Support striking coal miners!

Now is the time for working people and youth, in the United States and around the world, to throw their weight behind the striking coal miners. The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) fight against the Dupont Coal Operators Association is one of the most important labor battles taking place today. The stakes are high for all working people.

The decision by the UMWA to call an

UMWA strike expands in W. Virginia, Pennsylvania

BY STU SINGER

The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) further expanded this year's second round of coal mine strikes, which began May 10, by calling out another 2,200 miners at midday May 24. The miners joined the 4,500 already on strike in Illinois, Indiana, and southern West Virginia. The strike is winning significant support from other unions.

The expansion of the strike for the third week in a row involves miners from Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia for the first time, and begins to target Consol Energy Inc. This company, owned jointly by Du Pont Co. and Rheinbraun A.G. of Germany, is the second-largest U.S. coal producer. Peabody Holdings Co., which is owned by the British multinational company Hanson PLC and is the nation's largest coal producer, was struck in February during the first round of the miners' battle for a new contract.

Consol chief executive officer B. R. Brown is the chief negotiator for the Birming­ ham, Alabama-based Coal Operators Association (BCOA), the main coal-industry bargaining group, which includes 12 companies em­ ploying 48,000 UMW miners. The BCOA contract set the pattern for many other union contracts with smaller employers.

The new strikers work at Consol mines as well as mines owned by Rochester and Pitts­ burgh Coal Co. and CLI Corp. In the first week of the strike, miners walked out at eight mines in Illinois and two in Indiana owned by Ziegler Coal Holding Co., Arch Mineral Corp., and Amax Coal Industries, Inc.

The following week the strike expanded to include 2,200 miners on maintenance shop in Illinois and to 18 other mines owned by Arch and Ashland Coal Co. in southern West Virginia.

In an important example of solidarity, three strikers from southern Illinois were invited to speak at a two United Steelworkers of America (USWA) local union meetings in St. Louis. The miners urged steelworkers to come and join the picket lines to show their support for the strike.

Three UMWA strikers from the Arch Minerals Captain mine and the Old Ben Group in Iowa, reported that his local passed a motion for a solidarity picnic on May 29 in Mason City, Pennsylvania.

A rally to support the strike took place in Ogae, West Virginia, May 26. More than 400 miners attended. UMWA president Richard Trumka addressed the assembled workers.

B. R. Brown continued, "There are a few miners out now," Trumka said. "If the operators don't come to their senses, before this is over every coal miner will be on the picket line," he added to loud cheers from the crowd. "We did everything possible to avoid this strike. But if it's a fight they want, it's a fight they'll get."

Trumka said the UAW has provided a $15 million line of credit to the miners' strike fund and other unions are following suit. The UMWA has the full backing of the AFL-CIO, he added. Miners announced at a rally that the union will hold a solidarity picnic on May 29 in Mason City, Pennsylvania.

Herald Riegler, vice-president of United Auto Workers Local 270 in Des Moines, Iowa, reported that his local passed a motion to invite a UMWA speaker to Des Moines. UAW members are organizing collections for the striking miners.

International solidarity is also beginning to mount. The International Miners Organized

Conflict with rivals in Europe slows U.S. drive to intervene in Yugoslavia

BY GEORGE FYSON

Backing away from its preferred plan for taking the initiative on military intervention in Bosnia, the U.S. government has reluctantly endorsed Secretary of State Warren Christopher's proposal to create a UN-enforced "safe havens." West Virginia. May 26. More than 400 miners attended. UMWA president Richard Trumka addressed the assembled workers.

BY LUKO WILLMS

FRANKFURT, Germany—Steelwork­ ers in eastern Germany, on strike for three weeks, voted May 24—25 to accept an agreement that includes an extra bonus payment and a time schedule to reach wage equality with workers in western Germany.

The steel agreement is slightly better than a pact signed the week before by metal­ workers. Both the steelworkers and the metal­ workers are members of the same union, IG Metall.

The-three-week strike by 40,000 workers in eastern Germany followed a March 26 rally of 70,000 workers in Bonn and demon­ strations with warning strikes of more than 300,000 in both regions.

The strike was a response to the employ­ ees' unilateral decision to scrap a 1991 agreement that promised a 26 percent pay increase, effective April 1, 1993, and full equalization of wages with the west by 1994. Before the strike began, workers in the metal industry in eastern Germany had earned 50-70 percent of the wages of their counterparts in the west.

In some plants in the Berlin area there are actually two wage rates within the same factory. Workers coming from west Berlin are under the western German contract, while workers living in east Berlin and the surrounding area are paid by the eastern contract.

This was the first strike by workers in eastern Germany in 68 years. The negotiations with the steel bosses resumed May 22, and several hundred workers from the EKO steel plant demonstrated during this last day of talks. Horst Wagner, the secre­ tary for the IG Metall in a Brandenburg district, announced the agreement early the next morning.

Under the new pact, the steelworkers' pay will go from 60 percent to 80 percent of western German steelworkers' wages by June 1, 1993, 90 percent by October 1994.
Polish union threatens strike

Workers in Poland are fighting austerity measures the government is trying to implement in an attempt to integrate the country's economy into the world capitalist market. Solidarity, the main union federation, is threatening to expand a strike by teachers and health-care workers into a general strike if its demands for wage increases are not met. Rail workers are also discussing strikes.

Solidarity representatives say they will couple the strike with a parliamentary vote of no confidence in the coalition government headed by Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka. Suchocka said the government cannot meet workers' demands because of strict budgetary restraints imposed on it by the International Monetary Fund.

Romanian steelworkers strike

An estimated 30,000 Romanian steelworkers are striking for an increase in wages to match the rise in prices. Metrom steel trade union officials said all 80,000 members are prepared to strike if no agreement is reached. The union organizes 30 percent of the country's steelworkers.

The workers are asking employers for a minimum monthly wage of 50,000 lei ($US850) for skilled workers, up from the current average of 34,000 lei. In early May, 6 million public sector workers went on strike in February after facing a strike. Their wages rose from 17,660 lei to 28,300 lei.

Prices for necessities like heat, bread, milk, water, and public transportation are expected to rise 800 percent since price breaks, especially to the middle class, in a referendum last June. This time the government cannot meet workers' demands because of the strict budgetary restraints imposed on it by the International Monetary Fund.

The Militant

The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo (May Square) launched an international campaign May 6 to free 25 political prisoners. The activists were jailed after attempting to prevent the failed military coup by rightist officers in 1989 at the La Tablada military base in Argentina. The banner in the picture above, taken at a meeting in the headquarters of the organization May 6, reads: "Amnesty now for the 25 Argentinian political prisoners."
Michigan ruling defends ‘right to die with dignity’

BY SARA LOBMAN

On May 20, Michigan judge Cynthia Stephens overturned a law that left terminally ill consenting adults without the right to decide how and when to end their lives. Having the right to decide how to spend one’s life, Stephens ruled, is something that working people should demand, not the same as supporting the right to keep terminally ill patients, or those in a vegetative state or an irreversible coma, alive for months or even years. Machines can duplicate many functions that the body is no longer able to carry out — breathing, circulating blood, disposing of waste products.

