

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Supporters of Abu-Jamal
press for new trial

—PAGE 4

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 59/NO. 32 SEPTEMBER 4, 1995

Tapes reveal corruption and racism of L.A. cops

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — The NAACP branch here has demanded a federal probe of the episodes of police violence and racist victimization graphically described by ex-cop Mark Fuhrman in taped interviews.

A spokesperson for the Los Angeles NAACP called on President Bill Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno to support such an investigation.

The interviews were taped by a screenwriter, reportedly as material for a film script. The tapes were obtained by defense lawyers in the O.J. Simpson murder trial.

Now retired from the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Fuhrman was the detective who allegedly found a bloody glove at the Simpson estate. The prosecution says that it was Simpson's and that it was stained with the blood of the murder victims.

The defense countered by seeking to es-

Continued on Page 12

Capitalist debate sharpens for '96 elections

BY GREG McCARTAN

Campaigning by capitalist politicians for the U.S. presidency — Democrats, Republicans, and "independents" such as billionaire Ross Perot — went up a notch this month.

Several events highlight the depth and sharpness of their debate, which focuses on how the wealthy can best operate politically as they try to find a way to qualitatively press forward their assault against working people. Many of these political figures seek to draw youth and working people into their framework of how to view the world and how to respond to the economic crisis, which affects every aspect of social life.

Leading Democratic senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey announced August 17 he will be retiring from the Senate at age 52 and is considering entering the 1996 presidential race as an independent. Bradley is reportedly in discussions with Perot and retired U.S. general Colin Powell on possibilities for a 1996 campaign.

Pointing to Bradley's decision in a feature article in the *New York Times*, Michael Wines concludes, "American politics in the '90's is becoming a haystack caught in a whirlwind, the inchoate product of party alliances shattering and reforming, old orders crumbling, voters clutching here, then there for an ideology to cling to." Wines believes Bradley's decision "foreshadows the end of the Democratic Party as Americans know it today — if not now, within a matter of years."

In making his announcement, Bradley said that it was futile to try to change the government from within his own party,

Continued on Page 14

Detroit news strike 'is no longer local dispute'

National solidarity weekend against union busting planned

BY HELEN HUNTER

DETROIT — "The Detroit newspaper strike is no longer a local dispute. By taking the stance they have, Knight-Ridder and Gannett have, in fact, chosen to take on the entire labor movement... We are prepared to fight back," stated Richard Trumka, president of the United Mine Workers of America and chairperson of the AFL-CIO Strategic Approaches Committee. Speaking here August 15, Trumka announced a national Labor Day weekend mobilization for the Detroit area.

"Trade unionists from throughout the region will come here to show their solidarity with the striking newspaper workers and their families," Trumka said.

The call for unionists to come to Detroit over the September 2-4 weekend reflects the rising stakes for the labor movement in the newspaper battle here.

Six unions, representing some 2,500 workers including press operators, mailers, drivers, reporters, typographers, and maintenance workers, have been on strike since July 13 against the Detroit Newspaper Agency.

The agency manages the advertising, circulation, and other business operations of the *Detroit News*, owned by the Gannett, Co., and the *Detroit Free Press*, owned by Knight-Ridder, Inc. In 1989, a

Joint Operating Agreement was reached that allowed the papers to merge certain operations as long as they remained editorially separate.

The unions are fighting to protect jobs, wages, working conditions, and their right to bargain jointly with the newspapers.

Many workers on the picket line explain

that the fight is over whether union labor will produce Detroit's daily newspapers. Many other working people in the area see the battle in the same way.

At a recent meeting of the Militant Labor Forum here, Al Young, president of Mailers Local 2040, described how inspir-

Continued on Page 6



Militant/Helen Hunter

July 17 rally at Detroit News headquarters. Strikers are gaining wide support.

Rightists cancel Belfast marches as opponents of British rule press fight

BY ANN CROWTHER AND TONY HUNT

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — In the run-up to the anniversary of the cease-fire declared by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in Northern Ireland on August 31 of last year, a rightist, pro-British organization has called off two provocative marches through a Catholic neighborhood here.

The republican newspaper *An Phoblacht* stated, "The decision by the Royal Black Institution to call off two sectarian parades on the Ormeau [Road] is a victory for those residents." The loyalist marches had been scheduled for the last two weekends in August.

The week before, on August 12, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) had attacked demonstrators protesting the routing of loyalist parades through the predominantly Catholic neighborhoods of Lower Ormeau in Belfast and the Bogside in the city of Derry. The London daily *Independent* reported, "Television pictures of RUC officers batoning Catholic protesters represented a major public relations disaster for the force."

At an August 13 rally, called to demand "All-party talks now" on the future of Northern Ireland, Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams saluted the resistance of the



Militant

August 13 rally in Belfast protests pro-British police force

people against the "bully boy" attitude of the rightists and the cops. He called for the RUC to be disbanded.

Adams noted, "The figures given by the

RUC for marches in 1993 was 2,662. Of these 2,411 were Orange [loyalist] demonstrations." Republicans, he said, "have a

Continued on Page 3



Coal miners strike in Ukraine

Coal miners in Ukraine went on strike in mid-August for back pay, higher wages and pensions, and better medical benefits. "I haven't been paid in two months," said Aleksii Tsybin, a miner from the eastern town of Makayevke. "This is a gross violation of workers' rights."

The miners, who have launched sporadic strikes at some of the country's 246 mines in the past few weeks, are also demanding more control over the industry, such as setting coal prices and their own wage scale. The miners' union has warned the government that a broader strike is likely in the winter if negotiations collapse.

5,000 clash with S. Korean cops

Some 5,000 students in South Korea fought with cops August 15 as they attempted to walk to North Korea for a rally to commemorate Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule. The students, who were demanding the reunification of Korea, clashed with police several times along Unification Road, which leads from Seoul to North Korea. Seoul bars its citizens from attending the annual event.

Washington, which backs the regime in Seoul, fostered the division of the peninsula after the overthrow of colonial rule in 1945 and waged a war against the Korean people from 1950-53.

Women in Japan file equality suit

Nine Japanese women filed a \$4.4 million lawsuit in early August against the Sumitomo corporation, charging the company with sex discrimination in wages and promotion. Sumitomo is one of Japan's largest corporations, employing more than 42,000 people.

Women make up about 40 percent of Japan's workforce, but earn on the average only 60 percent of men's wages—one of the widest disparities in the industrialized world. Last year the Tokyo district court ordered Sanyo Bussan, a food and drinks wholesaler, to pay three women \$90,000 in compensation because they earned less than their male counterparts.

