

THE MILITANT

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New Zealand

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Unionists to march in Decatur on June 25

BY CHARLENE ADAMSON

PEORIA, Illinois — Three union locals involved in long-standing battles against union-busting attempts are sponsoring a solidarity demonstration in Decatur, Illinois, on Sunday, June 25. The rally will occur days after workers on strike against Caterpillar mark one year on the picket line.

The June 25 action is being sponsored by United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 751; United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 7837, which represents workers locked out by the A. E. Staley Co.; and United Rubber Workers Local 713, representing Bridgestone/Firestone workers.

Dike Ferris, bargaining committee member of the UPIU, told the *Militant* that "people who wonder where the labor movement is today should come to Decatur and see three of the major fights." Unionists from a number of areas are planning on making the trip.

The day will feature a rally starting at 1 p.m. at the civic center. Scheduled speakers include Richard Trumka, president of the United Mine Workers of America; Robert Wages, president of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union; Wayne Glenn, UPIU president; and Dave Yettaw, president of UAW Local 599 in Flint, Michigan. Joining them will be George Becker, president of the United Steelworkers of America, and Jesse Jackson.

The three union locals are also sponsoring a "War Zone Labor Conference" on Saturday, June 24, at the Allied Industrial Workers hall at 2882 N. Dinneen St.

2,500 sign up for 'Militant' in sales drive

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Over the last 10 weeks, supporters of the socialist press signed up 2,521 subscribers to the *Militant* and 583 to the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*. They also sold 987 copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*.

While falling about 15 percent short of the international goals adopted at the beginning of the sales campaign, the numbers reflect some important accomplishments in reaching out to workers, young people, and others open to socialist ideas. Three thousand more people are now regular readers of the socialist press, and hundreds more are delving into the more in-depth articles in *New International*.

In the last week, 568 *Militant* subscriptions, 137 *Perspectiva Mundial* subs, and 166 copies of *New International* were sold — the most of any week of the campaign and nearly 20 percent of the total goal. Socialist workers and youth and other supporters of the *Militant* can draw some important lessons from this sales effort. Doing so will help us build on our successes so that we can carry out a more measured campaign next time and expand the essential base-readership of the *Militant*.

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Workers in Argentina fight for jobs and pay

IMF demands austerity to cover debt to bankers

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL AND ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

CÓRDOBA, Argentina — "We've taken over this hospital because they haven't paid us in two months and because the government has sent the health-care system to hell," said Ana María Martoglio. She and other nurses and workers were guarding the entrance to the San Roque hospital. A bedsheet hung overhead with a hand-lettered announcement: "This hospital is occupied."

"Menem said Argentina was going to join the First World," remarked Martoglio, local representative of the Union of Public Employees, referring to President Carlos Menem. "That's ridiculous. The bosses are doing really fine, but the government's policies are squeezing the working class and favoring the rich."

Since January, throughout Córdoba and other Argentine provinces, working people have been carrying out a sustained wave of protests, mostly blacked out by the international big-business media. They are resisting the depression conditions the economy has plunged into, as capitalists — foreign and domestic — see how far they can push down the wages and living standards of workers and farmers.

Economy minister Domingo Cavallo announced June 5 that the government would not pay 300,000 federal employees

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Militant/Argiris Malapanis
Twenty thousand students demonstrated in Buenos Aires June 7 against government plans to impose tuition fees. Workers and youth are resisting austerity drive.

Discontent grows in Haiti as few see benefits of continued U.S. occupation

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Visitors get their first view of the occupation forces in Haiti as soon as they land at the airport here. Less than a football field away from the runway are rows of newly painted white United Nations trucks and a military tent city. Most imposing are the large black helicopters lined up facing the arriving planes as they taxi by.

In March, Washington formally handed over control of Haiti to the United Nations. Since then, most of the original 20,000 U.S. troops that carried out the September 1994 invasion have left. But U.S. forces still make up almost half of the 6,000 occupying troops.

U.S. military vehicles with "UN" painted on their side drive through the main streets, usually in pairs and some-

times bigger convoys. The front vehicle has a machine gun mounted on its roof. A U.S. soldier is holding the gun while standing stiffly with his torso half out of the roof opening. The second vehicle, oftentimes a large open truck, carries about eight soldiers — most holding automatic weapons. Bangladeshi and other international troops are seen in Port-au-Prince, but the U.S. military is the most visible and most heavily armed by far. They guard the presidential palace, airport, and entrances to military encampments.

The military leaders that carried out the coup against Jean Bertrand Aristide in 1991 no longer govern Haiti. Their murderous civilian counterparts in the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti (FRAPH) no longer have free rein in Port-au-Prince. Many of these criminals are still around, however, and reportedly function openly in some areas, especially outside the capital.

Samuel Beauboeuf, a young member of the National Popular Assembly (APN), an organization opposed to the imperialist occupation, said after the military coup in 1991 he was threatened and forced to flee the central Haitian town of Lascahobas.

Beauboeuf came out of hiding when Aristide returned only to see the same people who had harassed him functioning openly and protected by U.S. troops. Referring to these former henchmen of the military and Duvalier dictatorships that ruled Haiti for decades, Samuel said,

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Militant/Ernie Mailhot
Third Congress of the National Popular Assembly in Port-au-Prince drew many young people. The group called for mobilizing against IMF austerity plans for Haiti.



Radioactive water in Finland

"We believe that up to 60 Finns die annually from using water contaminated by radioactivity," said Laina Salonen, a researcher at the Finnish Center for Radiation and Nuclear Safety June 9. Radiation levels in Finland temporarily doubled after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident, and radioactivity levels in well water "are world records," said Salonen.

Thousands of people in Finland risk their lives daily drinking or washing with radioactive well water. Health officials say more than a third of Finland's 2,000 yearly lung cancer cases stem from radon.

Ankara authorizes war

Turkey's Parliament June 8 authorized the government to declare war on Greece following ratification by Athens of the international Law of the Sea treaty, which authorizes territorial waters to 12 nautical miles. Ankara has warned that it will wage war to prevent the Greek government from extending its territorial waters beyond six miles. A government spokesperson said the resolution was intended "with friendly sentiments."

Many Greek islands are within 3 to 10 miles of the western coast of Turkey. The Turkish and Greek governments organized simultaneous military exercises in the Aegean Sea at the time the Law of the Sea treaty took effect in November last year. In 1987 the two countries threatened war over mineral rights and exploration in the Aegean.

Caspian oil route plans delayed

The governments of Russia, Iran, and Georgia forced the delay of plans to open a transportation route for shipment of Caspian Sea oil being extracted from offshore fields in Azerbaijan. A consortium that includes large British, U.S., and Russian oil companies is involved in the \$8 billion project, but its plans are being stymied by fierce competition over the export route for Azeri oil.

The governments of Russia, Iran, and Turkmenistan have joined forces to insist that any extraction from the Caspian Sea



Students at San Marcos University in Lima, Peru, protest a new law that allows officials to infiltrate organizations on public university campuses in order to fight "terrorism." Teachers also recently voted to oppose the new government measure.

must be subject to the approval of all the surrounding states. U.S. companies hold a 44 percent share of the oil consortium.

Indian troops fire on marchers

Indian security forces fired at least 250 tear gas shells June 9 to stop thousands of Muslims from participating in a religious procession through Srinagar, the capital of Kashmir. Yasin Malik, a leader of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, was arrested as he tried to lead 2,000 people in the march. Kashmiris have been waging a campaign for self-determination in opposition to New Delhi's rule. Some 20,000 people have died in the conflict over the past six years.

Seoul says no rice to N. Korea

The South Korean government urged Tokyo to withhold emergency rice shipments requested by Pyongyang until the North Korean government agrees to meet Seoul officials on food aid policies. According to the *Financial Times*, Seoul

views Pyongyang's rice shortage as a way to pressure the North Korean government into negotiations.

Vietnamese protest squelched

Malaysian riot police used tear gas and water cannons June 5 to crush a demonstration by Vietnamese refugees. The refugees, who were protesting forced repatriation, also say conditions in the Sungei Besi refugee camp are deteriorating. The Malaysian government said it intends to close the camp by the end of August.

More than 254,000 Vietnamese refugees made their way to Malaysia between 1975 and 1990, with many going on to other countries. They are among more than 1.6 million people who fled South Vietnam after the U.S.-backed Saigon regime fell in 1975.

Rwanda: 'No more UN troops'

"We don't need any more military," said Manzi Bakuramutsa, Rwanda's representative at the United Nations. Bakuramutsa said his government could protect its own citizens without UN help.

Rwandan government authorities said that the UN force is costly, useless, and undisciplined. "It's cheaper in the long run to support reconstruction and reconciliation than to sustain refugee camps,"

Bakuramutsa told the *New York Times*. In a compromise, the UN Security Council voted June 10 to reduce the 5,600 UN troops to 1,800 within four months.

Transplants hard for poor

According to a report in the *New York Times*, whether a person gets on a list for an organ transplant depends on how rich they are and how well they can manipulate the organ transplant system. "You have to

pass the critical wallet biopsy," said Dr. Arthur Caplan, director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Among the factors that could be used to exclude someone from receiving an organ transplant are having a criminal record, being mentally retarded, and having suffered a recent death or loss of someone close to you. In one case the family of a man in Tampa, Florida, who was a Ku Klux Klan sympathizer, instructed that his organs not be given to Blacks. The local organ procurement agency agreed to the condition, arguing that to do otherwise would deprive needy patients.

Abortion ban reinstated

The U.S. House of Representatives National Security Committee May 24 voted to reinstate a near ban on abortions at overseas military facilities.

In 1984, a ban on abortion funding was added to the Department of Defense's authorization act. An assistant secretary of defense in the Reagan administration interpreted the funding ban to prohibit nearly all abortions at overseas military facilities. In 1993, President Clinton issued an executive order allowing abortions when not funded by the government. The latest congressional move would reinstate the ban on providing abortions at overseas military facilities even if personnel use their own funds to pay for the procedure.

Tear gas use in Waco questioned

The U.S. government's actions in firing hundreds of rounds of a military-style tear gas into the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, two years ago has come under increased scrutiny. "All of those young children who breathed that gas for hours and didn't have masks would have been in intensive care if they had survived," said Dr. Alan Stone, a Harvard University professor who was chosen by the Justice Department to review its actions at Waco. Another reviewer said he found a Justice Department's report on the Waco episode full of glowing appraisals. "That is appalling to me when children die in a fire and there is a precedent for it," he said, referring to the five children who burned to death in 1985 when city officials dropped a bomb on the MOVE community building in Philadelphia.

— MAURICE WILLIAMS

Militant summer schedule

During the month of July the *Militant* will be taking a few weeks off from its regular publishing schedule. There will be no issues printed on July 6 or July 13. The paper will print on July 20 and take another week off on July 27. Regular weekly publication resumes August 3.

THE MILITANT

Protest racist attacks

From Chicago to Stockholm, the 'Militant' covers the fight of working people and youth against racism and attacks on immigrants. The 'Militant' provides first-hand reports from anti-racist actions and in-depth analyses of the roots of racism. Don't miss a single issue!



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U.S.-Japan trade rift looms over G-7 meet

BY LAURA GARZA

As representatives of imperialist powers gather in Halifax, Nova Scotia, for a meeting of the Group of Seven — the governments of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States — the trade dispute between Tokyo and Washington is evidence that diverging interests, not common goals and policies, will more and more mark the exchanges among these capitalist powers.

"We're not going to blink," said Mickey Kantor, the U.S. government's trade representative, referring to the Clinton administration's decision to enact stiff sanctions on luxury car imports from Japan if Tokyo does not agree to U.S. demands by the June 28 deadline.

Tokyo is breaking with a pattern of eventually giving in to U.S. demands, refusing to buckle under pressure to import more U.S.-made cars and car parts. Capitalists in Japan recognize that they are in for rough times. Since 1992 Japan has been in a recession, the longest and deepest since World War II, and no significant upturn is in sight.

Japan's employing class faces a growing banking crisis. The ministry of finance recently admitted banks are carrying problem loans totaling \$474 billion, the equivalent of more than 8 percent of Japan's total economic output last year. No Japanese bank has failed since World War II, but this is being openly discussed as a possibility today.

In the 1980s banks made generous loans to those who fueled a speculative burst in land prices. But today real estate prices in Tokyo are at 50 percent of their 1991 peak and still falling. The bad loans are piling up and there is little sympathy among workers and the middle classes for the idea of bailing out the landlords and bankers with public funds.

Life-time employment coming apart

Japan's much touted pledge of life-time employment is also coming apart, as companies embark on the inevitable course of trying to drive down wages, while increasing production with fewer workers.

While companies have not yet implemented massive layoffs, many are cutting back. Some are shifting production to other Asian countries where labor and other costs are lower. Unemployment now stands at 3.2 percent, with anyone who has worked an hour in the last week of a given month being counted as fully employed.

The bleak economic outlook has bolstered the determination of Japan's business barons not to give in to U.S. capitalist

dictates. The U.S. government has cases involving Kodak and Federal Express in line after the auto parts dispute.

Washington gets little support

The Clinton administration's strong-arm tactics are gaining little sympathy elsewhere. From Asia to Europe, government representatives fret openly about the dangerous precedent that would be set, and the impact it could have on their trade relations, if Washington succeeds in forcing Japan to accede to its demands.

The European Union has condemned the U.S. government decision to unilaterally enact sanctions. The auto bosses in Europe fear their sales could suffer if Japan is forced to buy U.S. parts. The European Union also took advantage of the dispute to get Japan to ease some restrictions on importing cars from Europe.

Meanwhile, as the U.S. government tries to portray the trade dispute as a self-contained element in an otherwise stable and amicable relationship with Japan, Tokyo announced its refusal to go along with the U.S. embargo against Iran. Japan



Unemployed in Japan. Life-time job is no longer guaranteed as companies downsize.

receives 400,000 barrels of oil a day from Iran. The Japanese government also provides one of the few sources of credit and financing for Tehran. Last month, under U.S. pressure, Tokyo suspended payment destined for a dam project, though they stressed the deal was not canceled.

As the tariffs deadline approaches, fear

of possible retaliation by Tokyo and a spiraling dispute has some capitalist spokespeople pushing for a resolution before going to the brink.

"This seems to us an especially dangerous time and place to experiment with trade-closing devices," warned the *Wall Street Journal* editors.

Imperialist powers wrangle over Bosnia war

BY PAT SMITH

Washington and the chief imperialist powers in Europe are wrangling over their most recent bid to expand the war in the former Yugoslavia. The so-called allies have been frustrated from implementing their designs by their own conflicting interests and the intransigence of rightist Serb forces operating in Bosnia. The slaughter of working people in the Balkans, meanwhile, continues apace.

The war is likely to expand in the coming days. The Bosnian government has begun massing tens of thousands of troops for a ground offensive to break the siege of Sarajevo. Rightist Serb forces operating in Bosnia are still holding some UN soldiers in an attempt to prevent further air strikes by NATO warplanes.

Several governments in Europe recoiled from a proposal to place 12,000 new United Nations troops under the command of their national armies to carry out offensive missions. The Clinton administration temporarily abandoned its proposal to commit U.S. ground forces to work alongside allied soldiers after it met with widespread opposition at home. The U.S. Congress also forced a delay in the Security Council plan to increase the UN force to 57,370. "The official aim of the United

Nations mission in Bosnia now is the 'status quo ante,'" reported the *New York Times*.

"UN forces operating in former Yugoslavia have been rendered nearly helpless by the United Nations rules of engagement," Washington's former representative to the United Nations, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, complained. Frustrated that President Bill Clinton did not retaliate for the June downing of a U.S. F-16 fighter, she argued for leveling "a disproportionate response...that would discourage future attack, build credibility, and therefore eliminate the necessity of future use of force."

Capitalist governments in Europe, which initially threatened an expanded use of UN troops in ground operations in Bosnia after the seizure of several hundred UN soldiers by Bosnian Serb forces, are now hedging their bets. The UN mission in Sarajevo announced June 10 that it will carry out no operations in Bosnia without the consent of rightist Bosnian Serb officials. A UN representative called the decision "the low point of a long, bad experience in Bosnia."

"The arrangement," wrote *Washington Post* reporter John Pomfret, "reflects the unwillingness of both U.N. headquarters

in New York and the countries contributing troops to the U.N. mission here — specifically France and Britain — to walk into a war with the Bosnian Serbs..."

At the same time the White House threatened to veto any legislation lifting the arms embargo against the Bosnian government. The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a measure that would end the embargo June 8. The Senate is expected to take up similar legislation. The Clinton administration, fearful that such a move would exacerbate tensions with London, Paris, and Moscow, said a unilateral break from the UN embargo would lead to the withdrawal of UN troops.

The White House, Congress, the Pentagon, and the big-business media meanwhile launched into a week-long patriotic frenzy to celebrate the return of U.S. pilot Scott O'Grady. The F-16 captain had been shot down by Serb forces over Bosnia, and was picked up by U.S. forces six days later. O'Grady's return represented "true grit, superior technology, and outstanding leadership," said U.S. defense secretary William Perry.

But the Clinton forces haven't had much luck parlaying the rescue into support for further war moves.

—YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD—

YS building festival to defend Cuban revolution

BY BROCK SATTER

A central activity of Young Socialists around the world for the next two months is participating in and building the broadest delegations possible to attend the August 1-7 Cuba Lives International Youth Festival taking place in Havana and other Cuban provinces.