As a result of these advances, a growing number of people have seen terminally ill family members or friends go through prolonged, painful, and sometimes final months of life. This has brought about a change of thinking about the right of seriously ill individuals to “die with dignity” at the time and place of their choosing.

In many states, “Living Wills” are accepted as legal documents that stipulate what medical procedures should, or should not, be performed in certain circumstances. But the right to end one’s own life, rather than just the right to refuse treatment, is something that working people should also demand.

Jeffries’s stance, in fact, deepens the divide between those who are volunteering their services to defend the rights of others while working people and their communities are attacked by the police. The students have found several lawyers who are volunteering their services to defend the rights of the students who are being attacked by the police.

BY SHEERIE LOVE AND KEN RILEY

LOS ANGELES — At the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), students are waging a determined struggle against a racial and cultural separatist program that threatens to give Chicano studies full departmental status. Students, faculty, and others have pressed for establishment of such a department for the last 25 years.

UCLA protests began with a march of several hundred on the faculty center May 11. When they were denied entrance, about 80 of them made their way inside and began a sit-in.

Some 200 Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) officers in full riot gear were called in to back up the university police. The cops arrested 83 protesters on felony vandalism charges and carted them off to the county jail. Bail was set at $10,000 each. Later these charges were dropped to misdemeanor trespassing for all but one, although campus officials are planning to file additional charges.

Windows were broken and vandalized at the faculty center during the protests. School officials claim that the cost of the destruction was more than $50,000. While students admit that there was some damage, most say that the administration is exaggerating.

There have been no reports of protesters against budget cuts in the California university system over the last six months. A demonstration organized for the next day to protest the cuts in education funding also became a protest for demanding a Chicano studies department.

The students have found several lawyers who are volunteering their services to defend the students who are being attacked by the police.

BY TONY PRINCE

NEW YORK — A federal jury in New York recently ordered officials of the City University of New York (CUNY) to pay Prof. Leonard Jeffries $400,000 in damages for racial and sexual harassment.

Jeffries took legal action after he said Blacks are part of the “property” of white intellectual property owners.

New York college ordered to pay damages to professor disciplined for anti-Semitic speech

City College professor Leonard Jeffries taking on the wealthy few who run the United States and the capitalist system that enriches them.

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City College professor Leonard Jeffries taking on the wealthy few who run the United States and the capitalist system that enriches them.
Judge excluded key evidence from trial of framed-up activist

BY NAOMI CRAINE

(Fourth in a series)

"Mark Curtis will get that trial," said Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, at a rally in Des Moines, Iowa, before the trial of the young union activist, "The courtroom on [Sept. 7, 1988], is going to be where the truth is going to be found."

Judge excluded key evidence from the trial of Mark Curtis, an Iowa activist who is serving a 25-year sentence in an Iowa prison on trumped-up rape charges. 71 pp., $4.95. Order from Pathfinder, 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311. Phone (515) 246-1695. Bulk quantities are available. Payments should accompany orders. Des Moines cop Joseph Gonzalez (left) testified against Mark Curtis Sept. 7, 1988. Judge Harry Perkins (right) refused to allow evidence that Gonzalez had been suspended from the police force for brutality and lying to cover up his actions.

"No one is obliged to prove innocence" At the defense rally on the eve of Curtis's trial, Barnes discussed some of the key issues in the case with the more than 400 people present.

"If the world is obliged to prove Mark Curtis's innocence," he said, "The presumption of innocence has taken hundreds of years to get to that point. It is not a legal fiction. It is not something that you have the right to pick or choose, depending on how you like to view it, depending on the individual involved.

"This is very recent in human history," Barnes went on. "It took us many years to take it for granted, because the Des Moines police department, Polk County prosecutor, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the liberal newspapers, all are trying to take it away. Not only from Mark, but from society as a whole.

"It's the presumption of guilt which dominates in the 'democratic' United States," he explained. "So much so that anyone who defends a war against the police force for brutalizing suspects and lying to cover up his actions.

Relevant testimony excluded At the prosecutor's request, Judge Harry Perkins ruled before the trial that any testimony that could help prove Mark Curtis's innocence, as stated by the Des Moines police was "irrelevant and immaterial," and could not be presented in the trial. Barnes pointed out that the judge claimed that, because the two cops who assaulted him at the police station were not the main police officer, they had nothing to do with the rape charges. But what happened at the Des Moines City Jail on March 4, 1988, in the hours after Curtis's arrest is key to understanding the facts of the case. During the pretrial motions defense lawyer Mark Pennington explained why testimony regarding the beating was excluded.

"Certainly we have a right to present evidence of how he was held in the defense. But in this case it is certainly that Mark Curtis is going to testify that he was placed in an intimidating, threatening position by a Des Moines police officer.

"Even though the fight and the beating that he was at the police station, the place where the police department was by officers other than [arresting officer] Joseph Gonzalez," Pennington went on, "I still think it is relevant to show the institutional bias towards Mark Curtis. If the jury is going to have to deliberate and weight whether or not there was any chance that a Des Moines police officer was involved, they cannot do it in an incriminating position, shouldn't they then have the opportunity to listen to other evidence of institutional bias against Mr. Curtis, and the fact that he was beaten up at the police station afterward.

It was actually while they were hitting him with their nightsticks that the cops told him why they were arresting him. They accused him of being a 'Mexican-lover' and a "colored lover." This statement made it clear that the cops knew about Mark Curtis' political activities and were victimizing him because of it.

More and more, after shattering his cheekbone and beating him bloody, the cops charged the political activist with two counts of assaulting a police officer. This issue was scheduled to be tried separately a month after the rape and burglary charges, a fact that Thune pointed to in arguing that the beating was irrelevant.

Another key piece of evidence withheld at the second trial never took place because the government dropped the charges. In 1992 Curtis won a civil rights lawsuit against the cops who beat him, and which included damages. That victory will be the topic of a later article in this series.

FBI files not allowed as evidence

Another key piece of evidence withheld from the jury was the fact that Mark Curtis's name appeared in FBI files compiled during his leadership roles in the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES). Curtis was listed by the FBI as one of three people "acting in the leadership roles in the Birmingham," Alabama, chapter of CISPES in the early 1980s. Pennington argued in the pretrial hearing that the judge should "have the right to know, at least, why the FBI is on his case in the first place, and what Mark Curtis is important enough to spend time, energy, and effort to track his whereabouts and what he is doing. If there is nothing to be gained, he would have no legal right to present that.

"If there is a reasonable doubt, during deliberations, that he had any chance that a Des Moines police officer was involved, they can't do it in an incriminating position by the police department was by officers other than [arresting officer] Joseph Gonzalez," Pennington continued.