Miners protest layoff in Morocco

Some 750 miners at a Moroccan min-



A train collision August 20 killed more than 340 people and injured more than 400 in northern India. The disaster highlighted the country's archaic railroad system — the world's fourth-largest — which relies on manually controlled signals from signalmen instead of automatic switching. The state-run Indian Railways carries millions of passengers every day.

eral ore mine went on a hunger strike July 24 to protest layoffs. The mine closed in 1993 after the Compagnie Astorienne des Mines, a Belgian company that owned 74 percent of the mine stock, went bankrupt. Workers were given no unemployment payments.

The miners suspended their strike after government officials promised to pay them \$6 million. The Moroccan Labor Union announced that miners resumed their indefinite hunger strike August 7 because government promises were not fulfilled.

S. Africa gov't signs Iran oil deal

The government of South Africa signed an agreement with Tehran to store and market Iranian oil. U.S. ambassador

Princeton Lyman is scheduled to meet with South African foreign minister Alfred Nzo in an attempt to pressure the government to back off the oil pact and closer relations with Tehran.

South African president Nelson Mandela met briefly with Iranian foreign minister Ali Akbar Velayati in South Africa and told reporters, "We believe that no country is entitled to interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries." Few governments have heeded Washington's recent trade ban on Iran.

More use Montreal food banks

The number of working people using food banks in Montreal has increased by 66 percent since 1992. Some 46 percent of the city's population lives under the poverty line and is forced to spend at least 57 percent of their income for food, clothes, and housing.

"Quebec is becoming the poorest province in Canada," stated Moisson Montreal, an organization that distributes 25 tons of food to community organizations in Montreal.

Report says millions are at risk from industrial accidents

According to a study by the National Environmental Law Center and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, more than 44 million people risk being injured or killed in industrial explosions, chemical releases, or fires. The law center calculated scenarios of deaths or serious in-

juries that could occur from disasters at almost 10,000 manufacturing companies. Matthew Weinstock, a spokesman for the Chemical Manufacturers Association, criticized the report, saying the data "doesn't measure what you're doing inside to safeguard against an actual release."

The U.S. House of Representatives voted in August to restrict the Environmental Protection Agency's law that requires 23,000 industrial facilities to issue annual reports on emissions of 651 chemicals tracked by the government.

Youth denied food in D.C. jail

Four youth held during the weekend of August 12 at the city-run detention center in Washington, D.C., said August 14 that they were denied food and were not allowed to brush their teeth or take showers. One boy, who had told the arresting cop and the detention personnel that he needed insulin, was hospitalized only after lapsing into a coma.

"This is unreal," said Judge George Mitchell, who oversees the city's juvenile facilities. Charges of "fare-evasion," against the youth were dismissed August 14.

Texas A&M cheats workers

Texas A&M University admitted August 15 that it cheated 400 farm laborers by depriving them of unemployment, disability, and Social Security benefits. The infractions were uncovered by Texas Rural Legal Aid, which filed a class-action suit on behalf of Berene Murillo, a farm worker in Plainview, Texas. Murillo said at a news conference in Austin, the state capital, that she sought help from Texas Rural Legal Aid because the Internal Revenue Service was demanding taxes, penalties, and interest and she was denied jobless benefits.

"What really bothered me, angered me, was that my bosses never paid into my Social Security, because when I reach my old age and I won't be able to work, I won't have any way to support myself," she said. According to the *New York Times*, the lawsuit charged the university's Agricultural Extension Service fraudulently paid Murillo as an "independent contractor" to save 51 cents an hour in payroll taxes.

State revives inmate, kills him

Oklahoma prison officials rushed death row inmate Robert Brecheen to the hospital August 10, after they found he had overdosed on sedatives. Hours later, they brought him back to the prison and killed him with a lethal injection — only two hours off from his scheduled execution.

Under a 1986 Supreme Court ruling, Brecheen was required "to be aware of his execution, and he has to know why he is being executed," said Oklahoma assistant attorney general Sandy Howard, justifying the barbaric event.

— MAURICE WILLIAMS

Michel Prairie from Montreal contributed to this column.

THE MILITANT

Solidarity with Irish struggle

The forces fighting for Irish national unification and independence, and those demanding self-determination for the Irish people, are making headway throughout the world. 'Militant' correspondents bring first-hand news covering the resistance of working people in Ireland to British occupation. Don't miss a single issue!



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

\$10 for 12 issues

\$15 for 12 weeks

RENEWAL

\$27 for 6 months

\$45 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____ PHONE _____

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

The Militant

Vol. 59/No. 32
Closing news date: August 24, 1995

Editor: STEVE CLARK
Business Manager: NAOMI CRAINE
Editorial Staff: Naomi Craine, Hilda Cuzco, Laura Garza, Martin Koppel, Paul Mailhot, and Maurice Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in December and three weeks in July by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040.

The Militant can be reached via CompuServe at: 73311.2720 or via Peacenet at: themilitant Internet: 73311.2720@compuserve.com or: themilitant@igc.apc.org

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

Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Subscriptions: U.S.: for one-year subscription send \$45 to above address. Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By

first-class (airmail), send \$80. Asia: send \$80 drawn on a U.S. bank to 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Canada: Send Canadian \$75 for one-year subscription to Militant, 4581 St. Denis, Montreal, Quebec H2J 2L4. Britain, Ireland: £36 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. Continental Europe, Africa, Middle East: £40 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address. France: Send FF300 for one-year subscription to Militant, 8 allée Berlioz, 94800 Villejuif cheque postale: 25-465-01-S, Paris. Belgium: BF 1,900 for one year on account no. 000-1543112-36 of IMei Fonds/Fonds du 1 mai, 2140 Antwerp. Iceland: Send 5,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: 500 Swedish kronor for one year. Pay to Militant Swedish giro no. 451-32-09-9. New Zealand: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. Australia: Send Australian \$75 to P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 2000, Australia. Pacific Islands: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

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

A-bomb survivors still face obstacles to full medical care

BY PATTI IYAMA

HIROSHIMA, Japan — At an international symposium held during the week leading up to the August 6 ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of this city, many survivors testified to their continuing health problems. They also detailed the obstacles they face in obtaining compensation from the Japanese government.

The *hibakusha* (survivors) of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are living testimony to the terrors of the atomic bomb used against civilians. According to Nihon Hidankyo, the Confederation of Atomic and Hydrogen Bomb Sufferers, more than 140,000 people in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki had died from the bombings by the end of 1945.

Shock waves from the explosion leveled all houses within 1.25 miles from ground zero. Most of those indoors were crushed under the destroyed buildings or burned alive by the ensuing firestorm. Window glass shattered, sending shards in all directions. The Hiroshima Peace Museum notes that even today, some survivors are having pieces of glass removed from their bodies.

