics were a prominent enemy of the Ku Klux Klan until well into this century.

O'Connor also opened herself up to criticism from the right for her misoriented attack on the Pope. Right-wing figures like Patrick Buchanan can be expected to seize on O'Connor's action to further confuse the issue, defending the Pope and reinforcing his call for a "cultural war" against artists who disagree with his reactionary views.

It is important for socialists to differentiate between the leaders of the Catholic Church and its followers. We should also recognize that the Catholic Church holds less sway among lay Catholics than ever before. This is evidenced by growing numbers of Catholics who are openly expressing views in contradiction with the church leadership. This is important for those looking for other forces to draw into the fight against the bosses' assault on working people.

—DEREK BRACEY

Alaska Airline workers rally against concessions

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

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers

something about it."

The picket line lasted more than over two hours in freezing, windy weather. Workers yelled and cheered, urging passing car and truck drivers to "honk for unions." Many did.

One older woman, an aircraft

ON THE PICKET LINE

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 work place or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that too.

"This is what it's all about," explained an Alaska Airlines mechanic as he pointed to his sign. "No wage increase in seven years," it read. "We say: 'No more concessions at Alaska.'" He was one of nearly 100 Alaska workers and supporters who turned out for a noisy informational picket line at Anchorage International Airport October 14. It was the first such protest in Anchorage, but one of several such actions Alaska Airlines workers have held up and down the West Coast as they face big concession demands from the airline bosses. The rally received widespread coverage in newspapers and on radio and TV throughout the state.

Last week a federal mediator declared an impasse in negotiations between Alaska and the International Association of Machinists (IAM) on a new contract for mechanics, ramp, and other related workers. A 30-day cooling off period began, which ends November 9. Under terms of the Railway Labor Act, which governs airline labor talks, the current contract will then be suspended, the company may attempt to impose its demands unilaterally, and the IAM-organized workers will be free to strike.

The Machinists' union represents more than 3,000 workers at Alaska, including 400 in Anchorage. For many of those on the picket line it was their first time at such a protest.

"I didn't know if I should come here," one reservation agent said. "But our shop steward explained that we have a right to protest. Besides, we may lose our jobs anyway and it's better to try to do

cleaner, kept looking at her watch as she waved a sign at passing cars. "Our supervisor should be driving by soon," she explained, "and I want to be sure he sees me here in the front line."

Further rallies have been scheduled for Seattle, Juneau, Alaska, and Portland, Oregon.

Fischer meat-packers continue protests

"We're back, but they're treating us like dogs," said Beverly Johnson a member of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 227 who has worked 12 years at the Fischer Packing Co. in Louisville, Kentucky. "They're trying to implement their concessions contract, and they won't let the union reps do their job."

Johnson was one of about 50 members of UFCW Local 227 who traveled from Louisville to Lexington, Kentucky, September 26 to protest in front of a Randall market as part of their continued boycott of Fischer products.

UFCW members struck Fischer Packing May 8 when the company demanded 27 takeaways in the new contract. The workers voted to return to work in September hoping that a recent ruling by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) would allow them to go back under provisions of the old contract while a new one was negotiated.

At the Lexington protest, workers who had been back on the job for a week explained what they faced. Exie Anderson, a Fischer employee for 18 years, said, "They kept those extra security guards on the job, and the scabs are still in the plant and they're making us train them."

When Cheryl Ernsperger returned to her department, the boss posted a sign that said, "Under your new contract relief breaks are no longer recognized."

"If you're not back under a recent contract, you don't feel like being there," explained James



Militant/Valerie Libby

Fischer meat-packers and supporters rally for a decent contract

Bright, who has worked at Fischer for more than 20 years. "Things have been going downhill the last 10 or 15 years. I'm making \$2.50 less an hour now than 10 years ago. Whatever it takes to get a contract, we'll do it."

Local 227 members were joined by a dozen Lexington area unionists. They passed out boycott flyers and circled the grocery with a protest march before returning to Louisville.

Pennsylvania miners face mine shutdown

Shannopin Mining Co. in southwestern Pennsylvania filed for bankruptcy protection from creditors in September 1991. Miners' medical coverage ended in May of that year. Shannopin never told the miners and their families they were without coverage.

"There were around 30 people easily that were over \$10,000 (in medical bills)," Leonard Novak, president of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 6159, told the *Greene County Observer-Reporter*.

Paul Peruzzi, a 47-year-old miner, was stuck with more than \$30,000 in bills from medical problems faced by his wife from a spinal cord injury seven years earlier.

Shannopin continued to operate the mine under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection for 10 or 11 months.

On July 17, when Shannopin's 225 miners tried to cash their pay-

roll checks, they were told the company did not have funds to cover them. The miners walked off the job in protest the following day.

The miners returned to work July 21, after being assured they would be paid for their work in the future. To this day miners are still owed half their July 17 paychecks.