Curtis's conviction pointed out, "Such knowledge is in no way disqualified Mr. Garcia from service upon the jury, nor could it constitute bias or prejudice to either the State of Iowa or the Defendant. The removal of James Garcia was without cause, and the removal of the only juror with a Mexican-American background was an act in an apparent cross-section of the community and denied his right to a fair and impartial trial.

"Curtis is not guilty"

In an affidavit filed several weeks after the verdict, Bill McArthur, the co-counsel of Curtis, said that because Curtis was not a "collaborator" as a juror in the case, she had not been able to present any evidence in the trial — the United Mexican-American Community and the Center for Constitutional Rights, the Connecticut Defender Society.

Curtis's fight for justice; scenes from the trial; and interviews with Curtis, his wife Kate Rolfs, and others. This video is available for the cost of reproduction and shipping. $20 Beta or PAL; $15 VHS.

The Militant/Milenio Hayes

"We are going to try an assault on a person that says he committed it, and a barnstormer attack on a trial that's the trial we're having. We're not going to be taking the FBI or Mark Curtis for other things that he may or may not have done.

Throughout the trial Pennington stood by his policy of ruling out evidence demonstrating that a frame-up by the Des Moines police was possible during cross-examination. Pennington asked police officer Gonzalez, who claimed he caught Curtis with his pants down in the middle of assaulting the 15-year-old woman, if he had once been suspended for "lying about the details of that incident," as his lawyer current while he was a police officer for the City of Des Moines.

Before the cops could answer, Thune objected and asked to discuss the matter in the judge's chambers. Outside the presence of the jury, Pennington decided to present the objection on the grounds of relevancy. I think it just opens up a whole Pandora's box of relevant issues.

Cop suspended for felony

At Pennington's request, Gonzalez was questioned in the judge's chambers for appellate purposes. He confirmed that he had been suspended for felony 10 years earlier, and had claimed to work as a "colored lover." This statement made it clear that the cops knew about Mark Curtis' political activities and were victimizing him because of it.

Stand of Justice

On Tuesday, September 7, Des Moines daily newspaper 
Continued on next page
**FBI is mortal enemy of democratic rights**


**BY MARK CURTIS**

Iowa City, Iowa — The image projected in the media of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is that of an agency combative and relentless in its pursuit of political terrorism. News accounts of the FBI investigating the World Trade Center bombing or tracking a suspected hate group have emphasized the agency's image. This rehabilitation is necessary exactly because that image was tarnished in the eyes of won people during the 1970s and 80s when the truth was uncovered about the FBI's gigantic operations to spy on people and disrupt their political activity.

Beginning in the 1950s, these operations were carried out under the code name Cointelpro, for Counterintelligence Program. Some of these cases were big and created quite a bit of publicity, like the harassment of Martin Luther King Jr. or more recently the FBI's spy operation on the Communist Party itself. Several of these operations were abandoned by his party, he continued to be harassed by the FBI and black leaders called and other methods until his death in 1972.

**IN REVIEW**

Spending our lives calling for law, order, and nonviolent, in order to further their goals.
Miners expand strike in Pennsylvania, W. Virginia

Continued from front page

Miners expand strike in Pennsylvania, W. Virginia

Drive gains momentum from fund-raising efforts

By Maggie Trowe

At a meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, the United Mine Workers voted to increase their fund-raising efforts. The meeting, which was attended by the national union leadership, included a discussion of the current state of the strike and the need for increased funding.

Militant readers who want to contact the UMWA to invite speakers to their cities or chapters are invited to find out information about sending contributions to the strikers or visiting their picket lines. The UMWA office in the District 12 office in Springfield (217) 520-8301, or the Region 3 office in Boonville, Indiana, at (812) 897-0216. The union has also set up a national informational toll-free line called Project Peabody, 1-800-USA-UMWA.

BY DENNIS RICHER

BY DENNIS RICHER AND YVONNE HAYES

LOGAN, West Virginia—Two thousand coal miners in Boone and Logan counties voted on May 11 to extend their strike against the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) expanded into southern West Virginia. Picketers struck out to stop miners operated by Arch Minerals and Ashland Oil companies.

"This is the strike of all strikes," explained a picket at the Shropes mine complex. "The companies wish to bust the UMWA. This strike is about your life or not."

At every picket line, miners indicated that they expect this to be a long fight and explained their determination to see it through. "Things are going to heat up," said Danny Grimes, a fourth-generation miner and vice-president of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 9226 on strike against Trinity Industries in Bessemer, Alabama. A miner from a nonunion operation in Mingo County and a former Communist lived in the complex and was disciplined in the face of company provocations. "We're going to need all the support we can get."

Already, Grimes reported, four members of the United Steelworkers of America at Ravenswood Aluminum had visited the miners at the Ravenswood Complex. The United Steelworkers unions invited the strikers to send representatives to one of their union offices so that they could discuss raising funds for the miners.

Miners report that people from the local community are lending support as well. As strikers were gathering, a picketsman dropped by an Arch Minerals mine with a load of firewood for the strikers and another dropped off a cooler of sodas at a struck coal loading facility, saying he'd be back later for the cooler.

Many strikers think a focal point of the fight will be the picket shack at Rum Creek, outside Arch Mining's Ruffner mine. The structure is built from lumber donated by a local volunteer group, has a rocking chair, windows, and a large porch. Arch claims the union has built the structure on company property, while the miners maintain it's on public property. Company spokespersons say they will remove the building if state police do not, but the miners are determined to stand their ground.

When the only coal that has left the Shropes complex this week is coal mined before the strike began, Rum Creek mine has had an engagement and caught a person permanently housed within the complex and the company continues to move coal. "The mining companies have a very tough time. They've got all the insurance and they've got all the money, but we've got the people," said one picket.

At the Fanco loading facility in Alpha, pickets reported a 100-car train, driven by railroad supervisors, had left the facility on Friday.

More fund-raising activities are being planned over the next few weeks. Socialist Workers Party leader Joe McFarland will campaign in New York June 5 entitled "The New World Disorder Accelerates." San Francisco fund supporters who already held a successful meeting, will host a fund-raising barbecue over the Memorial Day weekend.

More momentum gained from these and other meetings we can pick up the pace of fund collection and raise the rest of the $75,000 goal in full by the June 15 deadline.