"The Young Socialists in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, are part of the Twin Cities Cuba Network, which is building a celebration on July 26 to help raise money to help people go to the festival," said Young Socialists member Ryan Kelly.

Alejandro Herrera, a member of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) in Cuba, is touring across Australia, New Zealand, and the Philippines to build the Cuba Lives festival. Young Socialists members in the Pacific have been part of the effort to organize this tour. UJC leaders are traveling around the world to bring young people to this festival.

"This festival will be a launching pad for young people around the world to defend the Cuban revolution. Many of them will become attracted to communist conclusions about what is necessary to confront the world crisis of capitalism," said Diana Newberry, a member of the Young Socialists National Committee.

Young Socialists are also preparing

themselves to attend the convention of the Socialist Workers Party in Oberlin, Ohio, August 8-12.

Plans to attend SWP convention

At the convention, delegates from SWP branches will be discussing the crisis of capitalism and how workers can defend themselves from its depression-ridden conditions; the struggle of workers, farmers, and youth in Cuba to advance their socialist revolution; and the tasks and opportunities to build a communist movement in the United States and worldwide. The Young Socialists have been invited to observe the gathering and participate in workshops and classes.

YS member Gloria DelCid in Peoria, Illinois, explained that the group there is, "making T-shirts to help fund-raise to get Young Socialists members and others to the convention."

DelCid said that while on a regional team to St. Louis to get the *Militant* newspaper into the hands of workers and other fighters and build the Cuba Lives festival, two high school students joined the Young Socialists. After hearing about the convention, they asked to attend.

In Seattle, Young Socialists member Meg Novak said, "We raised \$274 at a Militant Labor Forum through a raffle to

help pay for the expenses of young fighters who want to attend the Socialist Workers Party convention."

Leading up to the convention the Young Socialists will be carrying out a dues drive in order to consolidate the finances of the organization. A central part of building a revolutionary movement is to have stable finances. The year-old youth group is trying to conquer this essential bedrock of organization.

Responding to labor, political struggles

The Young Socialists are responding to a number of political struggles. In the Twin Cities, Young Socialists have taken part in the actions protesting the signing of the death warrant for political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. "There will be protests every Sunday until the date set for his execution on August 17," Kelly said.

Many Young Socialists from across the United States will be going to the June 25 rally in Decatur, Illinois, in support of striking Caterpillar workers and other fighting unionists there.

This rally is being built by members of the United Auto Workers, the United Paperworkers International Union, and the United Rubber Workers. The Young Socialists will bring their solidarity to these fighting workers.



Back page of Havana weekly *Juventud Rebelde* with article publicizing youth festival. YS members across United States are building Cuba Lives event.

Capitalist candidates prepare for '96 run

BY NAOMI CRAINE

As the television cameras rolled, Democratic president Bill Clinton and Republican Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich stressed their agreement on a range of questions. The two politicians met in New Hampshire June 11 as campaigning for the 1996 presidential elections heats up.

The congressional leader praised the president for his support for the anti-democratic "counterterrorism" bill recently approved by the Senate and currently in the House of Representatives. He also commended Clinton for the U.S. occupation of Haiti.

Answering questions from residents in a senior citizens home, Gingrich defended his proposal to slash Medicare, the government medical entitlement program for the elderly and disabled. Clinton said he favored "smaller Medicare reduction," but agreed with cutting projected benefits. "Will I work with them [the Republicans] and try to work this out? Absolutely," the president declared.

So far, Gingrich has not announced his candidacy, but said he will leave the door "slightly open" to making a presidential bid. Clinton has no serious contenders to date for the Democratic nomination. Explaining his four-day jaunt to the state where the first presidential primary will be held, the congressman said, "I'm trying to shape the entire language and ideas of the 1996 campaign."

The Clinton and Gingrich discussion, like the rest of the campaigning for next year's election, reflects how the framework of bourgeois politics continues moving to the right.

The major themes of the 1992 presidential election campaign continue to get prominent play by the main contenders and the big-business media. They reflect the debate among the ruling rich on how to protect U.S. capitalist interests around the world, how to advance the employers' drive against wages and working conditions, how to take back social gains the working class has won, and how to curtail democratic rights.

Buchanan makes another bid

In the last election, ultrarightist Republican candidate Patrick Buchanan loudly called for "putting America First," proclaimed the need for a "culture war," and scapegoated immigrants for the economic and social crisis of the capitalist system. He proposed building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The fascist-minded demagogue used his 1992 campaign to build a base of support-

Hundreds rally against the Klan in Illinois

BY JULIE BINGHAM

CHICAGO — Chants of "Ignorance not welcome" and "Hey hey, ho ho, KKK has got to go," filled the air as 300 people protested a Klu Klux Klan rally near here in Wheaton, Illinois, June 3. About 100 people turned up to hear the Klan's grand wizard, Thomas Robb.

Although 150 cops from the Wheaton and Illinois State police departments and the DuPage County Sheriff's department were on hand, they did not separate anti-Klan and pro-Klan demonstrators. The protesters along with Klan supporters passed through a metal detector to get to the rally site. Scuffles broke out in the crowd as people waited over an hour for the Klan members to get their sound system working. The police escorted some 15 anti-Klan protesters off the property.

At the rally, the mostly young antiracist demonstrators bought 20 copies of the socialist newsweekly, the *Militant*, and 4 copies of the Pathfinder pamphlet, *Fascism: What It Is and How To Fight It*.

Later that day, about 250 antiracist protesters countered 50 Klan supporters in nearby Rolling Meadows. The cops there kept the two groups separated. Six recent graduates of Palatine High School said they came to see if the protest would make a difference. "You can't let people come in your backyard, threaten you, and get away with it," one of them explained.



U.S. president Bill Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich. At New Hampshire meeting, the two stressed their common efforts to squeeze entitlements.

ers willing to not only vote but also act in the streets. He praised National Guard units who, following anti-police rioting in Los Angeles, had taken back the city "block by block."

A fund-raising letter sent out by the Buchanan for President Committee emphasized his anti-immigrant stance. "The unprecedented flood of illegal immigrants into our nation over the last 15 years leaves me no choice but to call for a 5 year moratorium on even legal immigration," Buchanan wrote in the letter. "One in four criminals in our federal prisons today are illegal aliens," he asserted, blaming immigrants for "massive crime, social disruption, and an enormous financial drain on government services."

Continuing his "America First" campaign, in May Buchanan complained that the Clinton administration's trade sanctions against Tokyo "doesn't even qualify as a spanking."

A recent front-page article in the *New*

York Times stated, "The former television commentator and conservative columnist is a lot closer to driving the race than to being driven out."

Buchanan bragged to the *Times* that he has "won the battle for the heart and soul of the Republican Party." He pointed to various prominent Republican politicians who have picked up the banner on positions he put forward. "Pete Wilson is talking about illegal immigration. And Bob Dole is talking about a culture war for the soul of America....It's not a Bush party any more, it is a Buchanan party."

Dole, Clinton compete on 'values'

Speaking in Los Angeles at the end of May, Dole, the Senate majority leader and current front-runner for the Republican nomination, blasted Hollywood for producing "nightmares of depravity." The music, television, and film industries "hide behind the lofty language of free speech in order to profit from the debasing

of America," he said, offering his suggestions of current movies that offer good and bad "family values."

Clinton's response was to try to take the issue back from Dole by pointing out that he had denounced rap music and violent films earlier in his State of the Union message.

Dole also joined in the bipartisan attack on affirmative action, saying he would like to eliminate programs with quotas for minorities and women. The senator said he welcomed the Christian Coalition's "Contract with the American Family," a package of proposed legislation that includes abortion restrictions and a constitutional amendment to allow prayer in public schools.

California governor Wilson, who is expected to announce a bid for the Republican nomination, has been in the forefront of attacking immigrant rights with his promotion of Proposition 187, which aims to deny health care and education to undocumented workers. He is also leading the charge against the rights of women and oppressed nationalities, signing an executive order dismantling aspects of California's affirmative action laws.

Billionaire Ross Perot, who garnered 19 percent of the vote as a third candidate in 1992, is determined to hold a spot for himself in the race for the White House.

Many of his right-wing themes, such as chopping Social Security and other aspects of workers' social wage, or putting more cops on the street, have been picked up by Clinton and other representatives of big business, Democrat and Republican alike.

In May, Perot invited Clinton, Dole, Gingrich, and other possible presidential candidates to debate at an August conference of United We Stand America, the group he set up following his presidential bid. Dole accepted the invitation. Clinton declined, saying, "I don't think the president should start politicking too soon."

A Perot spokesman said the gathering is to have political figures "come and talk about their vision for the 21st century and how...to make America an economic superpower again."

Youth protest racist outfit in Sweden

BY BIRGITTA ISACSSON AND CATHARINA TIRSEN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Some 300 demonstrators protested racist violence here May 18. The youthful crowd denounced the publicly funded skinhead youth center *Fryshuset* where several violent attacks have occurred. "I'm here because I know what the Nazis did to mental patients in Germany in the 1930's and during the war," said one protester.

"I have personal experiences of racist violence, because my son and husband are Black. My sisters and brothers are dark, although they are Swedish, and have also been targets of racist violence," said another young demonstrator. Her friend came because she had passed by a racist gathering and was offended by speakers' references to "dirty Black people" and "true Swedish patriots."

A representative of *Söderbot mot racism* (Neighbors against racism) came to protest the increased violence in her neighborhood.

Demonstrators targeted two stores suspected of selling Nazi literature and the skinhead facilities at the youth center.

Twelve immigrant rights and political organizations wrote a letter to government officials in March questioning the public financing of the rightist facilities. "On Saturday, February 4," they wrote, "a Chilean family and other passengers were beaten up by a group of skinheads at the Slussen subway station. That weekend skinheads had come to Stockholm from all over Sweden....They gathered among other places at the facilities that Stockholm municipality finances at Fryshuset....Those who tried to defend the family were also beaten up."

Others have been beaten by skinheads near Fryshuset. A 16-year-old high school student was attacked and maimed on New Year's Eve. Two months later, a janitor was assaulted. He is paralyzed and cannot speak. Doctors predict he will not recover. The night before the demonstration, a middle-aged man was beaten in the hall.

Mats Hult, the Social Democratic Party elected chief of finances of Stockholm municipality, organized a June 6 hearing to discuss the skinhead hall at Fryshuset and a publicly funded project led by skinheads to teach Nordic mythology, survival camp, self defense, and other programs. Residents pointed out that beer is served at the skinhead hall, visited by youth 14 and older, something not allowed at other publicly-funded youth programs.

In another development, a June 4 tribunal for the right of asylum will present cases of immigrants being deported in defiance of existing laws. Recently the government denied 5,000 Bosnian Croats asylum. The escalation of the fighting in Croatia delayed their deportation.

Friends of Hasan organized an antiracist demonstration and festival June 6, a national holiday in Sweden. The organization was formed by friends and neighbors of Hasan, one of 11 immigrants shot by the so-called laser man in 1990. The laser man killed one of his victims.

Birgitta Isacsson is a member of the metalworkers union and Catharina Tirsén is a member of the brewery workers union in Stockholm.



Some 300 youth and other opponents of racist and fascist violence protested May 18 in Stockholm, Sweden. Demonstrators demanded action against a local skinhead organizing center.

international campaign to win new readers



Militant 2,950
 Perspectiva Mundial 675
 New International 1,200

sold 85%
 should be 100%

2,500 sign up for 'Militant'

Continued from front page tant.

Distributors signed up new subscribers who are involved in a wide range of struggles. *Militant* supporters in Salt Lake City, Utah, for example, fielded several teams to coal-mining areas before, during, and after a walkout by miners near Window Rock, Arizona. In the most recent of a series of visits, they sold 60 singles and five subscriptions.

Rail workers and others in Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska bought 10 subscriptions from two rail workers who traveled through these states from Los Angeles and Seattle. Between that team and sales to co-workers on the job, 90 union rail workers bought *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions during the sales drive.

In New Zealand, a number of supporters of the fight for Maori land rights bought subscriptions. Other subscriptions were sold to supporters of the fight for Irish self-determination at events in Ireland, Britain, and the United States. Two participants at the Saoirse national conference on political prisoners in Dublin June 3 signed up to get the *Militant*. One former republican prisoner explained she saw the paper while in prison and wanted to keep reading it. The other new subscriber liked the paper's regular coverage and defense of the Cuban revolution, as well as the reports on the new stage in the fight for Irish freedom.

Many of the new readers are attracted to Cuba's socialist revolution, or want to learn more about it. *Militant* supporters in many areas reported a lot of interest, especially among young people, both in reading the *Militant* and participating in the Cuba Lives international youth festival in Cuba. One college student in Georgia first met a *Militant* sales team, then had a couple of supporters over to watch a video on youth in Cuba. He decided to subscribe and is planning to go to the festival in August. A Young Socialist and another *Militant* supporter visited the student later, and he bought two issues of *New International*.

The new subscriber lists are full of people like him who want to get involved in activities in defense of Cuba and against what the capitalist system has in store for working people around the world.

Consistent effort is key

While these experiences showed there are many openings to get a hearing for socialist views and sell subscriptions and *New Internationals*, the sales campaign started slow in most areas at the beginning, and sales became too concentrated in the final weeks of the drive for supporters to catch up and meet the overall goals.

The sales campaign in Los Angeles was one of the exceptions to this pattern. Supporters there hit the ground running, planning out their weeks to maximize sales opportunities. With some ups and



Striking oil worker in Cubatão, Brazil, reads *Militant* behind gate at worker-occupied refinery. Unionists appreciated coverage of their fight.

downs, they stayed roughly on target for the entire 10-week effort and sold more subscriptions and *New Internationals* than anyone else. This kind of consistency is needed to meet the sales goals without a frantic and unsustainable blitz at the end.

Distributors internationally made an all-out effort in the last couple weeks to try to close the gap between what was sold and the goals, which made a real difference in coming as close as we did. *Militant* supporters in Atlanta proudly sent in a report detailing how they sold 23 *Militant* subs, 2 *Perspectiva Mundial* subs, and 13 copies of *New International* in 10 days in order to meet all their goals on time.

They participated in a march against a racist murder; fielded a team to Gainesville, Georgia, where immigration police have carried out raids against poultry workers; sold subscriptions to customers at the Pathfinder bookstore; spent many hours going door to door in working-class neighborhoods; and followed up with young people and workers who had earlier expressed interest in the paper.

Supporters in Birmingham, Alabama, made a similar comeback, selling 19 *Militant* subscriptions in the last week alone and almost making their goal.

Keep getting out the truth

A two-person sales team to New Brunswick, Canada, June 3-6 sold seven *Militant* subscriptions and 34 single copies of the paper. The supporters introduced the paper to workers at factory gates, went door to door, and attended several sessions of the convention of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour. Among the new subscribers are two miners, two paperworkers, and two workers who are on strike at the Irving Oil refinery in St. John, New Brunswick.

The *Militant* supporters in Canada had many discussions with workers on the rise of rightist and fascist parties today. The

right-wing Confederation of Regions Party became the official opposition following the last provincial election in New Brunswick. It calls for the elimination of government and social services in the French language and opposes affirmative action programs in hiring for Acadians, a French-speaking oppressed nationality in Atlantic Canada.

Supporters of the *Militant* attending the United Auto Workers international convention in Anaheim, California, also found opportunities to sell. Unionists there bought 4 *Militant* subscriptions, 54 single copies, and 2 copies of *New International* in the first three days of the gathering. A delegate from Aurora, Illinois, bought a copy of *New International* no. 10 with the article "Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War." She had seen it advertised in the *Militant* after her husband subscribed last winter.

These experiences and others during the subscription campaign make it clear that there are plenty of opportunities to continue getting out the socialist press.

We urge our readers to keep helping to get out the truth about working-class struggles around the world through the pages of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International*. Keep bringing these political tools into the mines, factories, and rail yards, and to workers in struggle, like those who will be participating in the June 25 solidarity rally in Decatur, Illinois. Bring them to young people attracted to the Cuban revolution and involved in protests against the death penalty, police brutality, attacks on education, and other fights.

These efforts will help put us in the best position to carry out a sustained and successful subscription campaign a few months down the road.

Pete Clifford in London, Linda Joyce in Atlanta, Roger Annis in Montreal, and John Staggs in Philadelphia contributed to this article.