Sixty-five percent of those killed on the day of the bombing in Hiroshima were elderly people, women, and children. More than one quarter were teenage boys and girls who had been mobilized on August 6 for outdoor work, demolishing buildings to create fire lanes. Around 40 percent of those who died in both cities were never found. They evaporated into thin air, burned into ashes, or were carried out to sea when they stumbled into the rivers for water.

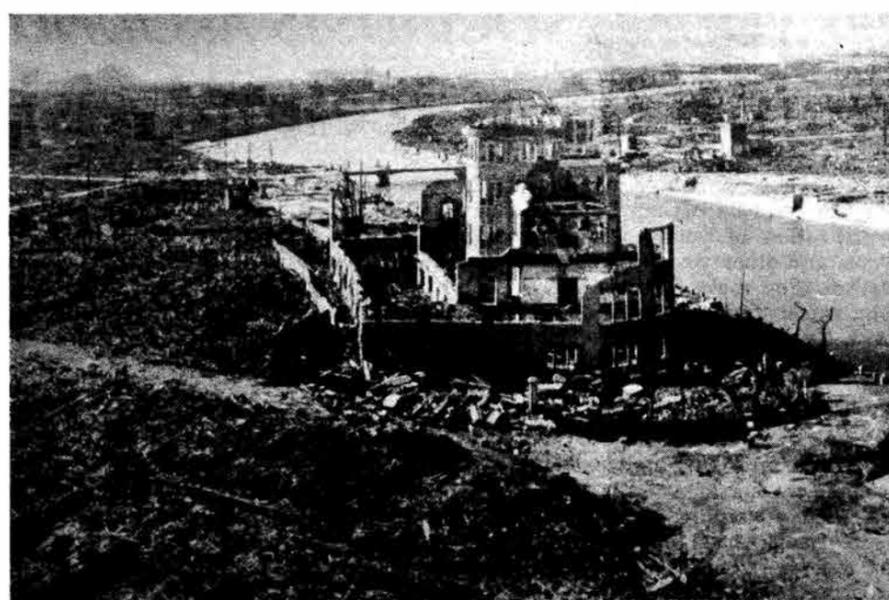
Others died slower deaths from

leukemia, melanoma, or lung, breast, esophagus, bladder, liver, or other types of cancer. By 1985, some 296,000 hibakusha had died, according to the Japanese ministry of health and welfare. Today there are 328,000 hibakusha still trying to cope with a wide range of physical and mental difficulties that are aggravated as they grow older.

There were also an unknown number of Korean victims, who are not included in the official figures of dead and wounded. One million were forcibly kidnapped from Korea to work as virtual slaves in Japan. Thousands were working in war-related factories in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Korean War memorial, belatedly erected at the edge of the Hiroshima Peace Park, states that 10 percent of the casualties were Korean.

The number may never be known, since the Japanese government did not consider the Koreans important enough to count. None of the Korean victims has received any form of compensation. Although the Japanese government has promised to build seven centers in Korea to treat the Korean hibakusha, only one is currently under construction.

The full extent of damage to the populations and the cities was kept a strict secret by both the Japanese government and then by U.S. officials. The U.S. occupation forces that ruled Japan after Tokyo's defeat banned even records and pictures of the damage caused by the A-bomb. They tried to minimize and conceal the damage by claiming that no one suffered from the after-effects of the bomb. It was not until the occupation ended in 1952 that most Japanese workers and farmers began to learn the true extent of the injuries people



Hiroshima on August 7, 1945, the day after the bombing, at the epicenter of the blast. Today, many survivors are still fighting for compensation.

suffered.

Even so, the hibakusha were left to fend for themselves for 12 years after the bomb was dropped. Not only were they disfigured physically and psychologically by their ordeal, but they were shunned by the rest of Japanese society. As Takeshi Ito, co-chairperson of Nihon Hidankyo, pointed out at the symposium, it was difficult for hibakusha and their children to marry, because many Japanese were afraid of the genetic effects of radiation on future generations.

Compensation for hibakusha

Finally, in 1957 the Hibakusha Health Law was passed, followed in 1968 by the Law on Special Measures for the A-Bomb Victims. These laws were combined in December 1994 in the Hibakusha Aid Law. The "aid" is deceptive, for the laws have helped few hibakusha.

While medical benefits are provided by law, there are big limitations. Only those exposed to a high level of radiation are eligible. Those suffering from diseases that have been proven to be possibly caused by

radiation (such as cancer) are excluded if the victim was exposed to a relatively low level of radiation.

External injuries, such as a facial injury and blindness, are virtually excluded, since the hibakusha have to prove their injuries were caused by radiation effects on their wounds.

Even if the applicant's disease is recognized as falling under the "special medical care allowance," the duration of the allowance is limited. In addition, the hibakusha have to present two witnesses to substantiate their claims. It is increasingly difficult to do so 50 years after the event.

Not surprisingly, only 1 percent of the survivors have become certified and entitled to benefits under these laws. Nihon Hidankyo is demanding that these limitations be lifted so that all of the remaining hibakusha can receive the medical care that is their due.

Patti Iiyama had relatives who were killed by the bombing of Hiroshima. She is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-227 in Houston.

Opponents of British rule press fight in Ireland

Continued from front page

tolerance for Orange parades, but we object to them where their behavior is unwelcome."

Three loyalist marching organizations exist in the north of Ireland — the Orange Order, the Royal Black Preceptory (or Institution), and the Apprentice Boys.

The RUC is unwelcome among those who live on the Ormeau Road. Residents say this community of 2,500 has witnessed more killings by the colonial police force since 1969 than any other Catholic community.

Gains since cease-fire

In interviews, local residents noted the gains made since last year's cease-fire. Mary Crawford explained that as the tension eased and the residents' confidence grew, their practice of putting iron bars across front doors at night ceased. However, she added, "The hooks to hold the bars remain."

Michael Goodwin of the Lower Ormeau Concerned Citizens (LOCC) explained that agreement to reroute loyalist marches had been gained since the cease-fire.

The RUC broke this agreement on July 12 when 150 RUC jeeps and hundreds of officers in combat gear laid siege to the community. That day, the Orange Order staged its annual marches in towns across Northern Ireland to celebrate the loyalist anniversary of the 1688 Battle of the Boyne.

On the other hand, Kathleen, a resident of Ormeau Road who is married to a Protestant, commented, "My husband, children, and I go away for July 12 every year. Everyone in the community could do the same; then there would be no trouble."

The majority of this community have a different view. On August 12 they mobilized against the Apprentice Boys' provocative march through their neighborhood. As part of a very successful community festival, an all-night jig was organized on the grass below the Ormeau bridge.