Drive gains momentum from fund-raising events

The Militant June 7, 1993

Dorothy

Militant

June 7, 1993

D. Chisholm

1993 SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY-BUILDING FUND

$5,000

City Goal Paid Percent

Philadelphia* $3,000 $2,527 85%

Salt Lake City $2,000 $1,995 97%

Detroit* $3,300 $1,585 48%

Twin Cities $2,000 $2,548 51%

Newark $1,400 $1,842 51%

Houston $1,500 $1,500 43%

Green Bay $1,950 $760 39%

Denver $2,500 $2,022 81%

San Francisco $6,000 $2,022 34%

Atlanta $2,500 $760 30%

New York $3,000 $2,340 78%

Chicago $2,800 $899 32%

Baltimore $2,500 $710 28%

Los Angeles $2,500 $1,537 58%

Cincinnati $2,500 $240 10%

Birmingham* $2,000 $400 20%

Seattle $2,500 $495 19%

St. Louis $2,380 $645 27%

Washington, D.O. $2,800 $460 16%

Boston $2,500 $760 30%

Des Moines $1,750 $180 10%

New Haven $600 $600 100%

Morgantown $1,500 $100 7%

Albany $200 $20 10%

Albuquerque $200 $0 0%

Cincinnati $300 $0 0%

Denver $200 $0 0%

Pittsburgh $2,000 $0 0%

Portland $500 $50 10%

San Diego $500 $0 0%

TOTALS $76,430 $24,978 33%

Should be raised goal $75,000 $37,500 50%
Circulation drive is in striking distance of goals

BY NAOMI CRAINE

"The Militant is like a window to the world," said a new subscriber in Greece, one of almost 2,300 around the world who have already signed up to receive the socialist paper during the international circulation drive.

Supporters of the Militant are well within striking distance of making all their goals. As of the closing news date of this issue, the drive is short of reaching its target of 327 Militant subscriptions, 57 Perspectiva Mundial subscriptions, as well as 236 subscriptions of New International. With a final push supporters can surpass all the goals of the international circulation campaign.

As members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) expanded their organizing coal bosses to involve some 6,700 miners, another 20 miners subscribed to the Militant.

A team of three supporters from Greensboro, North Carolina, sold 11 subscriptions to miners in two days of sale at mine portals in southwestern Virginia. "Many of the miners felt we had been to Camp Solidarity to support the Pittston Coal strike three years ago," wrote team member Marcus Pittston.

"They were ready to apply the lessons they learned waiting to be called out. Most of the discussion centered around the South Carolina steel strike and the mine explosion that left eight miners dead in December, and around the miners' fight against the coal bosses for a contract," he said.

Five more UMWA members bought subscriptions to the Militant in southern Illinois. "The strike is on, and we believe we have a window happening in the world, not just their fight," said Richard Sorrentino from St. Louis. "They want to follow the German miners, French miners and other struggles." United Food and Commercial Workers union members examine Militant while picketing New Jersey store

BY MA'MU'D SHIRVANI

Pathfinder books are welcomed in Azerbaijan

BY NAOMI CRAINE

An uper over a White House travel office. A dry $200 hair cut. A $15,000-a-month fund-raiser, U.S. president Bill Clinton and his administration were scrambling to deal with a flurry of minor scandals at the end of May.

After firing the entire White House travel staff May 19, administration officials discovered that one of the president's cousins, Catherine Cornelia, was in charge of that operation. An Arizona-based company that handled Clinton's presidential campaign travel staff was hired to take over the functions of the office, which include arranging travel for journalists to cover the president's activities.

A White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers first told reporters the staff was fired because of evidence of "gross mismanagement and "very shoddy accounting practices." The administration called in the FBI to carry out a criminal investigation of the travel office.

It was soon revealed, however, that both Cornelius and Harry Thomason, owner of a one-third stake in an airline consulting firm that had worked for Clinton's election campaign, had previously urged the administration to take such action.

Faced with charges of cronyism by the media and Republican Party politicians, the White House quickly dumped the Arkansas travel agency and reversed the firings of all but two of the travel staff, placing them on paid leave instead.

Asked whether the administration had been too hasty in firing the workers before finishing the review of the office, White House communications director George Stephanopoulos said, "Yes, we want to answer questions about it." Stephanopoulos has also been working overtime to explain why half the Los Angeles airport was closed for almost an hour May 20 while a $200-a-shot Beverly Hills hair stylist, Cristophe, came on board Air Force One to give the president a trim.

Stephanopoulos said, "Well, we were following the lead of the FBI in the hair-cut case." Asked about the pay for the pricey cut, he added, "The president and his family have a personal services contract with Cristophe. He knows the hair cut." After looking over the Pathfinder books for some time, representatives of the Academy of Sciences asked what the word "path­finder" meant. After being told, she paused and said, "That sounds appropriate.

*** Funds are urgently needed to help cover the cost of Pathfinder's participation in the Tehran bookfair and subsequent visits in Azerbaijan and other former Soviet republics. Contributions can be sent to Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Scandals highlight Clinton's policy crises

June 7, 1993 The Militant 7

\[\text{International Campaign to Win New Readers}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{Drive Goals:} 2,800 \textbf{Militant}  \quad 600 \textbf{Perspectiva Mundial}  \quad 1,200 \textbf{New International}
\end{itemize}
Washington plans intervention in Haiti

BY HARVEY MARTHUR
SEATTLE — The U.S. government is pushing plans to deploy a 500-strong police force in Haiti in order to resume direct aid and training of Haiti's military. This is part of Washington's efforts to intervene in the deep social and political crisis wracking the Carib­benean country since President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted in a bloody coup in September 1991.

In late April President Bill Clinton publicly called for sending "an international peacekeeping force" to Haiti and to resume direct aid and training of Haiti's military intervention. "The White House said last week it was considering sending troops as advisors to Haiti and hinted at wider U.S. military involvement. "The White House said last week it was considering sending troops as advisors to Haiti and hinted at wider U.S. military involvement.

Washington's efforts to intervene in Haiti come at a time when its military and economic regime there is disintegrating. The U.S. government is facing mounting criticism for its role in the coup that toppled Aristide and for its support of a military regime that has been responsible for thousands of deaths and torture. The U.S. government has been criticized for its role in the coup that toppled Aristide and for its support of a military regime that has been responsible for thousands of deaths and torture.

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Activists discuss Cuban revolution at forum in Miami

BY MAGGIE McCRAW
MIAMI — More than 100 people crowded the Pathfinder bookstore here May 22 to discuss the Cuban revolution in an event sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum.

Activists from the Alliance of Workers in the Patriotic Cardinal Antonio Maceo Brigade (BAM) — many of whom recently returned from the May 1 celebration in Havana — attended, along with participants in the April 24 humanitarian aid flotilla from Key West, Florida, to Cuba. Haiti and the Alliance of the Pastors for Peace-sponsored Friendship-ship to Cuba, and others participated as well.

“Working people in Cuba are stronger today, despite a difficult economic situation with no immediate end in sight,” said Emie Mailhot, a member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party. We participated in the May 1 celebration and attended a recent meeting in Havana of Cuba solidarity groups in the United States. Since the collapse of trade with the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the United States has imposed economic embargo.

“Because of the economic crisis there are people going without food, and some take part in the black market,” Mailhot said, “but the big majority support the revolution and are working hard to solve the situation.”