	Militant			Perspectiva Mundial			New International		
	sold	goal	%	sold	goal	sold	goal	sold	goal
Iceland	18	15	120%	0	1	3	3		
Sweden*	41	40	103%	17	15	50	45		
Australia	40	40	100%	6	6	17	15		
Canada									
Vancouver	75	70	107%	8	8	20	20		
Toronto	75	85	88%	14	15	29	45		
Montreal	62	75	83%	10	25	49	45		
Total	212	230	92%	32	48	98	110		
Greece	9	10	90%	0	1	4	4		
United States									
Tucson	11	10	110%	1	2	3	5		
Peoria*	54	50	108%	4	4	17	20		
Atlanta*	95	90	106%	28	25	25	25		
Los Angeles	189	180	105%	92	90	91	90		
Twin Cities*	125	120	104%	26	22	37	35		
Greensboro	72	70	103%	8	8	12	20		
Salt Lake City	105	105	100%	20	20	14	35		
Seattle	90	90	100%	28	15	25	25		
Birmingham	67	70	96%	10	5	9	20		
Houston	74	80	93%	12	20	20	20		
Philadelphia	106	115	92%	14	30	33	45		
Miami	95	105	90%	30	45	55	60		
Washington, DC	70	80	88%	25	30	34	35		
Des Moines	73	85	86%	19	36	11	30		
Morgantown	47	55	85%	1	2	11	20		
Boston	83	100	83%	13	30	24	35		
Cleveland	53	65	82%	14	12	15	50		
Detroit	75	95	79%	6	10	23	28		
Pittsburgh	80	105	76%	8	12	12	30		
San Francisco	109	150	73%	26	45	79	75		
Chicago	83	130	64%	22	30	27	50		
Newark	70	130	54%	29	35	18	60		
New York	69	135	51%	26	30	45	75		
Brooklyn	66	130	51%	37	40	69	65		
Cincinnati	4	12	33%	0	2	0	3		
New Haven	2	15	13%	0	3	0	3		
Total U.S.	1967	2372	83%	499	603	709	959		
Britain									
Sheffield*	17	15	113%	1	1	0	10		
London*	68	70	97%	11	8	36	30		
Manchester	35	60	58%	1	4	21	25		
Total	120	145	83%	13	13	57	65		
New Zealand									
Wellington	11	10	110%	0	0	2	4		
Christchurch	26	40	65%	2	2	7	10		
Auckland	49	80	61%	3	6	8	20		
Total	86	130	66%	5	8	17	34		
Puerto Rico	1	2	50%	5	8	5	5		
France	5	10	50%	0	5	18	20		
Belgium	2	3	0%	1	4	9	10		
Other	20			5		0			
International	2521	2997	85%	583	712	987	1270		
Should be	2950	2950	100%	675	675	1200	1200		

IN THE UNIONS									
AUSTRALIA									
AWU-FIME	1	2	50%	1	1	0	0		
AMWU(Food)	2	1	0%	0	1	0	0		
Total	1	3	33%	1	2	0	0		
CANADA									
IAM	14	11	127%	1	5	4	5		
CEP	8	7	114%	0	1	0	1		
USWA	5	6	83%	0	0	2	3		
CAW	10		0%	2	0	0	0		
ACTWU	1			1		1			
Total	37	24	154%	3	6	3	9		
NEW ZEALAND									
EU	3	5	60%	0	1	1	2		
MWU	0	4	0%	0	0	0	1		
Total	3	9	33%	0	1	2	3		
SWEDEN									
Foodworkers	1	2		0	0	4	4		
Metalworkers	0	2	50%	0	0	2	2		
Transport	0	1		0	0	1	3		
Total	1	5	20%	0	0	7	9		
U.S.									
IAM	79	75	105%	11	15	19	33		
UTU	87	85	102%	3	7	6	35		
OCAW	48	55	87%	0	6	13	25		
USWA	34	40	85%	3	3	4	7		
UFCW	11	15	73%	5	25	0	12		
ACTWU/ILGWU	21	30	70%	11	24	4	18		
UAW	67	100	67%	6	10	37	40		
UMWA	10	23	43%	0	0	0	12		
Total	353	423	83%	39	90	83	182		
UNION TOTALS	396	462	86%	42	99	95	203		

*raised goal

ACTWU-Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEEU-Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AWU-FIME-Australian Workers Union; AMWU(Food) Australian Workers Union; CAW-Canadian Auto Workers; EU-Engineers Union; IAM-International Association of Machinists; ILGWU-International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MWU-Meat Workers Union; NUM-National Union of Mineworkers; OCAW-Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT-National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGWU-Transport and General Workers Union; UAW-United Auto Workers; UFBGWU-United Food, Beverage and General Workers Union; UFCW-United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA-United Mine Workers of America; USWA-United Steelworkers of America; UTU-United Transportation Union.

New gov't in France faces strikes, protests

BY NAT LONDON

PARIS — It has been a very short honeymoon for the new French government. Within days of its inauguration, tens of thousands of gas, electric, telephone, postal, and rail workers were striking and demonstrating.

The actions are a warning to the conservative administration of Prime Minister Alain Juppé that workers are in no mood to give him a vote of confidence by limiting their continuing struggle for higher wages and job rights and against cutbacks, downsizing, and privatization plans.

The actions recall a series of similar protests in the fall of 1993 that forced then-prime minister Edouard Balladur to back off from plans to radically restructure French industry.

Juppé has already partially retreated on one of his pet projects, the privatization of France Télécom, the state-run telecommunications company.

At the same time, Michel Bernard, director of the state-run airline Air Inter, resigned following the seventh strike in 10 weeks. Workers are protesting plans to restructure and privatize the company, cutting 600 jobs. Air Inter is owned by Air France.

Bernard was the second Air Inter director in a row to resign under fire. Following a strike at Air France in October 1993, the directors of both Air France and Air Inter quit. Christian Blanc, who was named head of Air France, has now taken over as director of Air Inter as well. "If the new director continues the same policies, we will fight him in the same way," declared a leader of the front of seven unions that called the strike actions.

Postal workers fight for jobs

Workers at the mail sorting facility in Nice, one of a number of such centers on strike, voted 82 to 62 to return to work May 21 after occupying the center for more than a month. The work stoppage had become a symbol among postal workers as the riot police launched numerous attempts to dislodge the strikers. Post office bosses organized a parallel mail sorting center using management personnel. The fascist National Front of Jean-Marie Le Pen organized demonstrations of small businessmen hostile to the strikers.

The strikers voted to return to work after postal management abandoned plans to reduce the workforce by eight jobs. Instead, two new jobs were created and eight workers currently on temporary, part-time contracts will be hired into regular, full-time jobs. Management has also agreed to pay half of the wages for those who were on strike. However, plans to move the mail sorting center out of the Nice airport have been maintained.

"Nothing will be like before," read the headline on a leaflet prepared by the strikers' general assembly.

Gas, electric, postal, and telecommunication workers struck for 24 hours May 30 and organized mass demonstrations. The next day, rail workers organized a national march in Paris.



Workers in France are fighting privatization and layoff schemes. Above, strikers rally on runway at Orly airport in Paris during October 1993 fight to push back restructuring at Air France.

One-quarter of the 160,000 workers at EDF-GDF (Electricity and Gas of France) demonstrated here. The 40,000 participants came to Paris from all over the country by car, train, and even chartered airplane to protest plans to open the production and distribution of electricity in France to private competition. This is seen as the first step toward the privatization of EDF-GDF.

Government changes tune

Following the demonstration the newly appointed minister of industries, Yves Galland, told the press that privatizing EDF was "unimaginable."

The same day, 70 percent of the 150,000 workers at France Télécom and 40 percent of the 220,000 postal workers

struck.

Following the walkout, François Fillon, the government minister in charge of telecommunications, stated, "The evolution of France Télécom is inevitable." However, he added, "certainly not privatization. As far as opening up the capital of France Télécom to private investment, the government cannot yet say." New plans will be announced this summer, he added.

Postal workers are particularly worried about job cutbacks. The number of postal workers has dropped by 8,000 in the last two years.

About 200,000 postal workers are civil servants and are considered to have job tenure. Another 100,000 are temporary workers under part-time contracts; they have no job protection. Limiting the num-

ber of contractual workers and expanding the number of full-time tenured positions has been a central question in a series of local strikes over the last three months.

Tens of thousands of rail workers demonstrated in Paris May 31. They are protesting plans to break up the state-run SNCF railroad into small affiliated services, viewed as a first step toward privatization.

Workers at SERNAM, the SNCF freight service, were particularly mobilized for the demonstration. The SNCF plans to reduce the SERNAM workforce to 3,900 workers from its present 5,900 by 1997.

The new government was elected based on promises to improve the condition of working people. Chirac's campaign called for raising workers' wages. Juppé declared that unemployment is the number one priority of his government. He has also promised to raise the minimum wage by about 5 percent on July 1 and to provide 10,000 new low-income lodgings within months.

The government's pledge to finance these projects has brought public warnings from the financial markets, as bankers and bondholders speculate that the franc will suffer sharp devaluation. Juppé has now announced that he will raise the value added tax to 20 percent from its current level of 18.6 percent. This would in effect wipe out the wage gains many workers have won in recent job actions. He has also been counting on receiving 50 billion francs this year from the privatization of state-owned industry.

Despite their stated concern over unemployment, Chirac and Juppé stand firmly behind the objectives of French capitalists, who need to restructure industry by slashing wages, downsizing, and privatizing in order to meet the sharpening competitive challenge from other imperialist powers, particularly the United States. The strikes are making clear that this challenge will not go unanswered.

Workers strike Toys 'R Us in Sweden

BY JONAS ANDERSON AND ANITA ÖSTLING

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Workers here are waging a fight for union recognition at Toys 'R Us, a U.S.-based multinational company with outlets in the three biggest cities in Sweden — Stockholm, Gothenburg, and Malmö. The company refuses to negotiate with the Handelsanställdas Förbund (retail workers union). The employer also refuses to sign a contract giving its workers the same wages, working hours, and workers compensation that other members of the union receive. Toys 'R Us wants a tailor-made contract for itself or no contract at all.

The union struck May 16 after launching a nationwide boycott May 9. About 75 percent of the workers are members of the union and some have joined in the course of the fight.

Newly hired workers must sign for receipt of the Toys 'R Us Employee Man-

ual. In so doing, each individual pledges to abide by the manual. The booklet states the company has the right to unilaterally change wages and working conditions. Workers must also pledge to tell supervisors if they suspect co-workers of theft or hear anybody "speak ill" of the company or supervisors. Anyone finking on a co-worker is eligible for a bonus. If they don't they can be fired. Mere suspicion of theft is cause for dismissal.

The manual has a chapter stipulating workers cannot engage in any open debate, speak publicly about the company, or talk about union activities at the stores. Starting wage for workers is \$7 an hour and the average is \$9 an hour. Those who don't join the union receive a \$1.50-an-hour bonus.

Seven national unions have come out in support of Handelsanställdas Förbund. The seafarers, transport workers, and public employees unions have stopped all shipping and transportation to and from the three Toys 'R Us stores. The electricians, maintenance, and municipal workers unions have ceased all maintenance, cleaning, and garbage collection at the stores. The bank employees union stopped handling the company's financial transactions, including daily sales deposits.

Handelsanställdas Förbund put up picket lines outside the three outlets urging customers not to shop there. The pickets are union officials, unemployed members of the union, and unionists from other workplaces who have taken time off or come after work. The strikers themselves don't walk the picket line for fear of harassment from the company.

Pickets hand out fliers to potential customers urging them to "Stand by the retail workers! Don't shop at Toys 'R Us!" The number of customers has decreased markedly during the action; when the boycott was turned into a strike even more people responded favorably.

Few cars are parked at the huge lot outside the Stockholm store. Pickets report that those who actually do shop are mostly

people with infants. The company offers Pampers-brand diapers at a sharply reduced price.

Therese Karlsson is a union member who walks the picket line every day. She was fired from Toys 'R Us earlier this year. "I was hired on probation for six months. I thought that was okay. I was confident that in six months I could qualify for a permanent job. I worked 20 hours a week. But sometimes I would do 40 hours overtime. During December I worked my 20 hours per week plus another 60 hours. I was never sick and I never reported in late. But two weeks before my probation ran out they told me I was fired and said straight to my face that they would rather hire somebody else on probation than hire me permanently. They don't give you a chance," said Karlsson.

Another worker, interviewed on national television, said she felt deprived of her democratic rights. She said she was guarded all the time and that her privacy and integrity were trampled on. "I want to work more than anything else, but not under the conditions they offer," she stated.

Toys 'R Us, which has outlets in the United States, China, Japan, and most European countries, has never agreed to collective bargaining in Europe. Unions in Denmark waged a struggle to force the company to sign a contract last year, but failed. So the stakes are high in the current strike in Sweden. It is very unusual for companies here to operate without union contracts.

Only a few small companies are not covered by union agreements. When McDonald's was established in Sweden more than a decade ago it tried to run nonunion. But after only a short while the company was forced to sign a contract. Toys 'R Us is the first large company to attempt to operate nonunion since then.

Jonas Anderson is a member of the municipal workers union in Stockholm. Anita Östling is a member of the transport workers union in Stockholm.

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by Farrell Dobbs

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Prison officials always try to snatch away rights

"From behind prison walls" is a regular column written by framed-up political and trade union activist Mark Curtis. To write to Curtis send letters to him at #805338, Iowa State Penitentiary, Box 316, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627.



Mark Curtis

After serving 30 days in the hole and eight months in administrative segregation, I was finally granted a 14-day time cut off my 13-month disciplinary sentence in May. If I continue to receive cuts from monthly prison classification reviews, this could be my last full month in lockup.

As my release date from lockup gets closer I find myself looking forward to the small freedoms it will bring.

It might seem odd that prisoners dread "going to jail," meaning being put in disciplinary lockup. After all, we're already be-

hind bars anyway.

Still, prison is rigidly structured to ensure that no matter how bad an inmate's got it, someone else has got it worse. Minimum, medium, and maximum-security, lockup, "the hole" and other statuses allow the prison to grant privileges or snatch them away. Further, any or all privileges, which I prefer to think of as rights, can be suspended in short order by the warden.

One or more of the cellhouses here in the Iowa State Penitentiary get locked down every couple of months for supposed security reasons. While a lockdown is on, nobody can leave his cell.

But even a disciplinary cellhouse like the one I'm in can be locked down. Last month we went through a week of that while the whole cellhouse was searched. During that time we were denied even the daily hour of exercise in the dogpens normally allowed. We couldn't make phone calls, get clean clothes, or even take a shower.

Every cell was shook down. A guard handcuffs you and places you in an empty cell or the shower cell and two of them poke through all your personal items. If you're lucky, you return to find your books, clothes, blankets, soap, everything, in a lump on the mattress. Bad luck is getting a disciplinary report for having

"contraband" discovered in your cell. Contraband could be an item of clothing, food, a magazine, or anything not allowed in your possession.

At least two guys had all their property boxed up and taken over to the hospital where it was X-rayed. I returned to my cell to find it trashed but nothing seemed to be missing.

Two days later, however, I noticed that the new pamphlet on my defense case, *Why Is Mark Curtis Still In Prison?*, was missing. Even though the prison had refused to give me the pamphlet when it was first sent, the guards denied swiping it during the shake-down. All I can say for sure is that it is hard to misplace something in a 5' x 8' cell. I ordered a second copy, which I have received.

Lockup can seem like its own little world, a jail inside a jail. A neighborhood is created by the ranges of cells — one upstairs and one downstairs. After a few days we can easily identify one another by voice even if we never meet face to face. Besides talking and joking, playing chess is popular here. Each player sets up his board and calls out his move.

Although most will do less than a year of disciplinary lockup, there are a number of inmates who have served 5, 10, 15 years and more. The effect that has on

one's mental health is not good. In fact, there are some prisoners who have gone over the edge. They babble senselessly, hallucinate, and scream in the middle of the night.

Continued lockup of these obviously sick men is not only irritating to others but cruel to those who clearly need humane hospitalization.

An alarm bell sounded this month when the governor of Pennsylvania signed a death warrant for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Abu-Jamal was railroaded to prison for the 1981 killing of a Philadelphia police officer.

Support for his release has come in from prominent figures and thousands have signed petitions demanding that he not be executed. While in prison Abu-Jamal has spoken out on political issues and was preparing to give regular commentaries on National Public Radio until pressure from police and others caused cancellation of the program.

Not only do they want Abu-Jamal to die, but they want him to go quietly. Supporters of democratic rights must fight now to see that this crime is exposed and demand an end to the execution and Abu-Jamal's release.

USAir workers say, 'We don't want concessions'

BY DEBORAH LIATOS AND NANCY COLE

PHILADELPHIA — USAir fleet service workers turned out in large numbers for meetings here June 5-6 to declare their opposition to a concession contract proposal arrived at by the company and officials of the International Association of Machinists (IAM). The agreement is part of USAir's drive to slash labor costs by \$2.5 billion over the next five years.

The proposed concession pact is the first negotiated agreement for fleet service at USAir since some 7,500 workers — baggage handlers and catering — gave a majority vote to the IAM in a contest with the Teamsters and United Steelworkers of America last year.

Some 8,000 mechanics, cleaners, and stock clerks are also facing a proposed takeover pact. The company wants to amend their contract, which is not due to expire until the end of September. The maintenance package includes a 12.9 percent wage reduction across the board, elimination of the paid half-hour lunch, and provisions for up to 300 layoffs in place of an existing no-layoff clause for those hired after the 1992 contract. IAM officials and USAir management have been negotiating for more than a year on this proposed five-year contract.

Since the fleet service workers lost rep-

resentation by the Teamsters union in a decertification election five years ago, the company has carried out unceasing attacks on their wages, holiday pay, vacations, sick leave, work rules, and seniority rights. Many full-time workers have been forced into part-time status.

The contract USAir is offering catering workers and baggage handlers includes split shifts for part-time workers — some workers would be scheduled for two hours in the morning, and have to return for another two hours in the evening; provisions for 10-hour workdays; the possibility of up to 300 layoffs; reducing the part-time ratio to 40 percent for the first three years of the contract (down from an estimated 60 percent today but higher than the industry average. Northwest Airlines and United Airlines have a 15 percent cap on part-time workers, TWA has a 10 percent cap).