At 5:15 a.m., nine RUC jeeps blocked the bridge. Meanwhile, 250 demonstrators

from the community sat in front of the troops in the road, determined to prevent the loyalist parade from passing.

John, who lives next to the Orange lodge across the bridge, came down to support the August 12 protest. "They should disband the RUC — they work for the Brits," he said.

Michael, another resident, said, "We can solve this by common sense and discussion, but not while the Brits back the loyalists."

Thirty RUC jeeps appeared from a side road around 8:15 and surrounded the protest. Within minutes police in riot gear were attacking the demonstrators with batons, clearing the road for 20 Apprentice Boys from over the bridge. As the protesters retreated, picking up the injured, the RUC charged.

The demonstrators retreated further and were met on turning the corner by a cordon of jeeps, two rows of riot police, and a round of five plastic bullets. One demonstrator was hit in the face, causing serious injury. Bernard O'Neill, injured by an RUC baton, said, "The cease-fires are abused and used by the loyalists and the British government. I have lived with this since I was five years old. They are not marching through here because it's a traditional route; they come to show they can trample Catholics. We have to react."

'True nature of RUC has been exposed'

Pat O'Malley, a Democratic councillor from Cleveland, Ohio, was also present. "I saw a guy shot with a plastic bullet from only 10 feet. He was turning away; the cops knew they weren't in danger. It's like the Ku Klux Klan being allowed through a Black district," he stated.

After the RUC assault, John Gormley of the LOCC addressed a protest rally on the Ormeau bridge that afternoon. "The true nature of the RUC has been exposed," he declared. "Plastic bullets were used illegally in violation of the cease-fires."

Gormley distinguished between the Protestant community across the bridge and the rightists. Only "a very small sec-

tion" of that community, he noted, took part in the loyalist action.

While the Apprentice Boys passed, 30 people demonstrated on the Protestant side of the bridge demanding no rerouting of the marches. During the RUC attack they screamed anti-Catholic obscenities.

In an August 13 column in the *Sunday World*, Chris McGimpsey, a Unionist councillor in Belfast, referred to the people of the Lower Ormeau as "dogs." Sinn Fein councillor Alex Maskey immediately issued a statement condemning "the use of this Fascist-style language."

The same day as the assault in Lower Ormeau, the RUC attacked a demonstration of 300 in Derry. "This was a peaceful protest and the RUC showed what real animals they are," said Shane, 18, one of several youth involved in the action. Demonstrators were forcibly removed from a section of the Derry city wall overlooking the Bogside area so the Apprentice Boys could march past the predominantly Catholic working-class area.

Other participants in the protest, who had occupied the wall since the previous day, talked during the night of their involvement 26 years earlier in efforts to reroute what they called "triumphalist" parades by rightist forces. "They keep trying to walk all over us," said one resident. Another recalled his involvement in the "Battle of the Bogside" in 1969 when residents fought to repel armed attacks by the RUC and loyalist thugs.

Donacha MacNelis of the Bogside residents group and Sinn Fein leader Martin McGuinness, who led the protest, condemned the refusal of the loyalists and the RUC "to discuss with the people of the Bogside" the parade route. As police moved in, McGuinness urged protesters to maintain the calm and discipline they had shown all night, which they did. He described the outcome of the protest as "a moral victory over the RUC and the Orange Order."

In 1969, said MacNelis, "the people of the Bogside got off their knees. The people of the Bogside are still off their knees.

There's no going back."

A few days earlier, on August 9, a debate featuring nationalist and loyalist speakers from different communities was held at Conway Mill on the Catholic Falls Road here. A number of Protestants were in the overflow audience of 600. Mary from West Belfast described it as "a frank debate. Not everyone liked what was said, but we talked. It's the Brits who are dragging their feet. They're the ones who have to move."

At the August 13 rally, Sinn Fein leader Adams captured the mood of combativity when he said to the thousands in the crowd, "We have created a culture of resistance, which has become a culture of change.... We are going to have freedom justice and peace in our country."

"So let no one tell you that we won't have Irish unity — we will. Let no one tell you that all our political prisoners will not be released — they will. Let no one tell you that we will not break the British connection, because we will."

Tony Hunt is a member of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union in Manchester, England. Martin Hill, a member of the Transport and General Workers Union in London, contributed to this article.

WHEN WRITING FOR THE 'MILITANT'

The *Militant* encourages readers to submit items for the paper. Please include sources to guarantee accurate reporting. Whenever possible, send your articles by electronic mail. Stories can also be mailed or faxed.

The *Militant* can be reached via CompuServe at: 73311,2720 or via Peacenet at: themilitant

Internet E-mail can be sent to 73311.2720@Compuserve.com or themilitant@igc.apc.org

Youth from Iceland visits Caterpillar picket line

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists, an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information or to join, write: Young Socialists, P.O. Box 2396, New York, NY 10009. Tel: (212) 475-6482. Fax: (212) 388-1659.

BY O'LÖF ANDRA PROPPÉ

REYKJAVIK, Iceland — "Don't scab for the bosses — don't listen to their lies." These lines came to my attention as I was talking to Caterpillar strikers in York, Pennsylvania. I had never been to a picket line before so I didn't quite know what to expect.

It turned out that I had not been expecting what I saw and even less what I heard. The first thing that got my attention were the security guards inside the fences on both sides of the street. At first I thought it was comical having those men in combat boots filming the few workers standing there having coffee. It wasn't so funny when I was told that these men were trained in dealing with strikers, moving from one picket to another.

I wanted to take a picture of them to bring home with me, so I went up to the fence to get a better shot. But as I was moving closer, one of the two cars backed away and the men who had been standing by the other car were bending over behind its doors. I took the picture and went back to the strikers.

Then one of the men in the car came

walking down with a camera trying to take my picture. I thought it was only fair that I would take his as well and walked toward him. He clearly didn't agree with me because as I came closer he walked away until he was behind the fence again. This was quite amusing and we had a good laugh.

There was more to come. The company had been bringing in prisoners to work in the factory for quite some time. That reminded me of the time when prisoners were dressed in striped suits and had to work outside in chains. And some politicians dare say that the society we live in is making progress in human rights.

The spirit among the workers seemed to be good despite all that adversity. They felt that solidarity was increasing among people although some of them said the fight was hard to explain to their families. The need for unity and solidarity is expressed in the last line of the verse I started with: "Us poor folk haven't got a chance — unless we organize."

Later I spent a couple of days in Philadelphia to help campaign to get Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot. That was an experience I wouldn't want to be without.