Clara Varela, a leader of the ABC group in Miami, explained that at present Cuban scientists believe the epidemic could have multiple causes, such as vitamin deficiency, toxic factors and a viral agent.

The Cuban government is taking every possible measure to confront an epidemic of optical neuritis, which has affected 26,000 Cubans. The disease impairs vision, paralyzes facial muscles and affects the nervous system. Cuban doctors and scientists immediately began intensive research on possible causes and treatments.

Symptoms of the illness began increasing last year in a tobacco-growing community in the Pinar del Rio region, leading doctors to investigate pesticides and other toxins used in agriculture. The government went on an educational campaign to inform the nation of possible causes and encouraged people to visit their neighborhood family doctors. This helped reduce the number of severe cases. Cubans are proud of their healing system, which despite the embargo approaches that of most developed countries. Because of free, universal health care — one of the conquests of the 1959 revolution — working people in Cuba are not plagued by many diseases that affect millions in Third World countries, but have been left behind by Washington in Mexico, Texas.

Elizardo Bascoy spoke for the Antonio Maceo Brigade, an organization of younger Cuban-American activists. He said that the Cuban clergy were in the spotlight, despite being in the spotlight, and some are intimidated, despite being in the spotlight, according to Bascoy. “Living under the Cuban government, we are free to express our opinions. It is, in fact, the world’s only socialist system that is decaying as evidenced by the war in the former Yugoslavia and the holocaust unleashed by Washington in Mexico, Texas.

Cuban government takes measures to confront optic neuritis epidemic

Cuban government takes measures to confront optic neuritis epidemic

CUBAN TOURS U.S. CAPITAL

BY RICHARD HAZBON
WASHINGTON, D.C. — A delegation of 12 Cuban religious leaders is visiting the United States to promote reconciliation and an end to the U.S. embargo against the Caribbean island nation.

During their three-day stay in Washington, D.C., they met with members of Congress and State Department officials, held a news conference, and participated in an ecumenical service at the Plymouth Congregational Church of Christ.

Several hundred people attended the May 19 service which included a dinner and reception.

Bishop Joel Ajo Fernandez, the head of the Cuban delegation and vice-president of the Council of Latin American Methodist Churches, said he was speaking on behalf of the Cuban people who are suffering under the U.S. embargo and for the first time to say to the U.S. government, “Stop the embargo.”

He explained that he was speaking on behalf of “56 denominations in Cuba, 1,900 local congregations, and thousands of pastors, but most of all in the name of the Cuban people.”

Rev. Basilio Figueroa of the Church of God in Havana said that “with or without the blockade, we will continue.”

Rev. Lucas Walker, executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), also spoke.

He said that the Cuban clergy were in the United States to explain the effect of the U.S. embargo on the Cuban people and to discuss issues for a new relationship between the United States and Cuba.

At a May 20 Capitol Hill news conference, Congressman Charles Rangel joined the Cuban religious leaders in calling for an end to the U.S. embargo.

Rangel recently introduced the Free Trade with Cuba Act, which would lift the trade embargo and normalize travel and communication between the two countries.

The delegation represented Methodist, Baptist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Church of God, and Christian Pentecostal churches.

The delegation is sponsored jointly by IFCO, Pastors for Peace, and the National Council of Churches. It is part of one of the largest U.S. delegations to Cuba.

The delegation will be visiting 40 cities in the United States through May 24, participating in public meetings and church services.

Cuba confronts the world: 1993 in review

Cuba confronts the world: 1993 in review

June 7, 1993 The Militant 9
By Michelle Smith

Baltimore — After an 11-day strike against Castle Metals in Chicago, 104 members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW Local 27) voted overwhelmingly to approve a new contract and returned to work. The workers went on strike May 9 in response to demands for deep concessions.

The strike began at 11:00 p.m. that night. Workers went on strike for harassment of union members involved in union activity, and for failure to discuss grievances.

The next day hundreds of workers at the Fieldcrest Cannon towel mill in Columbia, South Carolina, also contributed to this article.

Workers at the Fieldcrest plants have been particularly hard hit as the company changes owners, and is trying to push back the company on the cuts that had been originally proposed.

Michele Smith is a member of UFCW Local 27 and works at Parks Sausage.

Hundreds of unionists marched May 17 to support Parks Sausage strikers.

**Textile workers in South strike against firing**

By Bruce Kimball

GREENSBORO, North Carolina — On May 16 at 11:00 p.m. workers at Fieldcrest Cannon in Greensboro, which is owned by Castle Metals in Chicago, walked off the job for 48 hours in an "unfair labor practices" strike. This action was taken in response to the company's firing of union leader Lavern Lammeth and plans to close the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) union at the mill.

The union has organized itself to defend the mill. The company's firing of union leader Lavern Lammeth and plans to close the union at the mill.

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**Baltimore meat-packers fight against concessions**

By Michelle Smith

BALTIMORE — After an 11-day strike against Castle Metals in Chicago, 104 members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW Local 27) overwhelmingly approved a new contract and returned to work. The workers went on strike May 9 in response to demands for deep concessions.

The company's "final offer" included a permanent 75-cent-an-hour pay cut, a $20-a-week deduction for health-care costs, the elimination of time-and-a-half pay after eight hours, and the cutting of wages for new hires. This could result in weekly paychecks of $50–70 a week.

Company claims losses

Parks is Baltimore's last remaining major meat-packing plant. Essky, owned by Smithfield, permanently closed several months ago, leaving 400 workers unemployed. A retired former Essky worker told the picket line told the strikers, "I'm not going to say anything bad about them, they wanted 50 cents and then $2.50. Now they're cutting the plant down and they're refusing to pay their people.

In 1992 Parks was Maryland's fifth-largest Black-owned business. In 1989 it had moved into an "enterprise zone," where businesses enjoy big tax advantages.
Behind debate on N.Y. school curriculum

BY DEER BRAEY
AND HENRIETTA MALPRIS

NEW YORK — A debate concerning what children should learn in school here has attracted national attention. The discussion, which became the focal point of the May 4 elections for community school boards in the city, has continued since then.

Rightist groups involved heavily in the May 4 elections for community school boards. One of these organizations, Concerned Parents for Educational Accountability (CPEA), introduced videotapes that homosexuals are recruiting in classrooms. The Christian Coalition, whose leader, former Republican congressman and television preacher Pat Robertson, opened an office in New York City and produced 500,000 copies of a voter's guide that characterized candidates' views on "morals in the schools." Among those agreeing to help distribute the voter's guides were the New York Catholic archdiocese and the Congress of Racial Equality, which is organized in part by the mayor of New York.

The purpose of the dispute has been a 15-page document introduced under Fernandez's chancellorship, for example, which encourages condom use. Recommendations among other things: "For anal intercourse, tube up the receptive partner's anus...". Buchanan and other liberals who champion this curriculum attempt to use the classrooms not to teach facts, including sex education, but to impose their particular views of certain "values" of "family, faith, and country."