Both fleet service and maintenance workers here are part of IAM Local 1776. At two informational meetings for fleet service workers June 5 and three meetings for mechanics, cleaners, and stock clerks June 6, IAM officials threw their support behind the concession agreements, citing an ailing airline industry and a company that needs givebacks to remain viable.

The meetings for maintenance workers were sparsely attended. But mechanics in particular expressed concern about the possibility that hundreds may be laid off.

Some 300 fleet service workers attended meetings to discuss the contract proposal. They were outraged at the company's offer and demanded to know how the union could bring such a proposal to them after many months of negotiations.

"Not one of the demands we put forward is in this proposal," one worker said.

Committeeman Bill Chandlee spoke on behalf of fleet service workers at the informational meetings. In a prepared statement made available to the *Militant*, he explained, "During the organizing campaign one year ago, the fleet service agents were told, promised, and guaranteed by the IAM organizers — from local officials to international officers — verbally and by written handouts that fleet service agents, after being raped by the company for four years, would be restored all benefits and work rules that had been taken away by the company."

Chandler stressed the unionists who come under the fleet service contract would be open to discussing some concessions. But, he said, the IAM organizing campaign "solicited our support with slogans: one airline, one union; strength in numbers; IAM for fairness; and promises



Fly Paper

Volume V May, 1995 No 11

Capital Air Lodge 1759, IAM&AW, AFL-CIO, 1037 Sterling Rd., Suite 104, Herndon, VA 22070

Six Airline Workers Walk Line With UAW Strikers In York, PA



From left to right: IAM Local 1759 members Shirley Komack, Mary Martin and Janice Lynn stand on "Union Boulevard" with UAW striker Jack Kopp, Jr.

Members of IAM Local 1759 join United Auto Workers picket line at "Union Boulevard" and "Scab Avenue" in support of nine-month strike against Caterpillar Corporation

May issue of *Fly Paper*, published by International Association of Machinists Local 1759 at Washington, D.C., airports, featured article and pictures of trip by six local members to York, Pennsylvania, in support of Caterpillar strikers.

From Pathfinder

The Eastern Airlines Strike

Accomplishments of the Rank-and-File Machinists

Ernie Mailhot, Judy Stranahan, and Jack Barnes

The story of the 686-day strike in which rank-and-file resistance by Machinists prevented Eastern's antiunion onslaught from becoming the road to a profitable nonunion airline. \$9.95



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of parity, industry standards, restoration not deterioration, and a level playing field."

Continuing, Chandlee said, "The IAM exists to serve its membership. We will not stand to be treated as third-class citizens in this union." Chandlee concluded by proposing a, "return to the negotiating table and obtain the fair and equitable contract that was promised." His remarks were greeted by a standing ovation of the workers present at both meetings.

Many workers peppered union officials with questions and statements, proposing they go back to the negotiating table and emphasizing the need to make the slogan, "one airline, one union," a reality.

Chandlee told the *Militant* that he and another committeeman will attend meetings to discuss the contract in Pittsburgh June 14-16, which is the first time that representatives chosen by the workers themselves will be involved in formal discussions about the contract.

Discussions and debate among IAM members about both concession proposals

have stepped up on the job. Word of the response by fleet service workers in Philadelphia has spread to other USAir stations.

IAM officials said written contracts will be available for members to study before they are voted on by the membership.

Deborah Liatos and Nancy Cole are cleaners at USAir in Philadelphia and members of IAM Local 1776.

'Militant' well received by USAir workers

At the Pittsburgh airport USAir workers were quick to pick up copies of the *Militant* featuring an article on union members response to the concession contracts. Nineteen bought copies of the paper at tables in front of the airport and another 8 bought the *Militant* from co-workers on the job. In Philadelphia seven papers were sold to workers at the information meetings.

Across Argentina, workers fight for jobs

Continued from front page

their June wages until July in order to keep paying on Argentina's foreign debt, as demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The next two months, President Menem added, will be "a little rough."

In this city of 1.1 million, the country's second-largest, workers have held strikes and marches, erected road barricades, and taken over government buildings and factories. As in many other provinces, most public employees — including teachers, hospital employees, and utility workers — have not been paid since March. Retired workers have received no checks since February.

"We're holding a symbolic occupation of the hospital," Martoglio explained as she toured two *Militant* reporters through the facility. The 800 nurses, doctors, and other workers there are caring for 100 in-patients as well as emergency cases but are not accepting new patients. "It's not just that we haven't been paid. The government isn't funding the public health-care system. The patients here have had to bring their own syringes, medicine, and even bedsheets. We won't accept that."

Nora Romero, a nurse at the Children's Hospital, added, "Three hospitals in the city are now occupied. And last week we held a March in Defense of Health Care of 3,000 people. We've received a lot of support, especially from students."

'IMF has robbed us'

That day, hundreds of teachers met at their union hall to discuss the next steps in their fight to get paid. Since mid-March,



UEPC Córdoba
March of 20,000 teachers and supporters in Córdoba in April demanding public employees be paid their wages. State workers in many provinces have not been paid for two or three months.

elementary and high schools throughout Córdoba province have been shut down as teachers demand their back wages.

"Cavallo pushes Argentina more and more into debt with the IMF. We have to stop paying that debt. The IMF has robbed us a hundred times already," said Betina Pozo, a high school teacher whose monthly wage is 350 pesos a month (1 peso=US\$1) Rent for a small two-bedroom apartment in Córdoba averages 400 pesos a month.

Later that evening, dozens of students set up barricades with burning tires on the street in front of San Martín High School, which serves as a grade school in the morning and a secondary school at night.

"We want our teachers to get paid so we can go back to school," said Vanina Maggeri, 16, waving the black smoke away from her face as her classmates chanted and sang songs. "It's the government's fault."

English teacher Adriana Sánchez, who joined her students at the street protest, explained that these demonstrations and marches have been a virtually daily occurrence here for the past several months. That day, public employees were occupying the offices of the ministry of agriculture. The next day, angry, unpaid unionists took over the ministry of health and were evicted by cops.

Cops paid but not teachers

"They've paid the police but not the teachers," said Walter Grahovac, general secretary of the Union of Educators of Córdoba Province, in an interview. He added that before the strike,

teachers were also compelled to buy chalk and other supplies that were lacking because of cuts in funds for education.

Grahovac reported on some of the recent teachers' mobilizations, which have been joined by many students and their parents: a shutdown of schools and rally on March 13; a march to the legislature March 16; an April 5 march and occupation of government offices; a torchlight parade of 20,000 on April 12; a province-wide strike by public employees on April 18; and a national strike on April 21. Similar marches and protests took place throughout May and early June, including weekly demonstrations by retired workers.

These struggles by state workers have coincided with nationwide demonstrations by university students protesting an education bill that would introduce tuition fees. Some 8,000 college students rallied in Córdoba May 31. A similar number marched June 7, taking over several university buildings. They joined thousands more who marched that day in Buenos Aires and other cities.

Working people in other provinces around the country are also seething with anger. On April 11, for example, 8,000 public employees surrounded the state legislature in the northern province of Jujuy and demanded the repeal of a wage cut. The Parliament quickly restored their wages. Marches and strikes have taken place in the provinces of Salta, La Rioja, Santiago del Estero, Tucumán, Entre Ríos, San Juan, Chaco, Río Negro, and Neuquén.

"Nothing like this crisis in the provinces had happened here in years," Pihén said in an interview. "The detonator of this situation was the devaluation of the Mexican peso in December" and its shock waves, widely described here as the "tequila effect."

In the first several months after the December 20 Mexico devaluation, imperialist investments in Argentina evaporated. Stocks on the Merval stock exchange plunged 40 percent and panicky investors pulled out \$8.5 billion from Argentine banks, money that only now is beginning to return.

The country's fragile banking system continues to teeter. A few banks have closed and a third of Argentina's 200 financial institutions have effectively ceased to operate since the beginning of the year. International bankers are pushing the Menem administration to step up the liquidation or merger of scores of weaker banks.

The resulting credit crunch — with interest rates peaking at 70 percent in early March — has had disastrous effects on small businessmen and farmers, many of whom had become heavily indebted in recent years. Thirty thousand Argentine businesses went bankrupt in the

first three months of the year, commercial sales dropped 35 percent, and credit card defaults are at a record high.

The credit squeeze has hit Argentina's auto industry particularly hard, with car sales falling by more than a third over the past 12 months. In May and June, several major manufacturers announced two-week temporary layoffs. CIADEA, formerly the Renault plant, suspended 4,500 auto workers in Córdoba, and SEVEL, which produces Peugeots, suspended 4,000.

The deep recession has deflated the giddy proclamations by capitalists at home and abroad that Argentina, supposedly a model "emerging market," was going to join the ranks of the First World. An incoming flood of foreign capital sent the Buenos Aires stock market soaring 15-fold during the early 1990s and a new crop of Argentine millionaires mushroomed. Upscale *shoppings*, virtual clones of suburban U.S. shopping malls, sprouted in Buenos Aires to cater to the expanded middle classes.

Ever since December 20, Menem and Cavallo have repeated the mantra that "Argentina is not Mexico" and that the government will not abandon its policy of pegging the Argentine peso to the dollar, a supposed guarantee against instability. But international capitalists are nervous about the growing social tensions and how far the regime will be able to pursue its assault on the working class.

Cavallo admits recession

Menem's May 14 reelection brought sighs of relief in corporate boardrooms around the globe. But on June 6, when Cavallo publicly spoke the word that has been on workers' lips for the past couple years, stating "there is a recession," stocks plummeted 10 percent over two days.

In a May 16 article titled "Argentina still on the operating table," columnist David Pilling of the London *Financial Times* outlined some of the moves imperialist investors demand Menem now take: "the orderly contraction of the banking system" to strengthen bigger banks at the expense of weaker ones, "tough belt tightening" in the provinces, and pushing through "laws aimed at lowering the cost of Argentine labour."

Above all, the government must make its payments on Argentina's foreign debt, which according to the World Bank has grown to \$67 billion, from \$27 billion in 1980. Of this, some \$5.5 billion will fall due in the next six months.

The debt continues to grow. The Inter-American Development Bank announced June 5 its plans to loan Argentina another \$1.3 billion, mostly to finance the privatization of provincial banks.

One of the most dramatic consequences of these government priorities, compounded by the credit squeeze since the Mexican peso crisis, is the situation in Argentina's provinces. The Menem administration is driving to shift more and more of the social services — and the political cost resulting from cuts in these programs — onto the provincial govern-

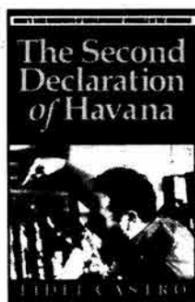


Militant/Argiris Malapanis
Ana María Martoglio of hospital workers union in Córdoba talks to *Militant* reporter Martín Koppel.

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THE LENINIST STRATEGY OF PARTY BUILDING

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and a living wage

ments, the main employers in some provinces. As a result, tens of thousands of workers have not been paid in the past two or three months and many more are unemployed.

"This province was financed by the Bank of Córdoba Province. When the credit disappeared, the province was left fundless," said Pihén of the public employees union, noting that the federal government's policy is to severely restrict loans to the provinces. He added that many workers have been able to survive the crisis only by obtaining credit from local stores and through their unions. "Now that has dried up too."

Prices in Argentina remain extremely high. According to a study cited in the June 8 issue of the major daily *Clarín*, the cost of living in Buenos Aires is 23 percent higher than in New York.

At the same time, employers have kept wages and retirement pensions down. Córdoba teachers and hospital workers interviewed by the *Militant* reported average take-home pay ranging from 300 to 450 pesos a month. At the Air Force aerospace plant here, organized by the Association of State Workers (ATE), some workers with 25 years' service take home 650 pesos a month.

War on labor

A major front in the employers' war on labor in Argentina is their demand for "labor flexibility." This consists of a package of bills before Congress that would seriously weaken basic gains won by the unions over the past 50 years.

One would gut collective bargaining and replace it with plant-by-plant negotiations. Other measures would allow bosses to combine jobs, change work schedules more freely, institute "work teams," reduce overtime pay, introduce probationary periods, hire more part-time workers, eliminate severance pay, shorten vacations, impose forced arbitration, and lower wage scales. In some industries, such as textile, unions have already agreed to some of these concessions.

Another line of attack on labor is the effort to gut the health-care plans to which all workers and employers must contribute, and which are largely administered by the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), the main labor federation. Workers currently have access to a system of free public hospitals and medical care. The Menem administration is pushing to "deregulate" the union-run plans and allow companies to offer private medical plans as an alternative.

"This will lead to a situation in which only those with money will be able to afford health care," said Guillermo Rocha, assistant secretary of the ATE in Córdoba province. "Under a new law, hospitals have to be 'self-financing' and they will charge fees."

The assault on union-run health plans is similar to previously adopted laws that privatized workers' pension funds.

Since Menem was elected in 1989, the government has sold off state-owned enterprises to domestic and international capitalists, including the oil, telephone, gas, electricity, and transportation companies.

"I worked 20 years at the phone company until 1991, when it was sold to a Spanish company," said Alberto Sordelli, 48, an activist who supports the human rights group Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo. With the threat of layoffs, "I took their offer of voluntary retirement. I found work as a day laborer on the docks but now I'm unemployed," said Sordelli, who has seven children.

The dismantling of state-owned companies, cutbacks by provincial governments, and mass layoffs in private industry have swelled the ranks of unemployed to a record 14 percent — more than twice the 1990 level. Many more workers are underemployed, often doing marginal jobs such as selling toys on the streets. According to figures released by the ATE, more than one out of three workers is unemployed or underemployed.

The depression has pauperized large layers of working people, especially in the countryside. Many have migrated to the

huge slums that surround the major cities. About 10 percent of Córdoba's population lives in these *villas miseria* (miseryvilles).

"These days you see many more kids on the streets doing odd jobs," remarked ATE union activist María Elena Pereyra. She pointed to recent news headlines about increasing cases of malnutrition and deaths from contaminated water in poorer provinces like Jujuy and Tucumán.

Meanwhile, the employers, the media, and the government have unleashed a propaganda campaign to blame this social disaster on immigrant workers, who have come to this country in larger numbers since 1992. More than one million workers have immigrated from neighboring South American countries.

"Today they instill anti-immigrant poison against Bolivians, Paraguayans, and Uruguayans," said Oscar Mengarelli, ATE general secretary in Córdoba province, in an interview. He said the unions should reject this prejudice.

Why workers voted for Menem

In the context of this economic and social crisis, presidential elections took place May 14. Menem, of the Justicialist Party, which claims the mantle of former president Juan Perón, handily won reelection over his opponents. The Peronists' traditional rival, the Radical Civic Union (UCR), was crushed at the polls with a mere 17 percent. Senator José Bordón, candidate of the new Frepaso coalition, won 29 percent.

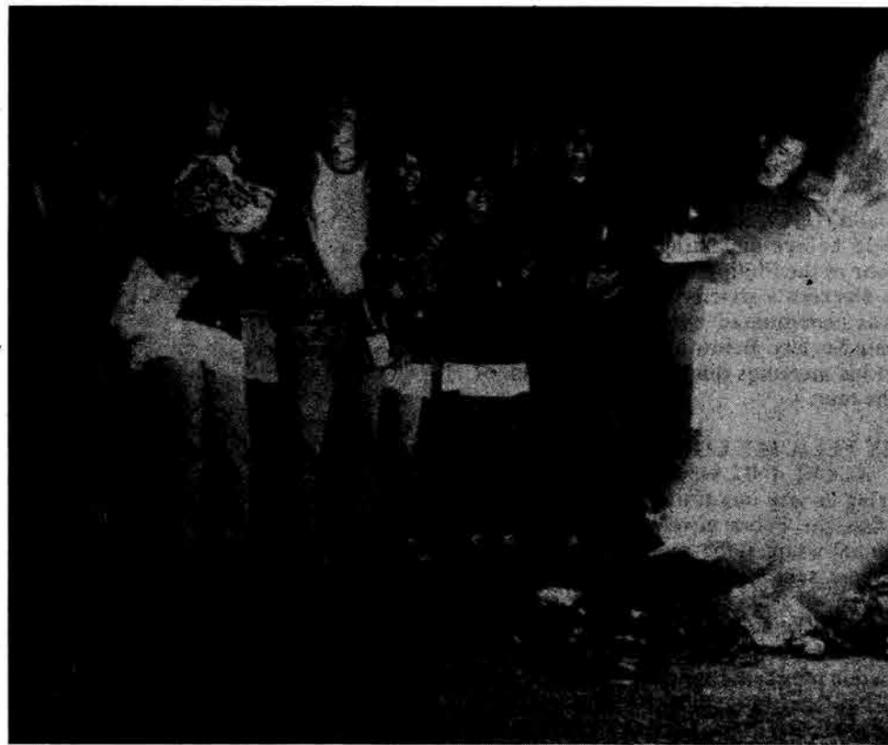
Carlos Miranda, a worker with 20 years' service at the airplane factory here, said he voted for Menem along with many of his co-workers. The main reason, he said, was "stability. Now prices are stable. You can plan to buy something even if wages are low. We don't face the nightmare of hyperinflation."

The UCR has been discredited by the 5,000 percent annual inflation that devastated the working class during the presidency of Raúl Alfonsín, whose term ended in 1989. Under Menem, inflation dropped to single digits.