People had all kinds of questions and made all kinds of comments and you have to respond fast and have convincing arguments to support your opinion. Knowing the answer is not enough if you can't explain it so that other people understand. In most cases I think I did, but not always.



Militant/John Sarge

Caterpillar strikers and their supporters rally in Peoria, Illinois, May 7, 1994. Workers and youth have joined their solidarity marches and picket lines.

These experiences took place as I was visiting the United States for the Socialist Workers Party convention in July. There was also a meeting of Young Socialists from many countries. The whole event was a very good opportunity for a young socialist from Iceland to raise comments and ask questions.

My experiences will help the discussions of how the Young Socialists in Ice-

land are going to help organize upcoming activities. Among these activities is a tour of Iceland by a member of Cuba's Union of Young Communists. The tour is going to take place in October and will be a good opportunity to bring our perspectives to students and others. We are also planning classes to which we will invite people who are interested in learning more about socialism.

Black journalists convention debates Abu-Jamal case

BY JOE KLEIDON AND HATTIE McCUTCHEON

PHILADELPHIA — The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) held its 20th anniversary convention here August 16-19. Under the theme "Looking Back; Moving Forward," the convention discussions reflected deepening concern about the rightward shift of politics in the United States; the increased attacks on Black rights, especially affirmative action; and the role of Black journalists. Some 2,000 people attended the gathering.

The issue that took center stage at the convention was a debate on the case of framed-up Black activist and journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Since June the NABJ board has come under criticism from supporters of Abu-Jamal and many of its own members for its refusal to take a stand on the death row inmate's request for a new trial. Abu-Jamal was formerly the president of the

Philadelphia chapter of the NABJ.

Several large chapters, including New York, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles, called on the organization to support the call for a new trial. NABJ founding members Joe Davidson, Les Payne, Vernon Jarrett, and Acel Moore, together with former vice president Betty Baye, drafted a letter to the membership saying that in the interest of justice, "we unequivocally call for a new trial." At the convention, an intense four-hour debate ensued over Abu-Jamal's case.

After several rounds of voting, board members finally voted 34-15 with 3 abstentions on a compromise statement that stops short of calling for a new trial for the framed activist. That statement reads, "Believing in the sanctity of life and justice for all, the NABJ hereby calls for a full and fair disclosure and judicial examination of all the facts involved in the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal."

Davidson organized a forum at the convention's opening day on the case. Panelists included Abu-Jamal's chief defense attorney, Leonard Weinglass, and Joseph McGill, former district attorney and prosecutor at Abu-Jamal's 1982 trial.

Other panel discussions at the convention included: Assault on Affirmative Action; The First Amendment: Domestic Terrorism vs. Free Speech; Caribbean Crisis: Haiti and Cuba in the Eye of a Storm; Black Columnists Under Fire; and Campus Racial Issues and the Student Press.

A special presentation was given by NAACP president Myrlie Evers-Williams, who condemned ongoing attacks on affirmative action. She said, "Do not tell me we live in a color-blind society. All you have to do is rent an apartment, attempt to get a taxi or go to certain schools — you'll see the playing field isn't level. We need affirmative action more because of the trend happening today, not yesterday."

Presentations were also given by Harvard professor Cornell West, author of the best-seller *Race Matters* and advocate for Mumia Abu-Jamal, and by Johnnie Cochran Jr., lead attorney in the O.J. Simpson trial.

An ongoing "Job Fair" at the convention featured booths by major news media. At the fair managers for the *Detroit Free Press* and *Detroit News* attempted to recruit journalists to cross picket lines and become scabs for the 2,500 workers currently on strike against the papers.

At the same time, a leaflet from striking workers was distributed protesting the recruitment and urging people not to be strikebreakers. The flyers read, "Don't believe the hype! If you're a journalist working for a daily newspaper, what happens here will affect you. Please resist the lure of short-term gain and focus on a future that should include just, equitable contracts for journalists across the country."

Abu-Jamal hearings recess; supporters keep pressing for new trial

BY HENRY HILLENBRAND AND HATTIE McCUTCHEON

PHILADELPHIA — Standing outside the courtroom where the trial of political activist Mumia Abu-Jamal has unfolded, defense attorney Leonard Weinglass stated August 15, "The judge quashed more than two-thirds of our witnesses. But we showed that the first trial was ineffective. We've met all the requirements for a new trial."

That day, after three weeks of testimony, a hearing on Abu-Jamal's request for a new trial was recessed. Judge Albert Sabo set September 11 for attorneys to present closing arguments.

Abu-Jamal was framed up and placed on death row for the 1981 murder of a Philadelphia cop. Under pressure from an expanding international defense campaign, Sabo issued a stay of execution just days before Abu-Jamal was scheduled to be killed.

Weinglass stated in a phone interview, "If a new trial is not granted Mr. Jamal, we will immediately file appeals to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and federal courts

if necessary."

In an August 18 interview on New York radio station WBAL, the defense attorney stated, "The case for Mumia Abu-Jamal was strong on law, strong on facts, and if given a level playing field in a new trial, Mumia would prevail."

Judge continues belligerence

On the last day of testimony, Sabo threatened Abu-Jamal's co-counsel, Rachel Wolkenstein, with a \$1,000 fine and jail when she argued to have admitted as evidence a sworn statement by a corrections department official that privileged correspondence between Abu-Jamal and his attorneys had been confiscated, copied, and turned over to the governor of Pennsylvania's general counsel.

Sabo replied, "It has nothing to do with this. Take it up with the federal court." He then walked out of the courtroom.

Court criers began yelling at supporters of Abu-Jamal to leave the courtroom immediately as he was shackled and led away.

Meanwhile the cops seated on the other



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Thousands marched in Philadelphia August 12 to demand a new trial for Abu-Jamal and condemn the death penalty. Activists are discussing more public actions.

side of the room — many wearing T-shirts calling for Abu-Jamal's execution, others wearing guns — were not being told to leave. Supporters of the activist left the courtroom angrily chanting, "No justice, no peace."

At a celebration here August 17, the

original date set for his execution, defenders of Abu-Jamal vowed to continue the fight. Organizers explained the need to keep the pressure on. Public actions on his behalf are being discussed for the week leading up to the September 11 resumption of the trial.

'Militant' to launch drive for new readers

BY NAOMI CRAINE

The *Militant* will soon be launching a fall subscription drive to sign up new readers. From New York to Los Angeles, from London to Sydney, socialist workers and youth have been meeting over the past few weeks to assess the political openings to reach out broadly with this campaign. They are adopting local goals and mapping out plans for the drive, which will also include sales of the socialist monthly in Spanish *Perspectiva Mundial* and the Marxist magazine *New International*.