The last day of work for the miners was July 24. They took their two-week vacation and are now drawing unemployment. Faced with the alternative of striking, UMWA Local 6159 opted to work with Shannopin's creditors and the federal bankruptcy court to recruit a new buyer for the mine.

On August 18 a federal judge in Pittsburgh ordered Shannopin Mining Co. into Chapter 7 liquidation bankruptcy, requiring the sale of the company's assets.

On October 1, Howley Resources Inc. put down \$120,000 to secure its exclusive option to purchase the mine for \$6 million.

The ordeal is far from over for miners and their families. Howley Resources Inc. has made contradictory statements, threatening a 30 percent cutback on maintenance employees while promising to save all 225 jobs and have everyone back mining coal by Christmas.

British Ford workers oppose pay freeze

"We're not going to be pushed down anymore," was a typical

comment as Ford car workers in Dagenham, London, left a mass union meeting October 1.

Workers at Ford plants throughout the country rejected a company-demanded wage freeze and a 40 percent cut in layoff pay. The company announced September 24 that 1,487 jobs out of Ford's 37,200 British work force would have to be cut. Ford also threatened that if workers don't accept the wage freeze and cut in layoff pay then it will impose the redundancies on a compulsory basis, instead of asking for volunteers.

Ford says it will ignore previously agreed upon 'first in, last out' procedures for selection of those who are to be laid off.

"A wage freeze is bad enough, but to have our layoff pay cut by 40 percent when most of us are already only working a three or four day week is out of order," one Dagenham worker said angrily. This car plant, with more than 10,000 workers, is Britain's largest factory.

John, an assembly line worker at Dagenham explained, "The company is on a collision course with us, once you start moving into the ball game of concessionary bargaining you're on dodgy ground, we can't let them get away with it."

In a statement issued by union leaders representing Ford workers across Britain, Andy Richards from Bridgend, South Wales, said, "We will vigorously oppose redundancies, if it results in industrial action, so be it."

The *London Evening Standard* reported that Ford has opened a similar attack on its 8,000 workers in Germany. The Ford plant in Cologne has been working short time, which amounts to an 8 percent loss in pay.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Harvey McArthur, member of United Transportation Union Local 845 in Seattle; Valerie Libby, member of United Auto Workers Local 647 in Cincinnati; Chris Rayson, member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 622 in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania; Ken Brown, member of United Mine Workers of America Local 6310 at the New Warwick mine near Davistown, Pennsylvania; and Pete Clifford, member of Transport and General Workers Union Branch 11530 at G.E. Lighting in Enfield, London.

LETTERS

USAir contract

As a family member of a striking USAir mechanic, I had the opportunity to attend one of the last contract meetings before the settlement. What I learned from this meeting is just how deeply the union bureaucracy is in collabora-

tion with the capitalist class. This meeting was led by one of the IAM [International Association of Machinists] representatives saying that after intense negotiation the contract which was being proposed was the absolute best contract that the union could get and that it was the International's recommendation to vote yes.

If this recommendation weren't bad enough, the same union official went on to sell the contract to the rank and file membership with great zeal. On at least three occasions that I remember, he stated as a matter of fact that this contract would be ratified and told workers when to report back to work.

Many of the workers were very angry at the meeting and only got angrier as each concession was described. One worker pointed out that this contract was the same contract that the union told them to strike over only a week ago. A former Eastern Airlines worker pointed out that this contract was

worse than those which were proposed by Eastern and that this was exactly how the whole battle at Eastern began.

Laura Kamienski
Sunbury, Pennsylvania

Capitalist trade accord

In setting the framework of its analysis of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the *Militant* quotes Frederick Engels: "The question of Free Trade or Protection moves entirely within the bounds of the present system of capitalist production and has therefore no direct interest for us as Socialists who want to do away with that system." But is that the only question raised by NAFTA?

A main purpose of NAFTA, of course, is creating a protected trading bloc against Europe and Japan. Through the accord, Canadian and U.S. imperialism consolidate privileged access to the exploitation of Mexican labor, resources, and mar-

kets. But protectionist measures *per se* are not the only way the agreement serves U.S. and Canadian capitalists in pursuing competitive advantage over their overseas rivals.

NAFTA is also an instrument of capitalist restructuring, to the mutual advantage of the U.S. and Canadian ruling classes in waging international trade warfare. A main aim of the agreement is creating leaner, meaner, more specialized and concentrated capitalist economies on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border.

This restructuring combines with the general capitalist disorder in exacerbating the jobs crisis. It is linked to austerity measures aimed at driving down capitalist overhead costs entailed in social programs. NAFTA will serve as a club in driving down wage rates in both the U.S. and Canada.

In short, NAFTA is an instrument for intensifying the overall rate of labor exploitation within the North American trading area. It is an in-

tegral part of the general capitalist assault on workers' rights and living standards.