Fear of instability was cited by other workers at the state-owned airplane plant, which has just been sold to Lockheed. The new owners are reportedly planning to cut back the workforce from 2,000 to less than 1,000. The sprawling plant makes Pampa planes and other military aircraft. Many of those voting for Menem, however, were not enthusiastic. "I'm not very confident about the future," said Miranda.

Asked about Frepaso's candidate, aerospace worker Hugo Orellana, 47, commented, "None of the candidates offered an alternative [to Menem]. The other parties had no proposals." Bordón actually campaigned for harsher austerity measures than Menem.

Frepaso was established by forces that had been in an electoral grouping called the Big Front (*Frente Grande*). That formation included Peronists who were dis-



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

Students from San Martín High School burn tires and block the street June 5 in Córdoba to demand that striking teachers be paid two months of back wages.

enchanted with Menem's abandonment of bourgeois nationalist policies and his open identification with U.S. imperialism, as well as social democrats and the Communist Party. Last year, most of the Communist Party's members left or were expelled from the coalition, while some of its members stayed in what became Frepaso. The party has lost most of its membership over the past decade.

Fracturing of CGT

The union movement, hit hard by the employer and government offensive, has also begun to fracture. The CGT officialdom has been weakened by its close identification with the ruling Peronists.

In 1989, about 40 unions broke away, leading to the formation of the Congress of Argentine Workers (CTA), which now has about 600,000 members out of some 2 million employed unionized workers. The major unions affiliated to the CTA are the ATE and the teachers union, as well as the rubber workers and naval workers unions.

Another dissident formation, the Movement of Argentine Workers (MTA), remains affiliated to the CGT but has carried out joint demonstrations with the CTA against government policies.

The CTA held its first national elections June 6, electing Víctor de Gennaro as general secretary. For the first time in the country's union history, elections were held by direct, secret ballot.

Meanwhile, long-time CGT chief Antonio Cassia, who had bragged he would "never launch a strike" against Menem, recently announced he was leaving the labor federation under pressure from other CGT officials. The CGT organizes the major industrial unions in Argentina, including auto, oil, and electrical workers.

While unions have suffered big blows in recent years, employers are concerned

about the brewing unrest and protests in the provinces, even if these actions remain scattered. Capitalists nervously remember the December 1993 workers uprising in Santiago del Estero. Thousands of public employees who had not been paid in three months, joined by unemployed and retired workers, burned down the governor's mansion, legislature, and courts in that northern province, along with homes of politicians from both major parties and of some union officials.

"If things continue like this," aerospace worker Miranda said, echoing a comment by some other workers, "we may see another *Cordobazo*." He was referring to the semi-insurrection that took place in Córdoba in 1969 during a working-class upsurge in Argentina.

That rebellion, involving thousands of revolutionary-minded auto workers, students, and others, was crushed. From 1976 to 1982, a military regime waged a savage campaign of repression against working people, killing and disappearing tens of thousands.

Today, however, there is a generation of young workers and students who did not live through that period and are not afraid. Along with them are many workers who have learned through the harsh experience of recent years that the government's austerity measures and opening of the economy to greater imperialist profit have meant only worse conditions.

Alejandro Barberín, one of the nurses occupying the San Roque hospital, made a comment that echoed the views of many workers interviewed by the *Militant*. "The policies of Menem, Cavallo, and [Córdoba governor Eduardo] Angeloz are a total disgrace, humiliating for the working class," he said. "They are trying to destroy our human dignity. But we are standing up. We will fight them."



HELP THE 'MILITANT' PROVIDE EYEWITNESS REPORTS from Cuba, the Philippines & Argentina

Dear Reader,

During the next few weeks, *Militant* reporting teams will bring our readers on-the-spot coverage of developments in Cuba, the Philippines, and continue our coverage from South America.

A team of *Militant* correspondents — Mary-Alice Waters and Luis Madrid from New York and Ernie Mailhot from Miami — has travelled to Cuba, where they will participate in a conference of U.S. and Cuban philosophers and social scientists. They will visit Havana and Matanzas and speak with workers, farmers, and youth on the measures being taken to confront Cuba's economic crisis and defend the socialist revolution.

In next week's issue, *Militant* correspondents Aaron Ruby and Marnie Kennedy will file eyewitness reports from Manila, the Philippines, where they are covering the

speaking tour of Alejandro Herrera, a leader of Cuba's Union of Young Communists.

Our coverage from South America continues in the current issue. Correspondents Martín Koppel and Argiris Malapanis have just returned from Brazil and Argentina, where they prepared firsthand coverage of the São Paulo Forum, the Brazilian oil workers strike, and student and workers demonstrations in Argentina. Their coverage this week outlines the opening of the working-class fightback in Argentina.

This week's issue also features an eyewitness report from Haiti by Ernie Mailhot, who spent several days there in May.

These trips make possible the kind of unmatched coverage the *Militant* has been able to consistently provide on Cuba and working-class struggles throughout the Americas—and around the globe. The cost of these trips will exceed \$16,000, so your

generous help is needed.

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'An invincible weapon: the Cuban people'

Youth leader finds much interest in revolution during tour of New Zealand

Alejandro Herrera Agete, a leader of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba (UJC), toured New Zealand June 3-15 before departing for a week-long tour of the Philippines.

Herrera's six-city New Zealand tour was coordinated by the Cuba Friendship Society. Below are reports on some of his meetings during the first week of the tour.

BY FELICITY COGGAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — In figuring its way out of the current economic crisis, the Cuban government has one essential weapon, the support of the Cuban people, said Alejandro Herrera at a meeting of 40 Auckland University students June 8. The Cuban youth leader was welcomed to the university by Student Association president Brendon Lane.

Replying to a student who asked why people leave Cuba, Herrera explained that there has always been emigration from Cuba. Some leave because they oppose the revolution, always hoping to see it overthrown. Such people began to "rub their hands" at the beginning of the economic crisis, thinking the revolution was finished, but now they have "worn their hands out," because it has kept going, he said.

Some people leave for economic reasons. Those are not enemies of the revolution, he explained. Herrera pointed to how the United States government has welcomed illegal immigrants from Cuba, while repatriating those from other countries.

One member of the audience blamed the government of Cuban president Fidel Castro for the economic crisis and described the policies of the Cuban leadership as being "based around Stalinism" and an "attempt to build socialism in one country."

"What similarities do you find between Castro and Stalin?" Herrera responded. "What similarities are there between the Cuban revolution and what happened in the USSR? How many revolutionaries have been assassinated in Cuba? How many Cubans left the country last summer? There were 40,000, and they left freely. What do you think would have happened if Cuba had had Stalin at its head?"

The help from the former Soviet Union was important, Herrera explained, but the Cuban revolution owes its success to the efforts made by the Cuban people.

Herrera described how in the mid-1980s the central leadership of the Cuban Communist Party, noting that Cuba was committing some errors by copying structures from the Soviet Union, launched a process of economic and social "rectification" to avoid the economy "sliding into obsolescence and inactivity." This strengthened the capacity of the revolution to survive the current crisis. "Only a revolution loyal to the people, only a revolution that had nothing to do with what Stalin did in the USSR, could have withstood this," he said.

While on his tour, Herrera issued an open invitation to everyone to come to Cuba to continue the exchange through taking part in the Cuba Lives International Youth Festival in Havana August 1-7.

BY JAMES ROBB

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Fifty people heard Alejandro Herrera at a public meeting here June 9.

The meeting was opened with a welcome by Grant Hawke on behalf of Ngati Whatua, the local Maori tribe. It was chaired by Matt Robson, deputy leader of the Alliance, an opposition parliamentary party. Robson pledged that the Alliance would "add its voice to those calling for an end to the criminal U.S. blockade of Cuba."

Herrera told the meeting that "when the economic crisis hit Cuba, our enemies took advantage of the situation to tighten the embargo. They thought this would be their opportunity to finally destroy our revolution. Their mouths watered at the prospect. But the Cuban revolution has an immeasurable strength, and we are still here today."

He added that the vast majority of



Militant/Alfredo Rico
Sugarcane workers at Blas Soler cooperative farm near Holguin. "The U.S. never forgave us for making a revolution," said Cuban youth leader Alejandro Herrera.

Cubans support the revolution. "The day that we don't have the support of the big majority, the revolution will be dead."

Asked about the status of women and homosexuals in Cuban society, Herrera gave examples of the progress women have made toward equality through the revolution. "There is no one more feminist than us," he said.

The economic crisis and the consequent fuel shortages had forced the Cuban government to cut back on the number of political congresses organized. "This year there have been only two, a congress of workers and one of women. That is a measure of how important we consider this question."

Homosexuals, Herrera said, "have access to all the social services available without discrimination." However, he added, "the discrimination that does exist is anti-homosexual prejudice."

Herrera also met with the president and international affairs officer of the Auckland University Students Association and with Helen Clark, the parliamentary leader of the Labour Party.

BY JANET ROTH

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Questions on the current economic situation in Cuba dominated discussion at a public meeting with Cuban youth leader Alejandro Herrera held here June 5.

The first question was what difference had last year's increase in industrial production in Cuba made.

"The Cuban economy grew by 4 percent in 1994," Herrera replied, "but in completely frank terms that 4 percent does not mean anything when you are trying to put food on the table. It is the equivalent of 5 or 6 more beans each for 12 million Cubans."

"For the economy and the Cuban revolution, however, it means a lot. The worst year for the revolution was in 1993, but in 1994 the economic decline stopped and we began to go up. It meant we had found our economic direction again, although we had never lost our political direction."

What caused this turnaround? This came about "through the effort that people made," Herrera explained. "Many of the steps we've taken are not attractive, for example, investment in tourism that generates social vices like prostitution, trafficking, diseases. We've opened up investment to foreign capital. But these would not be enough if the people hadn't made a special effort."

"We have builders who don't get enough food, agricultural workers cutting [sugar] cane without shoes, other industries where there aren't the tools. Only with a profound elevated consciousness by the people could the economic course have changed."

But won't foreign investment undermine the gains the revolution has made, someone asked? "These investments," Herrera responded, "have to be made to save the revolution. We have the choice of taking milk from children or opening the economy to foreign capital."

"If we deny this investment to reactivate the economy we could one day be-

come a country where children are naked, without milk, and die of curable diseases, where infant mortality is 50 per thousand not 9 like it is today. If Cuba is again reduced to that status, what would we have done with the revolution?"

A recent visitor to Cuba said agriculture in Cuba seemed to be 300-400 years behind New Zealand.

"It could be 500 years behind," said Herrera. "Before the revolution sugar cane was cut by hand, it became mechanized, but now with the economic crisis we're back to cutting by hand again."

"But don't just look at agriculture when comparing the two countries. Look at the differences in health care and education, which are free in Cuba but not in New Zealand."

Herrera pointed to the low infant mortality rate in Cuba and high life expectancy in comparison to New Zealand. "We don't have the richness of New Zealand, but I wish we had — we would do a lot better things than filling the country with cars."

Why did the United States succeed in undermining the Nicaraguan revolution,

but fail to destroy the Cuban revolution, another asked.

"It's not precise to say that it was the United States that triumphed in Nicaragua. In Nicaragua they lost support from the people," Herrera replied. "A revolution is made by the people, when the people abandon it the revolution dies. We have to study and read why the people abandoned it. The thing the United States did was to take advantage of the right moment."

BY EUGEN LEPOU

HAMILTON, New Zealand — A meeting to hear Alejandro Herrera at Waikato University in this city drew 27 students June 7.

What is the situation for young people in Cuba, one participant inquired.

"Health, education, and culture are all free," Herrera responded. "Education is free from kindergarten to university. This is one of the major conquests of the revolution."

Can the average Cuban leave the country, asked another.

"Very few Cubans can afford to buy a plane ticket," Herrera explained. "If there were more economic opportunities for Cubans, there would be more Cubans visiting other countries."

Herrera pointed to another obstacle confronting Cubans who travel. "When I arrived in New Zealand, Customs officials searched me for 40 minutes," he told his audience. "But they did not discover the weapons I have, which are in my head and my heart," he added.

Another questioner asked why the U.S. government has been hostile to Cuba for so many years.

"The U.S. never forgave us for making a revolution 90 miles from their coast. The revolution is considered by the U.S. government to be a huge crime. But Cuba has always been willing to enter into dialogue with the U.S."

Herrera pointed out that the Cuban revolution "has resisted the U.S. embargo for 35 years," and has just begun to ease "a harsh five-year economic crisis. The only way Cuba has been able to survive all this pressure is because we have an invincible weapon, which is the Cuban people."

Youth in Canada plan for August festival in Havana

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL — Ten people attended a meeting here sponsored by the Carrefour culturel de l'amitié Québec-Cuba [Quebec-Cuba Culture and Friendship Association] June 8 to discuss plans for building the August 1-7 Cuba Lives International Youth Festival in Havana and other provinces. The festival is being organized by the Union of Young Communists and other youth organizations in Cuba.

As of June 10, eight youth, workers, and political activists from the Montreal area are planning to participate in the festival. An activist in the Cuban Youth Tour Organizing Committee, Maria-Isabel Leblanc, has advanced her departure date for a one-year academic session at the University of Havana in order to be part of the festival. "I wouldn't have missed this opportunity," she said.

Some of the activists have helped set up information tables about the festival and the fall tour of two Cuban youth in Canada at various events, including a 20,000-strong demonstration June 4 against poverty that took place in Quebec City, and a June 1 conference of 150 in Montreal on "Cuba: Challenges and Hopes," addressed by Cuban sociologist Aurelio Alonzo.

Participants at the June 8 organizing meeting decided to organize a raffle, two car washes, and a barbecue in order to help raise funds for the festival participants.

Three people, including a young steelworker, are planning to go to the festival from the Toronto area. The event is being publicized and built there by the Cuban

Youth Tour Organizing Committee. The committee has produced a leaflet and is setting up information tables at various political and community events.

With the goal of publicizing the festival, the tour committee is organizing a video showing of a speech given by Cuban president Fidel Castro at the closing of an international conference in solidarity with Cuba held in Havana last November. The showing will be held at 2:00 p.m., June 18, Christopher House, 248 Ossington (at Dundas). In Toronto one can get information on the "Cuba Lives" festival at (416) 436-8901 or 538-8673.

In the Vancouver area, the Canada-Cuba Friendship Association and the Vancouver Cuban Youth Tour Committee are jointly building the international festival. Three people, including two students, are planning to go. Information can be obtained at (604) 294-5279 or 940-0420.

Those staying in Cuba the week following the festival will have the opportunity to participate in a series of related events, including a five-day voluntary work brigade on a farm along with other festival participants and young Cubans. This work brigade will join the effort by Cuban youth and working people to increase the country's food production.

The cost for the festival itself is CAN \$699. This includes a round-trip flight, housing, a food plan, and ground transportation. The cost of the post-festival week of activities ranges from CAN \$135 to \$265.

Michel Prairie is a member of the executive committee of the Carrefour culturel de l'amitié Québec-Cuba.

Few in Haiti benefit from U.S. occupation

Continued from front page

"There are many *macoutes* functioning in the center of the country. They still threaten people but most people are against the *macoutes* and are democratic."

One cab driver expressed a commonly held sentiment when he said, "FRAPH is disorganized but not disarmed. They kill and rob people. Now they're not political, just criminals."

Many Haitians explain that one of the big problems is that the U.S. military never disarmed the rightist military, the former police, or groups like FRAPH. Many of the murders and other serious crimes are carried out by these still heavily-armed groups.

Washington calls the shots

Like every major initiative in Haiti today, the U.S. authorities are directly involved in setting up the interim force that will serve as both army and police.

In February, the Haitian government tried to hire several hundred interim police without U.S. government approval. According to a report in the *Washington Post*, U.S. officials saw this as a move by the Jean-Bertrand Aristide government to take political control of the military. Despite some protests over "unwarranted meddling," Aristide agreed to fire them all.

Until recently, almost all cops carrying weapons were formerly part of the repressive police force under the military dictatorship. The few weeks of training from U.S. police officers was supposed to guarantee a newfound respect for human rights. But not all interim police are accorded the same responsibilities. Jean Mathieu Dernier, a 19-year-old traffic cop in Port-au-Prince, directs traffic at one of the busy corners — on the street leading to the airport.

He said he is one of about 1,000 people who were recruited for the police force from the concentration camps at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo, Cuba. Dernier had been locked up at the camps for six months.

The Guantánamo police, as many Haitians call them, are all probationaries and carry no weapons. They receive the equivalent of about \$70 a month. Dernier said Guantánamo was deplorable and that

he was glad to be out. "I was fleeing misery when I left Haiti. Now at least I have a job even though it is very, very little money," he said.

On March 28, Mireille Durocher Bertin, a prominent backer of the 1991 military coup, was gunned down in the streets of Port-au-Prince. The U.S. and Haitian authorities quickly arrested four people. The Bertin case stands in sharp contrast to the many murders of Haitians who support democracy. Virtually no one has been charged in these cases.

Discontent and struggles

Even under conditions of an imperialist occupation there have been some important actions organized by workers and peasants. Recently teachers staged a nationwide strike for better wages and conditions. This month-long walkout included a May 3 demonstration of thousands of teachers, students, and other supporters in Port-au-Prince. The strikers demanded a 300 percent wage increase, and won a 120 percent raise. The press reported that there were several confrontations during the teachers' fight and on more than one occasion UN troops sprayed tear gas at strike supporters.