The exact dates of the drive, which will begin in mid-September and continue for about two months, will be announced in an upcoming issue of the *Militant*.

We have decided to change an important aspect of how drives have been carried out over the last several years. This campaign will focus entirely on signing up new readers for 12-week introductory subscriptions. Renewals of current subscriptions, which made up a substantial percentage of subs counted during the last circulation campaign, will not be credited toward local goals.

Supporters who have already set a tentative goal for an eight-week drive are encouraged to have another collective discussion in light of these proposals.

Campaigning in working-class areas

Socialist workers and youth sell the *Militant* and other communist literature year round as they participate in political events and social protest activities. We bring the paper to co-workers on the job, students on campus, and workers on the street as part of regular political work.

In a subscription drive, though, members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party, international communist leagues, the Young Socialists, and others drastically alter our normal routine and activity to *campaign* for a specified period of time to reach goals set before the drive starts.

These campaigns help supporters of the paper get out to new areas, especially focused on working-class areas, by setting up literature tables on street corners, going door-to-door, organizing several-day sales teams in their region, and selling the paper at factory gates. In addition, supporters sell on college campuses, at political gatherings, and at events such as upcoming Labor Day marches. The aim is to meet thousands of workers and youth we have not spoken to before and sign them up for the socialist press.

For decades, this has been the political value in nationwide, centralized subscription drives carried out by the communist movement. It is a way the working-class public can cast a vote on the paper. In the course of the drive, supporters of the paper become better at explaining world politics.

In 1944, as World War II was still raging and with much of the national leadership of the SWP in prison for speaking out against the imperialist slaughter, the *Mili-*



Militant/Kathy Mickells

'Militant' supporter selling socialist press at August 12 rally for Mumia Abu-Jamal

tant launched a subscription campaign to sign up 3,000 new readers.

Explaining the importance of the sales drive, SWP national secretary James P. Cannon wrote from prison, "Our main object now... should be to get a wider spreading of our message while our case is still alive regardless of the immediate effect on our permanent subscription list. Three thousand papers going every week for six months to the *same people*, who have not been getting the paper before, should be more effective than the same number of papers being distributed, more or less at random."

Because they were reaching out broadly, socialist workers who took part in that sales drive were able to pick up on the shifting mood within the working class and greater openness to socialist ideas. The drive was a smashing success, reaching more than double the goal of 3,000 new readers. The response foreshadowed an explosion in labor struggles and rapid growth of the SWP.

Way to build the communist movement

Regular campaigns to broaden the readership of the *Militant* remain one of the key ways of building the membership and political influence of the communist movement, including in periods that are not marked by big labor battles or rising social struggles. Most people who join the socialist movement start by picking up the *Militant* and other literature.

Nick Clark and Trevor Miebrydoski, two recent recruits to the Young Socialists in St. Louis, offer a good example. Talking to *Militant* correspondent Harry Ring at the SWP's convention in July, Miebrydoski explained how he first came across the *Militant* at a socialist literature table on

his campus. He began reading the paper and Pathfinder books, and participating in activities with socialist workers. His friend Clark soon joined in.

"From the beginning I found the paper very informative," said Clark, "especially



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

By Mike Taber

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes books and pamphlets by revolutionary fighters whose struggles against capitalism, racism, and all forms of exploitation and oppression point the way forward for humanity. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.

Montreal Pathfinder sales representative Roger Annis reports sales of 117 books in the first half of August to bookstores in Montreal, Quebec City, and Halifax. Among the best-selling titles were *The Second Declaration of Havana* in French, *Lenin's Final Fight*, and the latest issues of *New International* in English and *Nouvelle Internationale* in French, both of which contain the article "Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War."

In the next several weeks, Annis reports, Canadian sales representatives will be phoning and visiting several more bookstores in Montreal, as well as phoning bookstores in Newfoundland and Halifax. A sales trip is planned for Ottawa in mid-September.

The summer 1995 issue of the academic journal *Slavic Review* contains a review that debates the views presented in the Pathfinder title *The Truth about Yugoslavia: Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention* by George Fyson, Argiris Malapanis, and Jonathan Silberman. Reviewer Nicholas Novosel argues that the book "ignores the ethnic, religious or nationalist factor" in the conflict. He takes issue with the presentation in the book of the Yugoslav revolution of the 1940s as a historic victory by working people.

Novosel also disagrees with the authors' opposition to imperialist military intervention, seeing in this a contradiction to the book's support for massive food and medical aid to the workers and farmers of Bosnia and its opposition to the imperialist arms embargo. "Who does Malapanis think will deliver these arms and humanitarian aid?" the reviewer asks.

The Truth about Yugoslavia is available from Pathfinder for \$8.95. The book examines the roots of the carnage in Yugoslavia and describes the conflict as one between rival gangs of would-be capitalists — fragments of the former Stalinist regime — who are fighting a

war for territory and resources as the U.S. and European powers attempt to intervene militarily to advance their competing interests. The book includes descriptions of the impact of the war in Bosnia, currently the arena of a bloody attempt by rightist Serbian forces to carve it up and trample on its right to self-determination, as well as a presentation of the history of the Yugoslav revolution.

war for territory and resources as the U.S. and European powers attempt to intervene militarily to advance their competing interests. The book includes descriptions of the impact of the war in Bosnia, currently the arena of a bloody attempt by rightist Serbian forces to carve it up and trample on its right to self-determination, as well as a presentation of the history of the Yugoslav revolution.

war for territory and resources as the U.S. and European powers attempt to intervene militarily to advance their competing interests. The book includes descriptions of the impact of the war in Bosnia, currently the arena of a bloody attempt by rightist Serbian forces to carve it up and trample on its right to self-determination, as well as a presentation of the history of the Yugoslav revolution.

war for territory and resources as the U.S. and European powers attempt to intervene militarily to advance their competing interests. The book includes descriptions of the impact of the war in Bosnia, currently the arena of a bloody attempt by rightist Serbian forces to carve it up and trample on its right to self-determination, as well as a presentation of the history of the Yugoslav revolution.

war for territory and resources as the U.S. and European powers attempt to intervene militarily to advance their competing interests. The book includes descriptions of the impact of the war in Bosnia, currently the arena of a bloody attempt by rightist Serbian forces to carve it up and trample on its right to self-determination, as well as a presentation of the history of the Yugoslav revolution.

war for territory and resources as the U.S. and European powers attempt to intervene militarily to advance their competing interests. The book includes descriptions of the impact of the war in Bosnia, currently the arena of a bloody attempt by rightist Serbian forces to carve it up and trample on its right to self-determination, as well as a presentation of the history of the Yugoslav revolution.