That reality is the basis of opposition to the capitalist "trade" accord from the standpoint of socialist internationalism — advanced, for example, by promoting an international fight for a shorter work week without lost pay. Denying the anti-working-class repercussions of NAFTA, on the other hand, impairs socialists' credibility in combating the deadend protectionist "alternative" advanced by trade union bureaucrats.

Howard Brown
Rosetown, Saskatchewan, Canada

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.

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Canada auto workers: 'We proved you could fight and win even in a recession'

BY SUSAN BERMAN

INGERSOLL, Ontario — "Our union was born today." "It's a good step in the right direction." "I'm really pleased with what we won." These were some of the comments by CAMI workers, members of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 88, after accepting by a 94 percent vote a new contract offer October 18. The vote ended a five-week strike against CAMI, a joint venture by General Motors and Suzuki. The 2,100 workers at CAMI fought to win parity on wages, working conditions, and contract language with CAW members working at the Big Three auto companies — Ford, Chrysler, and General Motors.

"This is a step in the right direction, especially for CAMI, because they were so adamant about keeping us behind the Big Three," explained union member Debbie Graves. Through the strike workers were able to make important advances, particularly on working conditions, which were at the heart of the fight.

When CAMI was set up in 1989, CAW officials accepted a contract inferior to other auto workers. Wages were \$4 below the standard, closing to \$1 below standard in the last year of the contract. The new three-year contract includes wage increases of \$.59, \$.37, and \$.66, plus rolled-in cost-of-living allowance (COLA) increases equal to the standard COLA at General Motors. In addition, they won 108 additional hours of paid time off, including parity with other auto workers on holidays and vacation.

The strike won some concessions on work organization, which was a central question in the strike. A pool of replacement workers has been established to fill in for long and short-term absences. CAMI is organized around the "team concept," which aims at forcing speed-up and self-policing by workers. Teams are responsible for all the work in their areas. Before the strike, if someone was out sick the team was responsible for picking up the slack. This put a lot of pressure on workers to come to work even if they were sick or injured. As a result, the injury rate at CAMI is above the industry standard. Workers also felt they gained through winning elected team leaders.

Defense of seniority

Another big issue in the strike was seniority. The new contract includes a job posting clause. Previously, unlike in other auto plants, there were no postings for new job assignments, leaving placement up to the bosses' discretion. As one striker described it, "job assignments were used like the carrot and the stick." In addition, layoffs will now be done by seniority. Before, workers could be laid off out of seniority for up to 60 days.

Other gains made in the contract include increased supplemental pay during layoffs, health coverage (including health care and insurance payment for same-sex partners); increased pension benefits; and a guarantee of no mandatory drug testing.

Workers scored a small step for human dignity by winning the right to wear their own sweatshirts instead of CAMI uniforms. "We made some major gains," said Randy Doddman in an interview. "We got a lot of flack from the *Woodstock Sentinel*, and some other people and businesses for going out on strike. They said 'There go those CAMI workers, they don't think auto workers make enough money.' They didn't understand what we were fighting for."

"Some people said, 'why are you doing this? This is a recession. You can't bargain in a recession,'" said Debbie Graves. "But the big corporations keep making money and it's the little people that end up losing. We proved you could fight and win something even in a recession."

This fight is another setback for General Motors in its offensive to restructure GM, which has announced plans to cut 74,000 jobs in order to reverse its plummeting prof-

its. In face of strikes in Lansing, Michigan, and Lordstown, Ohio, and a threatened walkout in Anderson, Indiana, by United Auto Workers (UAW) members fighting against job cuts, contracting out, and worsening working conditions, General Motors temporarily backed down on some of its immediate layoff plans.

Last week, GM board members issued a warning to General Motors Chairman Robert Stempel to get tough with the UAW or risk losing his job by the end of the year. Stempel was rushed to the hospital shortly after the warning was issued.

Official blames Suzuki

In *Contact*, the CAW officials' newsletter, the union's national president Buzz Hargrove puts the blame for the strike on Suzuki, not GM. "Suzuki has to take responsibility for a strike that's about equality," he explains. In a letter to Suzuki chairman Osamu Suzuki, Hargrove states, "In evaluating its decision to come to Canada, CAMI must certainly have recognized the very real possibility that it would become 'Canadianized' and come close to the industry pattern."

According to the October 15 *Globe and Mail*, Suzuki replied that former CAW president Robert White "told me he would be flexible in application of CAW national conditions if Suzuki chose Canada as the loca-

tion of its small car plant," and on that basis Suzuki came to Canada and opened the plant recognizing the CAW.

Many auto workers discount the idea that this was a strike "made in Japan." "General Motors is one of the biggest corporations in the world. You can't tell me they're going to let Suzuki call the shots," expressed Graves. Other workers on the picket line explained that the company mostly manufactures GM cars, and most top-level management has been imported from throughout the GM system.