Two conferences recently held in Port-au-Prince, attended mostly by young people, also give an idea of some of the discontent and open opposition to the imperialist occupation and harsh economic policies.

The Third Congress of the National Popular Assembly was held at the Domaine Ideal Hotel in the Carrefour section of Port-au-Prince May 25-28. Several hundred workers, peasants, and students participated in this meeting. The congress honored Charlemagne Peralte, a hero of the Haitian people, who organized resistance to the first U.S. invasion and occupation of Haiti from 1915 to 1934.

Ben Dupuy, a founding member of the APN and the director of the newspaper *Haiti Progres*, gave the keynote address. He noted the UN occupation of Haiti was basically a cover for continued U.S. domination. He called for the APN to hold to its principles of opposing any occupation of Haiti.

The final resolution of the APN congress stated, "The return of President



Militant/Ernie Mailhot

U.S. soldier mans machine gun as occupation force drives through Port-au-Prince

Aristide on Oct. 15, 1994, under the banner of the American military occupation and the policy of reconciliation are betrayals of the demands of the December 16, 1990, election and the three years of the people's resistance and sacrifice."

The resolution supports mobilizing people inside and outside Haiti against International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank plans for Haiti. The APN also declared, "No fair, democratic, and secure election is possible under U.S. military occupation." The group called for boycotting upcoming legislative and local elections set for June 25 and July 19.

The "International Conference Against the IMF and Neo-Liberalism," a four-day meeting held on the campuses of the Ecole Normale Supérieure and the Facultés des Sciences in Port-au-Prince, was also held at the end of May. Speakers from the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Guatemala, and the United States addressed this gathering.

A hand lettered sign above the entrance to the event said in Creole, "For Autonomy, Against Occupation, Against Privatization." Students put up the banner for the May 18 anniversary of Haitian flag day.

Pika Byron, a member of the Committee of Initiative for the Student Struggle at Ecole Normale Supérieure who participated in the anti-IMF conference, ex-

plained how the military government had tried to remove their elected faculty/student council. The students and faculty resisted with a series of mobilizations, forcing the government to back down.

After classes were suspended for one year the military once more tried to remove the council and again the students rebelled. A new dean was put in with military guards.

Byron noted, "After the U.S. invasion we put the dean out the door and the faculty/student council returned. But we wanted to continue the fight. Many of us didn't support the U.S. troops but we knew we couldn't fight them."

"We decided to try to organize ourselves as students with our own autonomy. But not all students here are progressive," Byron said. "To change Haiti will take struggle. Here at the university we need to show solidarity with the workers' struggles."

On May 28, the final day of the conference, many of the participants staged an impromptu demonstration at a nearby hospital where Aristide was visiting.

Some supporters of Aristide counter-protested at the same site. According to the daily *Le Nouvelliste* the counter-protesters said they agreed with the criticisms of the economic policies of the international financial institutions towards Haiti. The paper went on, however, "they didn't appreciate the slogans that implied a certain collusion between the chief of state and the financial institutions implicated."

Most people *Militant* reporters spoke with expressed support for Aristide.

Social conditions remain the same

In many ways the economic and social conditions facing the Haitian people have changed little since last September when the U.S. military invaded.

The World Bank at the end of 1993 put Haiti's foreign debt at \$773 million. Total national income in 1994 was \$2 billion.

According to activists here, citing fig-

Continued on Page 14

Cuba coalitions build youth festival

BY LAURA GARZA

NEW YORK—"Cuba has recently been in the news a lot more. But it's hard to know what's really happening on the island and what life is like for Cubans. The best way to find out is to go to Cuba and see for yourself!" reads a flyer distributed by the Cuba Information Project building the U.S. delegation to the Cuba Lives International Youth Festival August 1-7.

At a June 11 northeast regional meeting of the National Network on Cuba (NNOC) attended by about 30 people, Leslie Cagan, one of the national coordinators of the NNOC, explained that a mailing with information on the festival was sent out to 3,500 people nationwide.

Festival participants will spend four days in Havana and three days in a different province, where they will stay with Cuban families. The Cuba Information Project is helping to arrange travel for the U.S. delegation. From Cancún, Mexico, or Nassau, Bahamas, the cost of the festival is \$550, including transportation, housing, and two meals a day. Organizers are also looking into arranging travel from Montreal. The deadline for applying to join the U.S. delegation, and for sending in full payment, is July 15.

In Boston, representatives of the July 26 Coalition report they have signed up 27 people to participate in the festival, including several from Maine. Many are students from high school and colleges. The coalition sponsored a dance, which raised \$800 towards the cost of the trip, and plan other fund-raising activities.

In Philadelphia the Cuba Support Coalition has seven people signed up so far. The New Jersey Network on Cuba reported that three people recently called in

response to a flyer the group put out publicizing the festival. In New York City students active in opposing cuts in education funding are among those planning to go, and several activists set up an information table at the Puerto Rican Day Parade, signing up 15 more people who wanted more information about the festival.

Bob Guild of the New Jersey Network on Cuba encouraged those planning to go to the festival to get editorial assignments from local media outlets to report on Cuba. Such assignments will be especially valuable in getting out the truth about Cuba upon return from the festival.

Many of the 70 or so groups affiliated with the National Network on Cuba are stepping up their efforts to build the U.S. delegation to the festival. Members of the Atlanta Network on Cuba gave a presentation on the festival to the Latin American Students Association (LASA) at Georgia State University and after some debate several decided to participate in the event. "Most important is that people should have the right to travel to Cuba," said Paul Scigliano, president of LASA. "The exchange of ideas at an international student and youth get-together is very exciting."

The Los Angeles Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba is organizing a meeting on June 24 for 35 youth who have signed up to attend the festival, which includes students from colleges and universities in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and San Diego. An educational forum on the Cuban revolution is being planned as well as a July 26 event featuring a speaker from the Cuban Interests Section.

The groups gathered at the NNOC northeast regional meeting also firmed up plans for regional demonstrations on Oc-

tober 14. Four demonstrations are planned for that day in New York, Atlanta, Chicago, and San Francisco. They will demand: End the U.S. Blockade of Cuba, Lift the U.S. Travel Ban, Normalize Relations, and Respect Cuba's Sovereignty. An initial flyer is being produced along with T-shirts with the four demands in English and Spanish.

Miguel Zárate and Arlene Rubenstein from Atlanta and Bill Estrada from Los Angeles contributed to this article.

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Court ruling targets affirmative action

Justices also continue chipping away at school desegregation plans

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The U.S. Supreme Court issued two rulings June 12 taking aim at federal affirmative action programs and school desegregation. While the decisions did not knock down any programs, they opened the door for more court challenges. The court's decisions also continue the process of chipping away at the gains made by women, Blacks, and other oppressed nationalities through hard-fought struggles.

President Clinton said the court's decision on affirmative action "is not inconsistent" with his views, noting that he has instructed his staff to conduct a thorough review of all federal affirmative action programs.

In one ruling the Supreme Court decided that lower federal courts were not justified in ordering the state of Missouri to pay for programs designed to achieve desegregation and improve educational opportunities for minority students in the Kansas City school district.

Sent back for further consideration

In the other decision, the court refused to uphold a federal affirmative action policy against a Colorado construction contractor who contended that he suffered reverse discrimination.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote, "Courts should analyze cases of this kind under a different standard of review than the one the Court of Appeals applied." O'Connor voided the Court of Appeals judgment and sent the case back "for further proceedings."

The court was divided 5-4 in the decision. Two members of the majority, Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, urged the court to rule affirmative action unconstitutional.

The case stemmed from a 1990 lawsuit filed by Randy Pech, owner of Adarand Constructors, who challenged a program that gives federal highway construction contractors a 1.5 percent bonus if at least 10 percent of their contracts are awarded to minority-owned subcontractors. Pech lost a bid on the guardrail portion of a federal road project. The main contractor selected a Hispanic-owned firm for the guardrail work, which qualified it for an extra \$10,000 payment from the government. Pech filed suit and lost the case in the lower federal courts.

The transportation department requires that at least 10 percent of a \$151 billion transportation bill passed in 1991 "shall be expended with" minority businesses. In 1993, minority-owned firms earned some \$10.5 billion of the \$179.4 billion awarded by the federal government — mainly through set-aside programs for oppressed nationalities, women, the disabled and others who are considered "socially disadvantaged."

The June 12 decision "is a setback but not a disaster," Penda Hair, senior attorney at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., in Washington D.C., told the *New York Times*. "It does put these programs under a cloud of uncertainty."

"Right now women and minority-owned businesses are getting less than 6 percent of all federal contracts," she pointed out.

"I think most of the government's programs have numbers, goals, or timetables that can lead to quotas, which are preferences," said U.S. Rep. Charles Canady, who plans to now present legislation pro-



Students at University of California Berkeley march to defend affirmative action programs under attack from state government

hibiting the government from offering any benefits on the basis of race or gender.

In 1989 the Supreme Court struck down set-asides for minority contractors in Richmond, Virginia, because they did not meet a standard of "strict scrutiny." The city had determined that 30 percent of its contracting work should go to minority-owned businesses. The 1989 Richmond case resulted in the elimination of scores of local affirmative action programs.

The recent ruling infers that the "strict scrutiny" standard applied in the Richmond case should cover federal programs as well. Referring to the 1989 decision, O'Connor wrote, "We think that requiring

strict scrutiny is the best way to ensure that courts will consistently give racial classification that kind of detailed examination." According to the judge, affirmative action programs "are constitutional only if they are narrowly tailored."

The Supreme Court's ruling in the Adarand case effectively overturns one of its earlier precedents on affirmative action — a 1990 decision designed to increase the number of broadcast licenses awarded to minorities.

In the Kansas City desegregation case, the justices stopped short of ordering the plan dismantled, but hinted that they would not view continued federal court

control of the school district favorably. The state of Missouri has sought release from a federal court order requiring it to help pay the costs of maintaining magnet schools to attract white students to the majority-Black Kansas City school district.

About \$1.5 billion has been spent on the district since the Federal District Court in Kansas City ruled in 1984 that Missouri and the Kansas City school system were both liable for running a segregated and inferior school system. About three-fourths of the 37,000 students in the Kansas City school district are members of oppressed nationalities, mostly Black.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation are welcome to attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

The Working Class Has No Borders! Stop The Deportations! Fri., June 23, 7:30 p.m. 803 Peachtree St. (Midtown, at 5th St.). Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 724-9759.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

The Hidden Hand. Video presentation about British military involvement in the May 1994 bombings in Dublin and Monaghan. Speakers: Representatives of Friends of Irish Freedom and Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 23, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Oppose the Death Penalty! No to the Execu-

tion of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Panel discussion. Fri., June 23, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey. Donation: \$4. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

BRITAIN

London

Halt the U.S. Trade Embargo Against Iran. Speaker: Marcella Fitzgerald, participant in recent Tehran International Book Fair. Fri., June 23, 7 p.m. 47 The Cut. Donation: £2. Tel: 0171-401 2409.

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CALENDAR

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Leonard Peltier Weekend - 20th Anniversary. Sun., June 25, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Speakers and performers at Lafayette Park. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.: Benefit Concert at the Back Cat Club, 1831 14th St. N.W. **Mon., June 26, noon to 9 p.m.** Leonard Peltier Freedom Forum. American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Ward Circle Building #2. Includes showing of documentaries and speakers. **Tues., June 27, 9 a.m. to 12 noon:** Press Conference/Meeting, Rm. HC-8, U.S. Capitol Bldg. For more information contact the Leonard Peltier Freedom Campaign, Washington, D.C., (202) 842-2495 (Phone and Fax) or the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Lawrence, Kansas, (913) 842-5774. Fax: (913) 842-5796.

Yo Newt!—The Greek government has drafted a law to tighten its grip on the press. Among other things, it would permit shutting down unfriendly media for using



Harry Ring

the Greek language improperly.

Virtual reality? — Major companies are putting employees through a course featuring a series of "learning maps" which assert-

edly explain the company's business. "The maps are an excellent means of breaking down a good deal of the us-them barriers," says an instructor. It encourages workers to think more like corporate leaders, adds the chap who sells the program.

Wall St. bets billions that way—The last meeting of the American Management Assn. included a seminar on "Reducing Recruitment Surprises Through Corporate Psychics." Some 90 companies pay Advisor Associates to learn what kind of vibes they get when they contemplate the name, address, age and sex of job applicants. "We articulate what comes into our heads," the

psychics explain.

Can't shrink spoon that feeds you — Hired by Major League baseball to help shorten the games, ex-umpire Steve Palermo said they could be shaved 30 minutes, mainly by changing the height and tilt of the pitchers mound so more strikes could be thrown. But, he said, nothing could be done about the main reason for longer games — the increased frequency and length of commercial breaks.

How did the original ones get theirs? — Some U.S. shoppers in London spent as much as \$141,700 for aristocratic titles. For the new Lords and Ladies, this means invitations to royal func-

tions and even the opportunity to ride in the Queen Mother's birthday procession. Sadly, the titles were forged. The guys who marketed them were given fines and community service.

Might help more than the pill — SmithKline, the big-time pill pusher, is threatening suit against the Philadelphia punk rock group, Thorazine, for using the brand name of its drug for relieving severe mental disorders. A company spokesperson, apparently a music critic, said Thorazine's songs are "old school punk rock that are harder than normal and have a lot of cursing in them."

Partial victory — A New

Hampshire judge threw out an assault charge made by two cops against a former Denny's chef. They claimed he put in an extra belt of Tabasco in their eggs because they were cops and it (the Tabasco) made them ill. Meanwhile, Denny's fired the chef for an "unrelated" offense of letting a friend into the kitchen.

Note to new readers — Many of the items in this column are based on contributions from readers. If you read something that points up the kind of world we live in, send the clipping (with date and name of publication) to: Great Society c/o Pathfinder Bookstore, 2546 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90006. (Fax: 213-380-1268).

Abu-Jamal's book exposes a system of injustice

Live from Death Row, by Mumia Abu-Jamal. With an Introduction by John Edgar Wideman and an afterword by Leonard I. Weinglass. 215 pages. Reading, Massachusetts. Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., 1995. \$20.

BY PETE SEIDMAN

PHILADELPHIA — Pennsylvania governor Thomas Ridge is rushing to bring the frame-up of Mumia Abu-Jamal to its ultimate conclusion, ordering that his execution be carried out nine weeks from now, on August 17.

In the same bloodthirsty spirit, cops and politicians howled when Addison-Wesley published Abu-Jamal's *Live from Death*

many more have been disproved by Abu-Jamal's defense committee. They are demolished in a powerful legal appeal filed June 5 for a new trial.

Abu-Jamal has been on death row since 1983, much of the time locked down for 22 hours a day, denied phone calls, refused the use of a typewriter, and subject to shackling and other restrictions.

But in *Live from Death Row*, Abu-Jamal speaks as a fighter who has stood up to the worst that the rulers had to throw at him and remains unbroken.

His book is a powerful condemnation of the prison system and capital punishment. It denounces a government that responds to deepening social and political crisis by increasing its racism and brutality, "that perceives itself more as a master than as a servant of the people."

Abu-Jamal cites statistics on the way the so-called criminal justice system manages to catch the little fish in its nets while letting the big ones swim away free. He shows how "words like 'justice,' 'law,' 'civil rights,' and, yes, 'crime' have different and elastic meanings depending on whose rights were violated, who committed what crimes against whom, and whether one works for the system or against it."

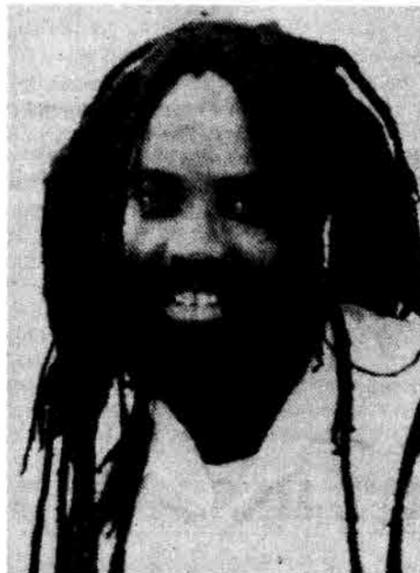
In essays such as "Jury of peers?" and "Expert witness from hell" Abu-Jamal brings to life the final product: nearly 1 million people in prison of whom 2,948 reside (as of October 1994) on death row.

And, he adds, "You will find a blacker world on death row than anywhere else. African-Americans, a mere 11 percent of the national population, compose about 40 percent of the death row population...."

"Does this mean that African-Americans are somehow innocents, subjected to a setup by state officials?" he asks. "Not especially. What it does suggest is that state actors, at all stages of the criminal justice system, including slating at the police station, arraignment at the judicial office, pre-trial, trial, and sentencing stage before a court, treat African-American defendants with a special vengeance not experienced by white defendants."

"This is the dictionary definition of 'discrimination.'"

Live from Death Row includes a valuable article by Abu-Jamal's attorney,



Mumia Abu-Jamal

Leonard Weinglass, that summarizes the facts of his trial.

Weinglass shows how the frame-up of Abu-Jamal was put together. Even though a jury found him guilty of first degree murder, it "was conflicted" over lesser charges, Weinglass explains. Therefore "no one anticipated this same jury would vote the death penalty," as opposed to life without parole, during the penalty phase

of the trial.