Rightist groups have supported the Rainbow curriculum attempt to use the classrooms to indoctrinate children with what Fernandez calls a "multicultural education."

Supporters of the guide claim it can help boost the self-esteem and reduce the alienation of children, and raise a new generation of people less inclined to engage in racist attacks or attacks on immigrants, women, and gays.

In December 1992 the conflict flared when Fernandez suspended a community school board member of Queens, headed by Mary Cummins, for refusing to implement an anti-AIDS education. There are 32 of these boards, which have considerable control of elementary and junior high schools in their respective districts.

Nine days later the New York City Board of Education declared that schools chancellor Joseph Fernandez has received national attention. The discussion among those agreeing to help distribute the voter's guides were the New York Catholic archdiocese and the Congress of Racial Equality, which is organized in part by the mayor of New York.

Buchanan intervenes

Buchanan invited Cummins to be on one of his televised specials at a conference in his new organization The American Cause, which he established in May 14-15, in New York City. "One of the heroes of America's war is Mary Cummins," said Buchanan, referring to the conference. "Told her to introduce the propaganda of the homosexual lifestyle to first graders, and she rebelled."

"Where did the American Crisis come from?" Buchanan asked in the brochure introducing himself at the conference. "The first grader of public schools from which the Ten Commandments was long ago answered. Buchanan and Robertson have used their support to right-wing forces in the attempt to get the school board elected, arguing that their campaign against women's rights, particularly the right to abortion. "The Bible is a natural law is about an encirclement first step," Buchanan declared in a syndicated column last September.

Buchanan's moves are part of his long-term effort to recruit cadres to an incipient movement that involves not only the public schools but from the social division of sexes and race prejudice, perpetuated by conditions. m bad that Robertson and other rightists would fight by the working class to defend its interests, which can ultimately be accommodated by changing social conditions, and cannot somehow jump out of them. Liberals argue that social problems can be solved, not by fighting to nad humankind of conditionality, but by "understanding those differences from you. Whites can understand Blacks, men can understand women, native-born can understand immigrants. It follows that bosses and workers should learn to understand each other as well. But social problems are not a result of lack of understanding. They stem from the antagonism of social classes with opposing interests.

Rightists seize initiative to push bipartisan assault on public education

BY GREG McCRITT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Traditionalists have only just begun to fight," said Patrick Buchanan here May 14, opening the first conference of his organization called The American Cause. The meeting was entitled, "Winning the Culture War."

It was another effort by the right-wing newspaper columnist to win cadres and build support for his rightist social agenda, which includes assaults on the rights of women to abortion, a government crackdown on rights of immigrant workers, reintroducing prayer in schools, and sweeping cutbacks in social entitlements like Social Security and Medicare.

"The war for the soul of America is not over," he said, calling the conference the "Board of the Cultural party of the cultural revolution." Buchanan, who was an aide to President Ronald Reagan, said the challenge in the Republican primary to President George Bush last year, said the "assault on our cultural heritage" is given the name of "multiculturalism." It is not about appreciating the cultures of other peoples; it is across the board assault on our own Anglo-American heritage."

Francis opened a second day of the conference and explained a "radical or revolutionary conflict that involves the redistribution of power;" what "conservatives" should focus on, rather than preserving the status quo.

Human culture and education can take qualitative steps forward only through the revolutionary conflict that involves the redistribution of power. To those agreeing to help distribute the voter's guides were the New York Catholic archdiocese and the Congress of Racial Equality, which is organized in part by the mayor of New York.

Buchanan holds conference on winning 'cultural war'

"The unapologetic humanitarian-psychologi-" said Trotsky, "is that first we must educate the 'new human beings,' and then we will create the new conditions. We do not believe in 'us.' We know that human beings are the product of social conditions, and cannot somehow jump out of them.

But social problems are not a result of lack of understanding. They stem from the antagonism of social classes with opposing interests. Liberals argue that social problems can be solved, not by fighting to nad humankind of conditionality, but by "understanding those differences from you. Whites can understand Blacks, men can understand women, native-born can understand immigrants. It follows that bosses and workers should learn to understand each other as well.

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Continued from front page

Democratic senator Daniel Moynihan, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, stated that with this retreat "the moral basis of the world order in international relations as defined by the old Bosnian idealism as it has not been since the 1930s."

'The American leadership vital'

A number of daily newspaper columnists agreed yesterday that Washington’s retreat posed. Columnist Jim Hoagland wrote in the Washington Post, "Bosnia is no longer a priority for Washington.

After discussing various opinions Clinton should consider, the title of the Washington Post, "Bosnia is no longer a priority for Washington. Clinton himself - that American leadership is both vital and possible. An on European foreign-relations expert said, "Chirac’s mission that can claim a success in European us有趣的是 featuring the world over.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles


ILLINOIS

Chicago

Are Our NAFTA in Workers’ Interests? Speaker: Doug Jenness, author of pamphlet Farmers Face the Crisis of the Northeast, reception 6:30 p.m., program at 7:30. 545 W. Roosevelt Rd., Donations: $1 (212) 829-6815 or 827-7021. Translation to Spanish and French.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

The Politics of Operation Rescue and Defending Abortion in Minnesota: A panel discussion. 7:30 p.m. 506 Rippling Ave. Donation: $3. (612) 644-6632.

Continued from front page and 100 percent by April 1996.

Under the agreement signed by metalworkers a week earlier, wages will rise to 80 percent of those written in the west by December 1993 and 100 percent by October 1996. The European steelworkers will receive a 24 percent rise, in line with the $35 billion spending on the social wage will increase.

The London Financial Times reported May 24 that the German government will be forced to negotiate a second solidarity pact, designed to finance the cost of subsidies for east Germany, with employers and unions in the next 4 months. It will involve the first time substantial cuts in social spending, because of a drastic shortfall in its expected tax revenue.

"One important factor behind the shortfall," the Times continues, "is sharply rising unemployment, which reduces disposable income and taxes revenues while increasing unemployment and social welfare programs. Oficials in the finance ministry now expect the economy to contract by 2 percent this year. They fear unemployment will rise by 500,000 to 1,3 million in 1994 and by further 200,000 to 300,000 in 1994."

A new ruling the right to asylum passed by the German parliament May 26, is aimed at shifting the blame for the economic crisis onto immigrants and refugees. A ten thousand demonstrated in Bonn against the legislation during the discussion and vote in the parliament. While workers won some of the contract, the president of the IG Metall union, Franz Steinkühler, resigned. Steinkühler, who played a key role in the 3.3 million-member union for 30 years, held seats on the boards of directors of three German companies: Daimler-Benz, Volkswagen, and Thyssen. His official salary was about 162,000 a year. Press reports have indicated that Steinkühler bought $610,000 in stock of a company run by a former Izquierda Avanza. The day before, he quickly rose in value, giving him a $39,000 profit. Steinkühler denied making the investment based on inside information from board meetings. He subsequently announced his intention to resign from the east German workers’ strike fund.