Auto workers here saw the CAMI strike as the warm-up for the 1993 contract negotiations at the Big Three. "They were trying to set the precedent for what they were going to bargain with everybody else," Graves explained. The new CAMI contract maintains a two-year lag in wages with the other auto contracts. "We hope this won't have a bad effect on what other auto workers will be fighting for next year," expressed Doddman.

Solidarity from other unions

CAW Local 88 was able to win solidarity from auto workers and other unionists during the course of the strike. Rail workers were ordered to run trains into the plant to pick up autos ready for shipping. They called the CAW to make sure there were pickets on the rail lines, and refused to run

the trains. In one case, a rail superintendent was brought in from Toronto to make sure the rail workers did the run. They refused, citing the stipulation in their rule book that says they can refuse unsafe work.

Auto workers from several plants attended a solidarity rally and a family day organized at CAMI during the course of the strike. CAW local presidents from GM plants throughout Ontario addressed the Family Day Rally. Also speaking was the president of the Diamond Star UAW local in Illinois.

Many CAW members expressed the idea that one of the main things they won in the strike was a union. For many, this was their first strike experience. Sixty CAW Local 88 members had joined picket lines of Cobi Foods workers, organized by the Teamsters, just weeks before their own strike. At CAMI, a plant with a young workforce where several couples work at the same plant, many strikers felt the impact of the walkout after two weeks. The CAW was able to quickly organize a food bank to help out its members.

"They were trying to starve us out and break us," explained Graves. "I'm very proud that we were able to stand up to them. They talk about team concept. Well, I think that this strike showed there's one big team and that's CAW 88."

Washington farm workers win strike

BY KATHLEEN WHEELER

MATTAWA, Washington — In a recent one-day strike, workers at the Green Acres apple orchard in the Yakima Valley successfully defended their jobs and wages against the farm owners' demands. Green Acres, which is owned by Seafirst Bank, is one of the largest orchards in the state. It covers 1,900 acres and employs 450 workers.

Farm workers in the Valley are paid between \$7.50 and \$16.00 per bin to pick apples. Typically, part of these wages is held back by the grower until each crop is picked, and then paid back to the workers in a lump sum "bonus" at the end of the harvest.

"The company told us we would get our bonus after the Reds and Goldens [Delicious] were picked, but they didn't pay us anything," one worker at the farm said in an interview. "They demanded that we finish the harvest, stay and pick the Criterions and Granny Smiths before they'd pay the bonus. Then they fired twenty-five workers so they

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Militant/Harvey McArthur

Farm workers talk to *Militant* reporter Kathleen Wheeler, following strike.

Monfort packinghouse workers must now produce immigration documents to keep jobs

BY CLEVE ANDREW PULLEY

DES MOINES, Iowa — In the wake of the largest immigration raid and deportation at a U.S. plant in recent time, Monfort packinghouse in Grand Island, Nebraska, announced that it had completed redocumentation of its work force.

It has forced the more than 1,300 meatpackers who were left working there after the September 22 raid to produce papers proving their citizenship or permission to work in the United States. Monfort is forcing workers to undergo redocumentation at other plants as well. Officials at the Monfort plant in Des Moines have posted notices, which say that every worker hired after November 6, 1986, will be called into the office to show their documents.

Of the 307 Mexican and other Latin American immigrants arrested in the September 22 raid, 285 "chose voluntary depor-

tation," according to the *Grand Island Independent*. The alternative was to spend two months in a U.S. jail waiting for a hearing with an uncertain outcome.

Many workers who were deported have made their way back to Grand Island to rejoin their families. Some are married to U.S. citizens or had already applied for permission to work.

The Monfort plant was seized by more than 200 INS and other cops armed with M-16s and attack dogs. The plant was occupied for more than three hours. While they abused the entire work force, the Mexican and Chicano workers — U.S. born persons of Mexican descent — got the worst treatment.

Pablo Ramírez was held to the floor handcuffed, with a rifle to his head and a dog standing over him. He wasn't deported, but was fired. He said that he and his wife have

retained a lawyer.

The raid angered many in the community. Forty to fifty attended two meetings to protest, "whites, Mexicans and Chicanos," according to Yolanda Chávez-Nuncio.

Workers said the effort to organize a union in the plant continues. Pam Nelson, an organizer for the United Food and Commercial Workers union, said the organizing drive is definitely continuing and is concentrating on helping fired workers get their checks.

Monfort has been advertising for workers to replace those deported and fired. In three weeks, only three people applied, a company source in Des Moines stated. A starting wage of \$7.50 instead of \$6 is now being offered.

Many workers at the Des Moines plant are worried that the redocumentation will mean people will be fired just as the weather has turned cold, leaving people with no money to pay rent or to move elsewhere.