"In a clear violation of Mumia's constitutional rights," at that point, Weinglass reveals, "the prosecution presented evidence of Mumia's background as a member of the Black Panther Party some twelve years earlier and his political beliefs as reported in a newspaper interview when he was just sixteen years old. Beyond doubt Mumia Abu-Jamal is on death row because of those political beliefs and associations."

Live from Death Row is the story of a Black Panther Party member who was "kicked straight into it" during a brutal beating by a Philadelphia cop; a respected journalist who stood up against the media and political establishment to expose cop brutality against MOVE, a Black organization subjected to harassment and eventually aerial bombardment by the Philadelphia police; the subject of 700 pages of FBI Cointelpro files; a man on death row because of his political views.

Full of insight and information, *Live from Death Row* will be a big help to all those fighting the government's despicable attempt to silence forever a longtime anti-racist activist and voice in the struggle for social justice. Hopefully, getting out the facts on Abu-Jamal's case and mobilizing the broadest possible public support will help to stay the executioner's hand and win the new trial Abu-Jamal is fighting for.

IN REVIEW

Row a few months ago. This lynch mob was flush from its recent victory in pressuring National Public Radio into canceling planned commentaries by Abu-Jamal. According to Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police president Rich Costello, the only words the public should hear from Mumia Abu-Jamal are "Good-bye."

After reading the book, I can see why the cops and other death penalty supporters hate *Live from Death Row*.

The so-called justice system works overtime at dehumanizing those condemned to die. Routine procedures cut the death row inmate off from friends and family, and even from normal communications with the outside world. Many are subjected to humiliating cavity searches, sensory deprivation, and mind-altering drugs. "To such men and women," Mumia Abu-Jamal writes, "the actual execution is a fait accompli, a formality already accomplished in spirit, where the state concludes its premeditated drama by putting the 'dead' to death a second time."

Certainly the system has done its best to try to dehumanize Abu-Jamal.

He has been widely vilified in the media as a "cop killer" who supposedly bragged publicly of his crime in the hospital where his alleged victim lay dying. Later, he supposedly smiled when a grieving policeman's widow was shown her husband's bloody shirt in court. All these lies and

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



JUNE 15 — When President Nixon ordered the U.S. invasion of Cambodia April 30, he maintained that its purpose was to "destroy North Vietnamese sanctuaries." Two weeks later, Nixon told the American people that goal had been largely accomplished.

Nixon promised to withdraw all U.S. forces from Cambodia by June 30, if not before. A resolution is being considered by the U.S. Senate — the Cooper-Church amendment — which is supposed to tie Nixon to this withdrawal promise.

But it is now evident that neither Nixon's promises nor Senate bills can prevent the war in Cambodia from developing into a full-scale civil war with Washington tied to the defense of another military regime.

And, as the civil war is deepening in Cambodia, student and worker protests in Saigon are manifesting a new wave of popular hatred of the Thieu-Ky regime.

On June 15, the *New York Times* reported that more than 60 of Saigon's 124 unions began a 24-hour strike in sympathy with government workers who have been fired. The striking workers were supported by student demonstrators.

"For the second time in three days, there was a decidedly anti-American flavor to the demonstrations staged today by students protesting against the Thieu government."

Students demonstrating in front of the U.S. Embassy "were turned back by policemen wearing helmets, carrying wicker shields and shooting teargas grenades."



June 23, 1945

During the past three years, the *Militant* has published a number of exposures of the scandalous profiteering deals between the Maritime Commission and the big shipowners. The Maritime Commission is headed by Admiral Emory Land, who a couple of years ago proposed that all union organizers should be "shot at sunrise."

It is reported that Senator Aiken, of Vermont, who uncovered many of the facts the *Militant* has published, is planning to point out the Maritime Commission's record when the question of elevating Land to a full admiral comes up in the Senate.

Aiken has already made public the fact that the Commission insured at government expense hundreds of rotten vessels at values far in excess of their real worth. Many of these vessels were sent out to be sunk, and the shipowners collected millions, while hundreds of seamen died.

One ship, The Nebraskan, built in 1912 for \$713,000, valued five years ago by Land at \$110,000, valued by its own owners at \$5,276, was insured by the Maritime Commission for \$1,019,320. Another, the Nevada, also built in 1912 and valued by its owners at \$3,457, was insured for \$806,000.

Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?

The Political Frame-Up of a Unionist and Socialist and the Campaign to Free Him

by Naomi Craine

Mark Curtis is a union activist and socialist who was framed up by police on false charges of rape and burglary in March 1988. At the time he was involved in a struggle to defend 17 Mexican and Salvadoran co-workers arrested in an immigration raid at the packinghouse where he worked in Des Moines, Iowa.

This new pamphlet explains what happened to Curtis, and the stakes for workers, farmers, youth, and other democratic-minded people in demanding his release.

Pamphlet, \$6

Available at bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax (212) 727-0150. Or contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa, 50311. Tel: (515) 246-1695.

Cancel the Third World debt!

Provincial employees in Argentina haven't been paid in months. Newly imposed tuition fees may keep thousands of students out of school. Workers are forced to put in longer hours at lower wages until they too are laid off. Farmers are driven off the land by rising costs and interest rates. To "balance the budget" the government is cutting pensions, funds for education and health care, and other social programs. More of the national patrimony is on the auction block. The Menem administration must take out new loans at astronomical interest rates to pay off old debts. Infant mortality and unemployment are on the rise, while caloric intake and real wages are declining.

Behind the insecurity and hardship facing working people in Argentina is that country's unpayable and immoral \$67.6 billion foreign debt. The country's wealth goes into the coffers of the imperialist banks first. Argentina offers a glimpse of the future facing every country held in economic bondage to world finance capital.

"For Autonomy, Against Occupation, Against Privatization," read a hand-lettered sign greeting participants at a conference in Haiti against the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and "neoliberalism." The capitalist rulers sitting in Washington, London, Tokyo, and Bonn often put the squeeze on their victims in the name of the IMF, which dictates many of the austerity measures governments in the semicolonial world are expected to impose.

Enormous pressures come down on bourgeois governments in the semicolonial world to devalue their currencies and impose other austerity measures — wreaking havoc on the standard of living of working people and broad layers of the middle class.

Since the rise of imperialism at the opening of this century, the basic workings of the market system — unequal terms of trade, underdevelopment of industry and agriculture, bank loans that can never be repaid — end up warping the economies of Third World countries.

They become more, not less, dependent on capital, technology, and imports from imperialist countries. None of the so-called emerging nations has or will emerge from their enslavement to the big banks and strong currencies of the imperialists, as long as capitalism holds sway.

This is the natural consequence of how this system works. It means devastation for millions of workers and farmers the world over. But it also contributes to conflicts and instability among imperialist countries. The big lenders are fixing their tentacles into every powder keg around the world. The stability of the imperialist countries themselves is more than ever interlinked to crises and breakdowns in the Third World.

Working people throughout Latin America have begun to stand up and say no to the imperialists' drive to boost their sagging profit rate, increase their market share, and collect on their debt at the expense of workers and peasants — from Argentina to Mexico and Brazil. These struggles offer working people around the world the opportunity to link up and demand cancellation of the Third World debt. The same rulers who want to squeeze every drop of blood from the working class in Argentina are driving to cut wages, social benefits, and working conditions of workers in the imperialist countries as well. Capitalism itself is driving more and more of us together to defend our interests as an international class. The resistance to privatization, austerity, and attacks on national sovereignty confirms what our class is capable of. These fighters deserve our support.

As the debt crisis mounted in Latin America, Asia, and Africa in the 1980s, Havana led the call to cancel the debt. The Cuban revolution continues to be a beacon for working people looking for ways to oppose imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation and find a way to build a new society. Our answer to the economic and social crisis must be to defend the Cuban revolution and demand: Cancel the Third World debt!

Supreme Court assault on rights

The Supreme Court has delivered a double-barreled shot at the right to equal opportunities for Blacks, other oppressed nationalities, and women. The Court's June 12 rulings on affirmative action and school desegregation are part of the rulers' efforts to chip away at the conquests working people have won through massive struggles in the fight for equal rights.

While rightists are crowing about "affirmative action's death knell," the wealthy class and its political servants are not so confident about launching a frontal assault. Millions of people depend on these programs. Under current law, the U.S. Labor Department monitors more than 100,000 companies and universities with federal contracts stipulating that they must set "goals and timetables" for hiring and promoting minorities and women.

The half-hearted, murky decisions of the Supreme Court reflect the rulers' hesitancy in confronting these programs head on. Both cases are referred back to the lower courts for further review and are testimony to the fact that the rulers will not be able to dismantle affirmative action without a fight.

U.S. president Bill Clinton, who pretends to champion the rights of Blacks and working people as election time draws near, said the Court's decision was "not inconsistent" with his views on affirmative action. Clinton has set up a task force to conduct a review of federal affirmative action programs. His "review" opens the door for further assaults against social gains of Blacks, Latinos, women, and the labor movement.

The attacks on set-aside programs seem like an easier

target for the bosses. Workers don't quite identify with the small business people who will be affected by this directly. But, like the attacks on desegregation, rulings aimed against set-asides are part of a package.

The desegregation plan for the Kansas City, Missouri, school district was a timid measure to begin with. The big-business politicians and the media cry crocodile tears over low test scores among students in urban schools. This notion is tossed out the window, though, when it comes to spending money to improve schools for the children of working people in Kansas City.

The top capitalist court is preparing other probes against affirmative action. The Supreme Court is scheduled to rule on cases in Louisiana and Georgia where voting districts were drawn to advance Blacks rights. This was one of the gains from the fight against the Jim Crow system of legalized segregation in the South.

Some high court justices are also making noises about changing the standard set by the 1979 decision *United Steelworkers v. Weber*, which upheld affirmative action training programs in the steel industry.

Affirmative action programs are a conquest of mighty battles waged by the working-class movement. By cutting across the inequality that the bosses use to divide and weaken the working class, these programs strengthen the unity of the entire class. The labor movement should defend affirmative action programs and lead a fight for jobs for all. Working people need to reject reactionary concepts like "reverse discrimination" and join any fight to resist the rulers' assault on our hard-fought rights.

Bosses singing concession tune

Singing a chorus that has become familiar to airline workers from France to the United States, USAir is demanding further deep concessions from workers, claiming that's the only way to save the ailing company. But workers throughout the airline industry have bitter experience with the results of the concessions being demanded.

The introduction of massive part-time work; fewer workers getting benefits; two-, three-, and four-tier pay rates for workers doing the same job; harsher work rules, and greater pressure to go along with the companies in their drive to put profits before safety — these are what USAir wants more of. Union members have a stake in supporting USAir workers who want to draw the line.

The only way the labor movement can meet these kinds of assaults is to stand together and fight the company attacks. Any other course that allows the company to divide the workforce, denying some what others still have, and locking in second-class status for the lowest seniority workers, severely weakens the ability of the unions to stand up and fight for any worker.

In France, Sweden, and much of Latin America, workers are also facing bosses pleading poverty and de-

manding that workers sacrifice to save their profits. But they are beginning to put up some resistance. While the outcome of these fights is not settled, it is a sure bet that fighting back makes the bosses think differently about what they try next, and it helps our side get in shape for the battles down the road that are sure to come.

On June 25 workers who have been on strike against the Caterpillar company will mark the one year anniversary of their walkout with a march through the streets of Decatur, Illinois.

The rally is co-sponsored by the United Auto Workers union, the United Paperworkers International Union at A.E. Staley, and the United Rubber Workers at Bridge-stone/Firestone.

These fighters deserve the active support of the whole labor movement. Workers and youth should turn out for the march to show their solidarity for the Caterpillar strikers and the other union fighters. For workers facing company demands like the ones USAir is pushing, going to the rally can be an important step in forging links with other fighters. And it will be an important act in itself, standing up today to the bosses' attacks and saying, "Enough!"

Sinn Fein leaders will tour Britain

BY PETE CLIFFORD

LONDON — Leaders and elected councillors of Sinn Fein will soon be traveling across Britain explaining their view of the peace process in Ireland. The projected two-week tour is being organized by the Irish Peace Initiative, a coalition of organizations that support the fight for Irish self-determination.

The tour will be launched with a press conference June 28, followed by a public meeting that evening. Mitchel McLaughlin, national chair of Sinn Fein, will address both events. In announcing the tour, McLaughlin said, "Nine months after the IRA [Irish Republican Army] cease-fire, the Irish peace process is at a critical stage. Support for the cease-fire is widespread, but the real issues are hardly being addressed by the British government."

Joining McLaughlin at the evening meeting, titled "Help build the peace," will be Labour Party members of Parliament Tony Benn and Bernie Grant, as well as Saoirse spokesperson Patricia Campbell. Saoirse is the campaign to free Irish political prisoners.

Later that week Sinn Fein leader Martin McGuinness is scheduled to speak at a public meeting in Sheffield and McLaughlin in Cardiff. Other representatives of Sinn Fein will be available to speak in towns and cities throughout Britain. Those who want to set up meetings or help with the tour can contact the Irish Peace Initiative at 0171-609-1743.

Public Meeting
'Help Build the Peace'
Wednesday, June 28, 8:00 p.m.

Speakers:
Mitchel McLaughlin,
Sinn Fein Chair
Tony Benn, MP
Bernie Grant, MP
Patricia Campbell, Saoirse

At Camden Irish Centre
Murray Street, London NW1
Entrance £3, concession £1, followed by social.

Haiti occupation

Continued from Page 11

ures from the World Health Organization, life expectancy in Haiti is 55 years, infant mortality for children under five years is 133 for every 1,000 live births. Illiteracy among men is 62.7 percent and among women 67.5 percent. In the capital only 37 percent have drinkable water and in the countryside it is 23 percent. For every 10,000 Haitians there is an average of 1.6 doctors and 1.27 nurses.

The legacy of imperialist control means that the vast majority of Haiti's working people remain unemployed. The June 2 *Miami Herald* estimated that Haiti's unemployment rate is 85 percent.

Conditions in Haiti for workers and peasants today are so difficult that it is not uncommon to hear comparisons with the days of the U.S. embargo when many basic necessities were unavailable and prices skyrocketed.

One of our cab drivers told us there was still an embargo against Haiti even though he knew it was ended after the U.S. invasion. "We still have an embargo because gas costs 31 gourdes," he said — more than \$2 a gallon.

Many of the cement walls, sides of buildings, metal gates, and other flat surfaces around Port-au-Prince, including the wall around the presidential palace, are covered with spray-painted slogans. Many call for supporting one or another candidate in the upcoming elections.

These elections have already been postponed twice. Recently 800,000 voter registration cards were stolen. A large number of U.S. officials are in Haiti basically running the election. Washington is spending \$11.8 million on the contest compared to the Haitian government's \$715,000.

According to the June 5 *Miami Herald*, to run for senator "costs six months of a good Haitian salary."

The walls also carry many political slogans. "Carter is a false democrat" and "Carter Magouye" meaning the former U.S. president is no good, are prominent. These were written last year, when he negotiated the departure of Haiti's military leaders with millions of dollars stolen from the Haitian people.

"Down with the IMF," "Privatization=Misery" and "Down with the high cost of living," are slogans expressing more recent political sentiments.

The International Monetary Fund and some in Haiti's ruling circles are pushing for privatizing state-owned enterprises including the flour mill, cement company, port authority, telephone company, electric company, and airport. Tied to this is the proposal to get rid of half the 45,000 public employee jobs.

Many Haitians oppose these plans. Among other organizations the Haitian Workers Federation has recently come out against these proposals.

Retail workers in Sweden strike for higher pay

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

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or

22 with the same wage increases as the paper mill workers.

The unions organizing workers in the construction, steel, lumber, and food industries recently agreed to similar contracts.

Under Swedish law, unions cannot call a strike over local disputes once a national contract is signed. The food workers at the state monopoly Vin och Sprit (Wine and Liquor) in Åhus, however, launched a wildcat strike for

ON THE PICKET LINE

other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

Some 3,500 retail salespeople, store workers, and truck drivers at 100 enterprises in Sweden went on strike May 29. The employers answered the unions' walkout by locking out 7,500 other workers in the retail industry two hours each day. Handelsanställdas Förbund, the Swedish commercial employees union, is demanding a 7.5 percent wage hike. A majority of its members are women, among the lowest paid workers in Sweden.

"I feel good about the strike," said truck driver Per Jansson, who was part of the walkout, at a food store in Årsta, Stockholm. "Why should we always make concessions, like last year? Now I hope that the union will continue this for awhile, to get the same percent wage increase for the lowest paid workers."

Many other workers in Sweden are pressing for higher wages. Paper mill workers recently signed a two-year contract that gave them a 3.8 percent general wage increase each year. The metal industry employers, especially those in auto, electronics, and machine shops, criticized that agreement as too expensive. They demanded that the metal workers union give up and sign a contract with no general wage increases. Following a three-week union-organized overtime ban, production and office workers in that industry signed a three-year contract May

a couple of hours when they heard their union had signed a contract with less than they expected. According to a union official there, Stefan Brandt, "the workers struck because their bosses have received a wage increase of between 10 percent and 30 percent while they only get a couple of percents — they are outraged by the disregard of their needs."

The food workers walkout reflects the mood that exists among many working people in Sweden, hard hit by tax increases and the austerity measures promoted by the social democratic government. The employers will have to contend with this mood in the fall during negotiations in the highly profitable export industries.