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Claims that Vietnam holds 8,000 U.S. soldiers are a hoax

BY STU SINGER

The Morris document claims the Vietnamese army general staff of the North Vietnamese army general staff in 1973, instead.

Van Quang, supposedly the author of the document, was not deputy to the North Vietnamese army general staff in 1972, as the document claims. He served in a lower capacity from 1966 to 1973, instead.

The document says that three of the U.S. prisoners of war had undergone astronaut training. But U.S. government records show that these individuals were not captured in Vietnam.

Vietnam PMO/MIA hoax has been one of the major pillars of right-wing propaganda for the United States and students of France who have been on strike for two weeks and have occupied factories and universities throughout the country.

The documents of De Gaulle and the French capitalist class are those who served in the American war with the North Vietnamese army general staff. They knew from early intelligence in the Algerian war that, under conditions of deep-going social crisis, not even a well-organized conspiracy could readily carry out counterrevolutionary repressions against the people.

The document also makes the claim that the Morris document's author is a former U.S. soldier who was captured in Vietnam in 1972, but this is incorrect.

The Morris document was never released to the public and has since been destroyed.

Claims that Vietnam holds 8,000 U.S. soldiers are a hoax.

For further reading:

June 7, 1968

General de Gaulle launched his counteroffensive in defense of capitalist rule by threatening civil war against the 10 million workers and students of France who have been on strike for two weeks and have occupied factories and universities throughout the country.

He convinced the national labor federation of France to promise for June 17 and June 18.

De Gaulle and the French capitalist class clearly knew that the strikes had not been extended and every marking of our workers was a no more “dependable” in the pinch than the other oppositional elements of the nation.

The Militant

June 5, 1943

PITTSBURGH — Without any special strike call being issued and with casual matter of factness, the miners here today stopped digging coal. Word passed around that the strike had not been extended and every one of them was told: “No more work without a contract.”

One thousand delegates representing directly 350,000 members of the United Mine Workers, meeting in conference in Detroit May 31, rejected a resolution of their International Executive Board to “authorize” instead of “mandate” the miners’ strike, and instead adopted a forthright resolution completely solidifying themselves with the militant stand of the miners.

The Socialist Labor Party (SLP) voted unanimous support for the miners’ fight.

Aron’s rubber workers demonstrated their solidarity with the miners by emulating them in a five-day strike last week. Chrysler workers did likewise in a four-day walkout.

Don’t believe the lies of the bosses press! The workers, both AFL and CIO, are for the miners — even where the top union officials of the miners.

For further reading:

A participant's account of the movement in the United States against the Vietnam War by Fred Halstead

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FORE FURTHEREADING OUT NOW!

A PARTICIPANT'S ACCOUNT OF THE MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AGAINST THE VIETNAM WAR

by Fred Halstead

June 7, 1968

The Militant

Published in the Interest of the Working People


"The Pentagon sought the subsidy years ago because it could be used to make military uniforms.

"Old subsidies never die?" — The Pentagon advertisements for the new fabric (from army goats) industry to the tune of $550 million a year.

Asthma and the finky Stalinists, servile agents of the Pentagon, aided the Vietnamese people in their fight against U.S. aggression.

Since Washington’s defeat, not one cent has ever been paid of the reconstruction aid that Nixon agreed to in the 1973 peace agreement with Hanoi. This debt to the Vietnamese people should be paid in full.

The workers, both AFL and CIO, are for the miners — even where the top union officials of the miners.

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The workers, both AFL and CIO, are for the miners — even where the top union officials of the miners.
Support striking coal miners!

Washington has maintained a trade embargo against Vietnam from the moment the Vietnam War ended in 1975 with the rout of U.S. forces from Saigon. The U.S. government has consistently extended its refusal to pay reconstruction aid promised to Vietnam at the 1973 signing of the peace agreement with Hanoi. Washington now faces a similar dilemma by raising Vietnam's alleged refusal to cooperate in tracking down the remains of soldiers who were missing in action during the war. But by insisting on an accounting of every single missing person from that massive war, Washington is demanding the impossible from Vietnam.

Furthermore, the hue and cry around the missing soldiers is a gigantic attempt to turn the victims into the criminals. Washington carried out the biggest biotechnological campaign in history, and one of the most murderous, against the Vietnamese people. The bombing scarred Vietnam, leaving much of the country in ruins, and the people were left with poverty. The Vietnamese themselves lost more than 1.5 million lives and hundreds of thousands were missing in action.

The hoax advanced by Harvard researcher Stephen Moris and many capitalist politicians, who claim to have unearthed evidence of some 600 U.S. officers held prisoner by Vietnam, followed a major effort by Vietnamese authorities, working with U.S. officials, to pursue every possible lead of information on those U.S. soldiers still not accounted for. But as the article by Stu Singier in this issue points out, the document’s credibility, as well as the entire POW/MIA obsession, is in shambles.

The real reason for the trade embargo against Vietnam and the perpetuation of the POW/MIA myth has nothing to do with some missing soldiers. It stems from Washington's defeat in 1975, when Vietnamese workers and peasants fought successfully to rid themselves of capitalism and imperialist domination.

Since it could not defeat the Vietnamese people with its military might, Washington sought to make the cost of victory so high that workers and peasants around the world would hesitate to emulate that example of standing up to imperialism.

This is the sole reason for Washington's attempt to strangle Vietnam economically. It also provides the driving force behind its criminal embargo against Cuba.

Working people should demand that the embargo against Vietnam be lifted immediately.

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

In the months following this victory, the leadership team around Fidel Castro helped deepen the mobilizations that culminated in the expropriation of the foreign and domestic industrial and capitalist who had held political and economic power.

In the decades since, Cuba's working people have continued to be the decisive model on the world scene. They have mobilized time and again to confront the challenges facing the revolution — from the 1961 literacy campaign to today's voluntary agricultural work brigades; food self-sufficiency, as well as the internationalist efforts in which hundreds of thousands of Cuban working people have volunteered as solidarity workers, and soldiers to aid other peoples around the world.

The essential ingredient that marks Cuba as different from the degenerated workers’ state in the former Soviet Union is the revolutionary leadership of the Cuban Communist Party.

In Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, working people were driven out of politics by the privileged bureaucratic caste that subordinated everything else to its own narrow interests, abandoning the revolution’s goals. By the late 1990s this bureaucracy, headed by Joseph Stalin, had turned the Bolshevik Party from a revolutionary vanguard to workers to an instrument of repression against working people.

The Cuban revolution, too, has confronted the problem of bureaucracy. In fact, in the months following Castro's revolutionary leadership launched a political campaign to combat some of the worst aspects of economic and social policies that had been copied from the Soviet Union and were resulting in the demobilization and demoralization of Cuban working people.