war for territory and resources as the U.S. and European powers attempt to intervene militarily to advance their competing interests. The book includes descriptions of the impact of the war in Bosnia, currently the arena of a bloody attempt by rightist Serbian forces to carve it up and trample on its right to self-determination, as well as a presentation of the history of the Yugoslav revolution.

war for territory and resources as the U.S. and European powers attempt to intervene militarily to advance their competing interests. The book includes descriptions of the impact of the war in Bosnia, currently the arena of a bloody attempt by rightist Serbian forces to carve it up and trample on its right to self-determination, as well as a presentation of the history of the Yugoslav revolution.

war for territory and resources as the U.S. and European powers attempt to intervene militarily to advance their competing interests. The book includes descriptions of the impact of the war in Bosnia, currently the arena of a bloody attempt by rightist Serbian forces to carve it up and trample on its right to self-determination, as well as a presentation of the history of the Yugoslav revolution.

war for territory and resources as the U.S. and European powers attempt to intervene militarily to advance their competing interests. The book includes descriptions of the impact of the war in Bosnia, currently the arena of a bloody attempt by rightist Serbian forces to carve it up and trample on its right to self-determination, as well as a presentation of the history of the Yugoslav revolution.

war for territory and resources as the U.S. and European powers attempt to intervene militarily to advance their competing interests. The book includes descriptions of the impact of the war in Bosnia, currently the arena of a bloody attempt by rightist Serbian forces to carve it up and trample on its right to self-determination, as well as a presentation of the history of the Yugoslav revolution.

war for territory and resources as the U.S. and European powers attempt to intervene militarily to advance their competing interests. The book includes descriptions of the impact of the war in Bosnia, currently the arena of a bloody attempt by rightist Serbian forces to carve it up and trample on its right to self-determination, as well as a presentation of the history of the Yugoslav revolution.

Immigrant workers organize actions to fight INS raids

BY MICHAEL PENNOCK

NORTHFIELD, Minnesota — The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) conducted a number of factory raids near this small town 40 miles south of Minneapolis between July 24 and July 27. Most of the more than 100 people picked up were from Mexico. Forty-nine were deported immediately. Others posted bonds of between \$500 and \$5,000 and were released.

INS agents also cruised the trailer parks and apartment complexes where most of the Hispanics in town live. They knocked on doors and hunted down those who they missed at the factories.

The raids were the first in memory for many residents here, but not unusual. In nearby Bloomington, INS assistant director Mark Cangemi said, "We do this all the time." What is unusual for this area is that the community met the raids with protest.

More than 40 of those arrested live in Northfield. Some 200 people met here and formed Northfielders Concerned for Immigrant Rights July 28. One of the initiators, Terry Hoops, said the group's major goals right now are meeting the financial

and legal needs of those arrested. "Many families have rent due August 1," he said. "And one of the factors that makes this difficult is that for workers being immediately deported, the INS takes their last paycheck to pay for transportation back to their country."

Those picked up by the INS are now on a blacklist among area employers. Landlords are asking social service which of their tenants who are having difficulty paying rent are undocumented. People in the Northfielders Concerned committee want to make it known to both renters and landlords that this type of housing discrimination is against the law.

On August 2, 30 people met to review the work of the committee. One fundraising idea put forward by some students at Carleton College is to hold a fiesta in the town square. Two members of the committee agreed to speak August 9 at an Irish solidarity event in St. Paul and relate their case to others fighting the INS, such as Irish activist Jimmy Smyth. The committee is also discussing holding educational events on the economic crisis in Mexico.

Unions call for Detroit strike solidarity

Continued from front page

ing it was to open letters of support coming in from all around the country. "One of my favorites this week was a letter from a retired auto worker from Pigeon Lake [Michigan] that included a five-dollar check," he said. And from as far away as Honolulu, Hawaii, the Typographical Union sent a check for \$1,000.

Support for the strike remains strong among the working class in this area. Tens of thousands of workers refuse to buy the scab paper the company is publishing, and many are successfully putting pressure on stores, restaurants, and factories not to sell it on their premises. The union estimates that almost half of the subscribers to both papers have canceled their subscriptions.

Union locals adopt picket lines

Union members and other working people show their solidarity by bringing food, ice, cash donations, and joining the picket lines.

Some unions, such as United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1299, representing 3,000 workers at Great Lakes Steel, have adopted one of the 40 picket sites the newspaper unions have targeted. Steelworkers join newspaper strikers at the Lincoln Park distribution center located near the mill where they work.

Forty members of the Newspaper Guild who work for the *Lansing State Journal* drove from the state capitol to downtown Detroit August 20 to join their brothers and sisters on the picket line at the *Detroit News* building. The Guild local at the *Toledo Blade* sent a donation of \$10,000.

Some 50 UAW members, most from Local 160 at the General Motors Technical Center in Warren, recently organized a car caravan to join the picket line at the Sterling Heights printing facility, where the company is producing the paper with strikebreakers who are guarded by goons from private security firms.

Donations from the United Auto Workers (UAW), the AFL-CIO, and other labor organizations to a special strike fund provided 1,400 Teamsters their first strike benefit checks August 17. The \$1 million fund was set up to provide benefits for the duration of the strike.

The Detroit Metropolitan Labor Council has announced that the city's traditional Labor Day march on Monday, September 4, will end with a downtown



Cops in Sterling Heights, Michigan, attacked strikers on a picket line to clear the entrance of a printing plant on August 19. Some 2,500 workers have been on strike against the *Detroit News* and *Detroit Free Press* since July 13.

rally outside the *Detroit News* building.

On Saturday afternoon, September 2, strikers and their supporters will assemble at the UAW Local 228 union hall, a mile north of the Sterling Heights printing plant, and march down Mound Road to the picket lines. "We will stay at the plant for as long as it takes to keep the scab paper from going out," said Reverend James Orange of the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department, who came from Atlanta to help plan and coordinate the action.

Fred Wright from the United Mineworkers of America, also in Detroit to help with solidarity efforts, said, "We are asking unions within a 500-mile radius to join us."

The National Labor Relations Board issued a complaint August 15 against *Detroit Newspapers, Inc.*, for violating the company's agreement to bargain jointly with all six unions of the Metropolitan Council of Newspaper Unions. This de-

velopment raised hopes on the picket lines that the company could be pushed toward a settlement. Mayor Dennis Archer has asked a federal mediator to intervene in the strike and talks have resumed, but as of the *Militant's* press time no new agreements had been announced.

In what it described as an act of good faith, the newspaper union council postponed an August 12 mass rally at the Sterling Heights printing plant, but several hundred unionists who had not heard of the cancellation showed up anyway.