The union organizing hotel and restaurant workers announced a June 12 strike to win a 5.6 percent wage increase.

Vineyard workers join United Farm Workers

Farm workers in Washington State won a victory June 2, when Chateau Ste. Michelle vineyard workers voted to be represented by the United Farm Workers of America (UFW). The eight-year battle to win union representation and a contract ended May 2 when the company and union agreed to allow the union representation vote in exchange for an end to the farm workers' boycott against Stimson Lane Vineyards and Estates. The bosses agreed to begin contract negotiations right away.



About 5,000 workers at Hyundai's Ulsan, South Korea, plant stage a protest rally May 22 after a six-day walkout. The strike stemmed from a suicide attempt by a dismissed worker that provoked a wave of sympathy and anger among his co-workers. The strikers have now returned to work.

Several legal obstacles have helped the growers over the years to block attempts by farm workers to form unions. The National Labor Relations Act exempts farm workers and no state law requires collective bargaining with them.

"This is historic," said UFW president Arturo Rodriguez. "It sends a message to farm workers across the country — there is a way to win."

The pact came after several months of stepped-up activity by farm workers in the Yakima Valley and by supporters in several cities across the state. The fight was featured at a "Supporter and Worker Convocation" of 150 held March 12 and at a "March for Justice" in Sunnyside of 200 farm workers April 1. The annual Cinco de Mayo solidarity march in Mt. Vernon drew more than 150 people. Farm workers also organized house meetings to win workers to the union. Supporters picketed grocery stores to inform residents about the contract fight and the boycott against Chateau Ste. Michelle.

Workers strike juice plant in New Zealand

Workers at Enza Products Ltd,

which processes fruit juice in South Auckland, New Zealand, began a 24-hour picket of the plant June 6. They decided to go on strike after contract negotiations broke down. Pickets carried placards reading, "Profits soar, wages down," "Toot for support," and "Money for Black Magic but not for workers." Enza Products was a major sponsor of the yacht Black Magic in its bid to win the Americas Cup yachting trophy.

Most of the 60 workers in the factory are members of the United Food, Beverage & General Workers Union. The National Distribution Union, which covers six store workers at the plant, is also organizing the strike. The unions are asking for a 4 percent wage rise, increased allowances for shift work, and other improvements.

The company is demanding takebacks, including the removal of penal rates (premium payments) for overtime. Workers on the picket line explained that they work at least a nine-hour day, five days a week, over three shifts. A 60-70 hour workweek is common.

A machine operator said that after six years with the company he is paid NZ\$11.20 (NZ\$1 = US\$0.66) an hour. Another picket described how workers had

reached their quotas over the past two years and the company was doing well. "There's no justice for workers," he said.

The Enza Products plant, formerly run by the Apple and Pear Marketing Board, dominates the processing of fruit juice for the local market, with brand names such as Fresh Up and Just Juice. Recently, sales have opened up in Japan. Workers said they felt this gave added strength to their strike as it is the summer season in Japan when fruit juices are in demand. The strike has gained support from other food process workers in Auckland who have donated food or dropped by the picket line. Waterfront workers in the city of Tauranga, who have been taking action against the introduction of casual labor at the port, sent a donation.

Contributors to this week's column include: Carl-Erik Isacson, a member of metalworkers union Local 30 in Södertälje, Sweden; Sibyl Perkins, a member of International Association of Machinists Local 289 in Seattle; and Mervyl Morrison, a member of the United Food, Beverage & General Workers Union in Auckland, New Zealand.

LETTERS

Support for Curtis

On May 15 there was a presentation on the Mark Curtis frame-up at the Rocky Mountain Peace Center in Boulder, Colorado. The Prisoner Rights Project [PRP] meets two to four times a month there and extended the invitation.

Sixteen people were in attendance, two of whom were acquaintances of Mark. One described meeting him in the Omaha-Des Moines area, where she had attended several forums and the protest rally for the "Swift 17" in March of 1988.

The Nick Castle video [The Frame-up of Mark Curtis] was received quite well. People thought it important to have outreach on the gubernatorial and U.S. Representative/Senator level. The conditions under which the lockup was meted out were found to be universally atrocious and repugnant. The coordinator of the PRP thought it important that computer networks and the newspaper Prison News Service be kept current on the case.

Directly from the meeting came 10 endorsement cards, eight of which I believe are new, plus \$60 in contributions. Within the last three weeks a co-worker of mine also signed on the case, contributing another \$15. The Prisoner Rights Project also purchased two pamphlets on the case, including the new one [Why Is Mark Curtis



"It's not easy ordering these lay-offs ... but that's why they pay me \$8.3 million a year."

Still in Prison?
Horace Kerr
Denver, Colorado

Democratic rights

Allan Rock, Canada's solicitor general and minister of justice, defends the proposed gun control Bill C-68 with the absurd contention that it will result in fewer

suicides and less violence in our cities.

The bill, if passed, will affect the ownership, possession, and use of privately and collectively-owned (as in Amish communities) firearms. Section 99 of Bill C-68 will institute a major change in the search and seizure provisions in Canadian law and give sweeping

new powers to the police. A police officer will no longer be required to have reasonable expectation that a crime was or will be committed in order to search without warrant or even need to subsequently seek a warrant.

It will overturn the basic democratic right to be considered innocent until proven guilty, the right to privacy and security, and the right to remain silent under police questioning. It will also deny the right to legal counsel.

While more and more groups such as the Canadian Medical Association and the Canadian Lawyers' Guild have voiced concern, the union leadership as a whole has been silent, and indeed some individual union leaders are supporting the bill that will, without a shade of a doubt, be used against working people and our organizations in the future.

Bea Bryant
Blenheim, Ontario

Cop who killed gets award

Several weeks ago in Glassboro, New Jersey, patrolman Peter Amico received the "Combat Cross Award" for last year's shooting incident that left Eltarmaine "L.T." Sanders, 14, dead. Amico claimed that Sanders rushed at him with an eight-inch kitchen knife. Neighbors said that the youth had already thrown the

knife at a cousin he was chasing before Amico shot him. Local and federal investigators also closed the matter, saying that there were no civil rights violations. The killing sparked demonstrations last year. The NAACP organized a protest candlelight vigil at the police awards ceremony.

A resident of Poplar Street where the killing took place said that giving this award to Amico was "a slap in the face." The kids still maintain the memorial — a handwritten placard, two hats, flowers and a balloon.

Glova Scott
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Note from a subscriber

I haven't noticed anything on the MBPM [Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement] in Grenada, or any other discussion of developments there in quite a while. Your consistent defense of Cuba and opposition to U.S. moves against the people of Iran and Iraq is inspiring and unique.

A reader
Framingham, Massachusetts

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.

5,000 strikers halt fishing in Iceland

BY SIGURLAUG GUNNLAUGSDÓTTIR

REYKJAVIK, Iceland — Five thousand workers on more than 300 trawlers and fishing ships in Iceland walked off the job May 26, demanding higher and more uniform wages.

The fishermen's strike is the biggest of many labor struggles that have developed here recently. Several other strikes have been called to win new labor agreements.

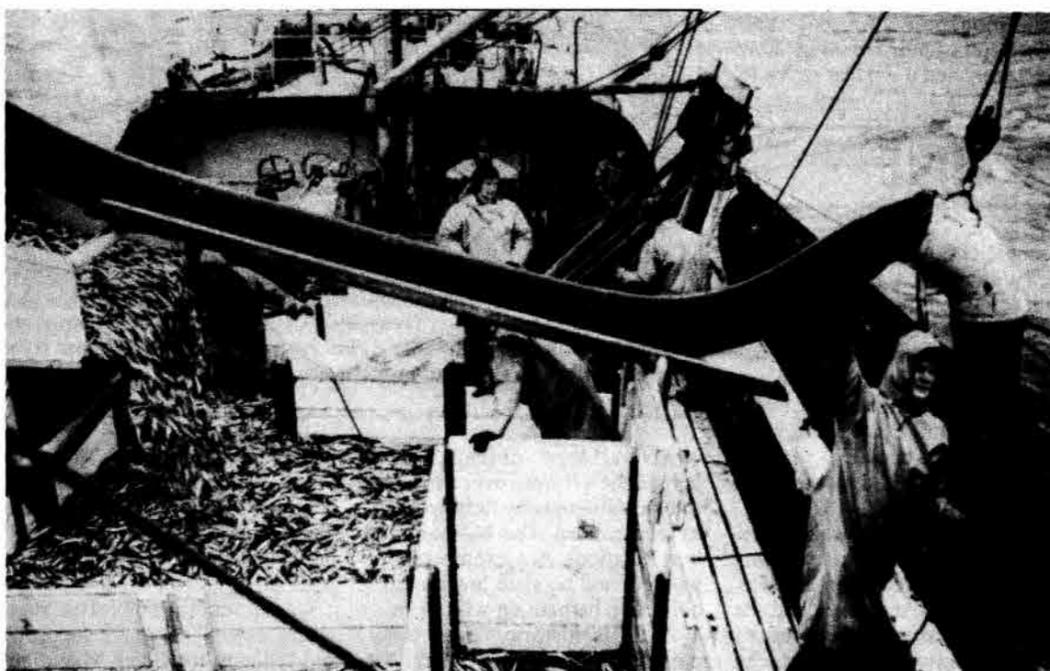
Morgunbladid, the main daily newspaper in Iceland, complained about the unrest, saying, "Most fishing ships are in the harbors. Trade unions prepare a strike in Straumsvík aluminum plant. Bankers are planning a strike in mid-June. Tour bus drivers are on strike. Bakers are just about to strike. This is the picture we have in front of us only a few months after a general agreement was concluded on the labor market."

The agreement referred to by *Morgunbladid* was made between the Central Organization of Employers and the Iceland Federation of Labor in February for an across-the-board 7.5 percent wage increase.

Big wage gaps

Fishermen's income varies with the market price of fish and oil, the size of the catch, and trade quotas. Big wage gaps also exist between workers on ships that sell to particular plants — where unions negotiate wages with plant owners — and ships that sell on the market.

Fishermen receive payment proportional to their catch and operating expenses. The captain receives two 'shares,' an engineer and the cook one-and-a-half, and the workers on the ship one 'share.' In



Icelandic fishermen. Five thousand workers struck more than 300 trawlers and fishing ships, shutting down the entire fishing industry in Iceland. The strike is one of several struggles that have broken out.

the mid-1970s, workers on fishing ships won the right to a guaranteed payment whenever their share falls below a minimum wage. Workers on the fleets have no job security, either. They can be laid off on one week's notice.

The Seamen's Federation, a national organization composed of 40 unions organizing workers on the fishing vessels; the Union of Seamen and Fishermen, whose members include supervisors and captains; and the Engineers Union, which organizes skilled machinists, are on strike to address these conditions.

In the early 1980s, a quota system was introduced as part of restructuring the fish-

ing industry that gave the biggest shares to the owners of the larger vessels. Small and medium owners were frequently forced to sell their portion and give up fishing. In many cases, workers have been forced to take part in the bosses' purchase of a fishing quota to keep their job.

Where there used to be one or two trawlers, a filet plant, and a collection of smaller crafts in each town around Iceland, quotas have now been sold to bigger out of town fishing companies. Some vessels that became idle in this way are now fishing in international waters. Concentration of capital has enabled some Icelandic companies to have vessels fishing off the

coast of Southern Africa, on the western coast of South America, near the Alaskan coast, and other areas thousands of miles from Iceland.

A week after the strike began, lack of raw materials led the bosses in the fish processing plants to send more than 1,000 workers home. As the newest hired go back on the dole, others receive the guaranteed minimum wage for fish workers, which is about the same as unemployment benefits.

Owners of cargo-ship companies narrowly averted a strike when they agreed to increase wages for sailors by 12.5 percent and backed down on a proposal for less time off when the ships are in dock.

Tour bus drivers strike

Striking tour bus drivers refused to sign a contract ending their recent strike until the Central Organization of Employers agreed not to sue any of their members or the union for actions carried out on the picket line. "Taking the companies in a chokehold ... they want to deny the employers the right to

in court whether [we] can be compensated for the damage done to [us] through illegal activity," said Thorarinn Thorarinnsson of the employers group. "It demonstrates that [tour bus drivers] are clear that they need an amnesty beforehand, and we must criticize how they use the strike weapon to be freed from confronting the law."

The president of the tour bus drivers' union, Oskar Stefansson, countered that "all points of controversy must end with the signing of the contract."

The bakers' union concluded their job action after six hours on strike. They had demanded a two-scale wage structure in order to draw a line between an eight-hour workday and overtime. Bakers start work around 3:00 a.m. and are paid a uniform hourly wage, no matter how many hours they work.

The union signed a contract without the two scales being defined, but with a wage increase of more than 8 percent and an extra paid vacation day. Gunnar Gudmundsson, a member of the negotiating committee for the bakers, told the press, "I hope we are reconciled, although I don't think we can be satisfied at any time because this is a perpetual struggle."

Nurses employed by hospitals and health-care centers in rural areas, who had threatened to walk out June 1, won what they were demanding. The government had attempted to cut specific subsidies for working in rural areas, but agreed to keep paying until the nurses' contract runs out next year.

At the Straumsvík aluminum plant, workers are resisting an attempt by the owner, Alusuisse, to use contractors and subcontractors in the plant. Alusuisse claims it is interested in building a larger plant, but demands a new type of contract before it will expand. In particular, it insists, the company must be able to run the plant without the workers' continuous interference.

The Central Organization of Employers and the government have called for greater cooperation on the part of the trade unions to facilitate foreign investment.

A statement from the trade union organization in Straumsvík states that the unions have had to fight against the company breaking every contract that has been made; and that the workers have cooperated in some reorganization of the plant and should benefit from it and from the present upturn in the aluminum industry.

At one time there were nearly 1,000 workers at the Straumsvík plant. The 500 employed there now walked out June 10, leaving a couple of hundred contractors that normally do maintenance work in the plant.

Sinn Fein leader: 'enemy is British rule'

BY MARTIN DUNNE AND FRANK FORRESTAL

CHICAGO — Joe Cahill, a veteran fighter for Irish self-determination and Sinn Fein national treasurer, spoke here at two public meetings June 9-10 about the Saoirse campaign to free Irish political prisoners and the peace process in Ireland. The speaking engagements were part of a fund-raising tour of the United States.

The first meeting, held at the Irish American Heritage Center, was attended by 125 people. The following night Cahill spoke before 130 people at an Irish pub on Chicago's south side. The meetings were sponsored by Irish Northern Aid.

This was Cahill's first public visit to the United States. The 75-year-old leader was sentenced to death along with five others following an incident on Easter Sunday, 1942, in which a Royal Ulster Constabulary soldier was killed. Cahill's sentence was reprieved, but one of his comrades, 19-year-old Tom Williams, was hanged.

In both meetings Cahill spoke in front of a banner that said: "Create Peace, Unite Ireland."

"Our struggle will continue until the last British soldier leaves our shores," said Cahill, adding that there will be "no peace until the last prisoner is released."

Asked whether street demonstrations called by Sinn Fein would disrupt the peace process, Cahill said, "Thank God, the people are demonstrating." This was greeted with boisterous cheers from the audience.

Cahill said people in Ireland are growing impatient with the "torturously slow" peace process, now in its 10th month. Despite this, Cahill said "there is a mood of optimism among the nationalist community. You notice this wherever you go. People are not afraid to stand up and say



Sinn Fein treasurer Joe Cahill

what they want."

Since the cease-fire and the repeal of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act, Cahill said, Sinn Fein is getting a better hearing in the Irish Republic. Section 31, a censorship law enacted in 1971, placed a total ban on the broadcast of Sinn Fein, IRA, and other nationalist groups' representatives. Now that this censorship law is lifted, "attitudes are changing and Sinn Fein is growing in the South again," said Cahill. In the recent period, he added, the organization has doubled in size.

Cahill spoke enthusiastically of Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams's planned visit to South Africa June 14-22. Adams was invited by the African National Congress. Cahill said the meeting with President Nelson Mandela will be "the coming together of two great world leaders who have done so much to achieve freedom for their people."

One participant asked Cahill about the

statements in the press about Ireland being touted as a place for foreign investment because of its "cheap labor."

The Sinn Fein leader responded that his organization is in favor of foreign investment in Northern Ireland. He added, however, that "there is no cheap labor in Northern Ireland. We are union conscious and supportive of strong trade unions."

A United Auto Workers member who works at a Caterpillar plant that is not on strike noted that the U.S. media portrays the situation in Northern Ireland as conflict between Protestants and Catholics. This is a "distorted view put forward by the media," the republican leader replied. "It is not a religious war between Catholics and Protestants. The enemy is British rule. It is a fight of the Irish people for self-determination and against British domination."

In both his talks, Cahill encouraged participants to become active in the campaign to free all the political prisoners. "Now is the time to do more," said the Irish veteran. "The Saoirse campaign has gotten off to a good start here. We need to intensify our work."

After each of the meetings, participants stayed around for informal discussion. Many bought books on the history of the Irish struggle and picked up handouts on the Saoirse campaign.

Nancy Artiga, of Irish Northern Aid, said she was in Belfast last August when the cease-fire was announced. "People on both sides celebrated in the streets," she said. "The average Catholic and Protestant want peace. They don't want to go back to the way it was before."

"In spite of the power of the British and U.S. governments," she said, "the people of northern Ireland are still fighting and winning."