In response to this campaign, which became known as the “reification process,” tens of thousands of workers, farmers, and youth joined volunteer brigades to build child-care facilities, schools, health centers, and other social services. Working people gained new confidence in their collective ability to face the manifold challenges facing the revolution, and to combat the growing corruption and corruption of a layer of administrators and technocrats.

The collapse of the former Soviet Union has triggered a deep economic crisis in Cuba. One effect of this has been the reinforcement of a layer of relatively better-off Cubans, such as managers of the new tourist hotels, who look to capitalism as the solution to Cuba's problems. But the most weighty effect of the events in Eastern Europe has been the further breakdown of barriers that stood in the way of working people participating in political life. The decades-long domination of Stalinism in the international working-class movement and its substantial influence within Cuba had tended to isolate Cuban revolutionaries from like-minded fighters around the world. This began to break down with the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Everywhere in Cuba today — in workplaces, at universities, on the street — people are discussing political ideas more widely and openly than in many years. "All political rigidity is gone," a number of longtime revolutionaries told an Internationalist reporter during a trip to Cuba. But they likened the situation to the political ferment of the early 1960s, when the working-class vanguard fought to develop a proletarian course and leadership.

The political discussion unfolding in Cuba today would be accelerated if more than one political party were allowed. This would strengthen the ability of the working-class vanguard — organized in the revolutionary party, the Communist Party — to wage the necessary class struggle that is necessary for the revolution to advance. But this cannot be the central criterion by which working people around the world judge the revolutionary movement.

Working people should defend the Cuban revolution from attack by imperialism, as Segarra notes. But even more, workers should look to it as an example. The revolutionary leadership there continues to mobilize the power of the workers and farmers to fight to advance the interests of the working-class in Cuba and around the world.

— SARA LOBMAN
Thousands support Timex workers in Scotland

This column is devoted to reporting news of workers' struggles to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions and democratic rights. We invite you to contribute short items as a way of furthering the goals of the movement. To make the world learn from these important events, The Militant invites you to submit lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace or elsewhere in your area, including interesting political discussions.

More than 3,400 workers gathered in heavy rain early in the morning May 22, outside Timex's Dundee factory, Scotland, where 343 workers are fighting for reinstatement of some 200 workers laid off for the 10-week strike which ended May 17. Pickets outside the 19th-century factory where 900 workers are employed in the area—none of them unionized.

The workers were locked out and security officials, workers report that unemployed relatives have been recruited to cross the picket line. The union claims it needs to hire 230 more unemployed people to try to ensure the picket is maintained and to block the employers' assault on the locked-out workers, caused by the economic crisis in the U.S.

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Ahmet Sungur, a computer technician, said, "We remain hopeful for the return of our locked-out workers. About 90 percent of the workers have been laid off." The picket line was maintained around the clock for 10 weeks, according to Sungur. The unions employed more than 500 officers, half of Dundee's force, to maintain the picket line.

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Although a union contract was signed with Fashions & Co, the garment boss does not pay the minimum wage. Workers from the union have been paid $180 for two weeks of work. All but two workers have been laid off. The union has found work for all of them.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Ian Grant, a member of the Amalgamated Engineers Union, in London; Marea Hinzelman, a member of USWA Local 9199; and Doug Kennedy, a member of USWA Local 15199 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Huang relocated his business to ILGWU Local 111 in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

The Militant "I don't think the workers are going to give up until they get back their full jobs." active in support of the locked-out workers. The United Food and Commercial Workers members are on strike or locked out at 226 garment shops on New Jersey and New York. The union July 26, 1993, Detroit, Michigan, to demand that the workers be reinstated in the agreement of their employers to take back in work in the first days of May on May 17.

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South African police arrest dozens of Pan Africanist Congress members

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In a move aimed at derailing multiparty talks just as a date for South Africa's first democratic nonracial election was about to be announced, South African police on May 25 arrested dozens of members and leaders of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) in a predawn raid.

This marks the harshest crackdown on PAC members and leaders of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) in a predawn raid May 25.

The African National Congress (ANC) strongly condemned the arrests while vowing to press ahead with the negotiations to end white minority rule. "It reminds one of the old apartheid days of Gestapo tactics, jackboot to jackboot," stated ANC president Nelson Mandela. "I am sure that the democratic forces are strong enough to overcome this crisis." Mandela has also called for lowering the voting age from 18 to 14. He announced to the media on May 21 that he would be giving [the vote] to people who fought for democracy.

This proposal has stirred a controversy among other political factions involved in the multiparty talks. Danie Schutte, the ruling National Party's deputy secretary general, condemned this proposal, saying it would not receive serious consideration in any "civilized country.

ANC spokesman Carol Newton has said the voting-age question would be debated within the ANC. But discussions would probably focus on having the limit lowered to 16 from the present 18, he said. "Young people were part of the liberation struggle and it's difficult to say they should not have the vote in a country their contemporaries have." He added. "We also have a responsibility to the future."

May 1, in a victory for the student protesters, the government suspended for this year a $16 compulsory graduation fee for Black students. One of the central demands of many of the student protest actions has been to scrap this fee.

Students and teachers have been participating in numerous demonstrations and rallies demanding free and equal education. On May 21, in a victory for the student protesters, the government suspended for this year a $16 compulsory graduation fee for Black students. One of the central demands of many of the student protest actions has been to scrap this fee.

"We do not demand big wage hikes. We just want to defend what we have got and get a reasonable increase if we have to return to work next year," said Hans Schouw, president of the Swedish Electricians Union, speaking at a meeting of 1,000 striking electricians in Stockholm May 12.

The employers also demand the right to freely change working hours and introduce overtime shifts at will. They want to take away the right to strike for the coming two hours. They want to take away the right to strike for the coming two hours.

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"That is from the right wing," he said. "No organization in this country has got a right to do it as piecework following the rates in the list."

BY INGE HINNEMO

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BY MANUELE LASALO

MELBOURNE, Australia — "Never in the history of Victoria have so many people turned out so often to oppose any government," said John Halfpenny, secretary of the Trades Hall Council, addressed those words to more than 5,000 people who had converged on the state of Victoria's Parliament House to protest planned cuts in health care, education, and pensions. The May 6 demonstration was the third such massive mobilization of unionists in six months to protest deep attacks on union rights, jobs, and social services. It coincided with full day and half-day work stoppages by public service workers throughout the state. The Liberal-National coalition government, led by Jeff Kennett, announced in its April budget statement cuts of A$730 million (US$370 million) over two years, eliminating an estimated 15,000 jobs.

The biggest cut, A$380 million to hospitals and health services, will cause a loss of some 5,000 jobs. Teachers estimate that between 1,000 and 2,000 will be lost. The education cuts will result in the loss of between 1,000 and 2,000 jobs.

The government also plans to remove its obligation to fund the insurance policies of 300,000 public service employees. The march on Parliament House inaugurated a 74-day campaign of rolling work stoppages in Victoria.