Police attack picket line

The picket lines at the main gate of the Sterling Heights plant have been larger on recent Saturday nights in response to increased scab activity to produce a Sunday paper.

Police in riot gear attacked the picket line August 19. This was the second frontal police assault at that site.

On the first night of the strike the cops attacked without warning. Working people throughout the area got a picture of the company and cop operation against the strike as they viewed that evening's newscast, which showed striker Ken Middleton with his teeth knocked out by a cop's billy club. Several pickets were arrested in that attack.

After the first confrontation the striking unions agreed to allow the police to escort scabs in and out of the plant every hour on the hour. On August 19, however, more than 150 union members and supporters had gathered at the plant by 8:00 p.m. When the police tried to clear the entrance to the plant, the workers stood their ground and the cops were unable to force a wedge to clear the driveway.

Pickets began to chant "Bought and paid for!" in reference to the \$330,000 the *Detroit News* Agency has shelled out to the Sterling Heights city government to cover the cops' 24-hour command post at the plant. The cops postponed the scab run and returned to their cars for helmets, shields, and clubs.

At 9:00 p.m., they charged in full riot gear, using their batons to club the pickets. They arrested four workers. As they dragged one of the workers across the road they kicked and beat him, crushing his arm. The video of this beating was played on all the local TV news broadcasts.

By 10:00 p.m., reinforced from neighboring towns, the police numbered more than 50. At that point picket captains organized the strikers to pull back.

The scab caravan, which by then stretched a quarter mile down Mound Road, moved into the plant. As traffic began to move again on Mound Road, motorists who had been delayed by the police action honked enthusiastically for the strikers as they drove by. Jeff Ross, member of Teamster Local 299, was arrested for "excessive use of horn" when he beeped his support to the strikers.

In a telephone interview, Guild Local 22 president Lou Mleczo stressed that the police violence was "unnecessary and excessive."

Steve Marshall, member of United Transportation Union Local 683, and Gary Boyers, member of USWA Local 1299, contributed to this article.

Garment bosses' slave shop revealed; workers still face deportation threat

BY BARRY FATLAND

LOS ANGELES — The exposure of slave-like conditions at a garment sweatshop in the nearby town of El Monte, where 72 Thai workers had been in bondage for years, has sparked widespread public outrage. State officials shut down the shop after an August 2 raid by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

The employers had kept the workers under round-the-clock surveillance. Locked doors, high walls, and razor wire surrounding the compound prevented workers from leaving. The bosses tried to terrify the female workers with stories that they might be raped if they left.

One freed worker reported, "They said they would go after my family and kill

them all if I left without permission."

Several workers report that they were recruited at Bangkok sewing factories with promises of jobs, passports, visas, and paid travel costs. They were to pay \$1,200 out of their wages over a period of one year to cover everything.

Once in the United States, they were taken directly to the factory and put to work for up to 22 hours per day, seven days a week. They averaged 69 cents an hour pay.

Two women workers, who are using the names "Jena" and "Bee" to protect their families, escaped from the complex two years ago when they heard of plans to install the razor wire. They were too fearful to go to authorities until Jena related the story of her two-year period of slavery

while applying for a green card.

Risking deportation, she is willing to testify against her former bosses. The majority of those who were recently freed have also agreed to testify.

After the raid on the plant, the workers were jailed by the INS for more than a week until the Thai Community Development Center, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, and the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees agreed to sign bonds and arranged for their housing and personal needs.

The 67 women and five men now have six-month work permits allowing them to remain in the United States so they can serve as material witnesses against their employers. But they all still face deportation proceedings. Standard INS procedure is to deport material witnesses after they give their testimony.

Immigrant rights organizations condemned the INS and the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles, saying both agencies knew of the El Monte slave operation for more than three years and did not act, claiming they had no solid evidence the workers were being held against their will.

Anger has mounted over the treatment of the workers by the INS, who shackled them as they were taken from the detention center to various legal proceedings.

INS officials defended themselves by saying the Thai workers were treated just like other immigrants in their custody.

Barry Fatland is a member of United Transportation Union Local 1544 in Los Angeles.

Rail workers strike CSX

BY KAY SEDAM

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — A strike by railroad maintenance workers that began at 6:00 a.m. August 17 stopped as many as 400 freight trains dead in their tracks along a CSX Transportation route through 10 states.

Ten hours later, U.S. district judge William Terrell Hodges in Jacksonville, Florida, granted CSX a temporary restraining order until an August 28 hearing for an injunction to prevent a continued work stoppage.

Workers walked off the job in protest over supervisors performing maintenance work and seniority issues. The strike was effective in shutting down the railroad after members of other rail unions honored the picket lines of the 1,200-member Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Union.

The union struck the portion of CSX that was formerly the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. These lines carry mostly coal and auto parts.

Spirits among train crews ran high as support for the maintenance workers grew and workers refused to cross the picket lines. Even those engineers and switchmen who were stuck in the yard already on duty and forced to finish out their shift went out to join the picket line. Several engineer and conductor trainees who were called in to work also refused to cross the line and instead joined in.

Kay Sedam is a member of United Transportation Union Local 847 at CSX in Birmingham.

Labor's Stake in Strike Battles of the Detroit Newspaper Workers and the United Auto Workers at Caterpillar

Speaker: Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party National Trade Union Director, others to be announced

Sunday, September 3, 6 p.m.

Pathfinder Bookstore
7414 Woodward Ave.
(one block north of Grand Blvd.)
Detroit, Michigan 48202 (313) 875-0100

Cuba welcomes international delegations

BY DAN FURMAN

The following article appeared in the August 17 issue of the Portuguese-language semiweekly *Independente*, published in the Portuguese and Brazilian community of Newark, New Jersey. The author's English-language version appears below.

This is the second in a three-part series reporting on the Cuba Lives International Youth Festival which took place August 1-7. More than 1,300 delegates from 57

number of countries that delegates had come from, the problems of employment and unemployment facing all were strikingly similar.

"In countries like France, Italy, and Spain, the governments are implementing labor reforms that cut back the rights workers won through struggle," said Francisco Cano Portero of Spain. A participant from Argentina reported that social benefits are under attack with the introduction of new labor laws.

"The problems of Brazil are the same as

INDEPENDENTE
 PORTUGUESE-AMERICAN SEMI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (MONDAY & THURSDAY)
 YEAR 1 - 1983 - MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1995 - TEL.: (201) 817-9600 - FAX: (201) 817-7013
 PRICE: 50¢

countries attended the festival. Dan Furman and Ruth Nebbia participated in the festival both as U.S. delegates and as journalists interested in the topics that the international delegates discussed throughout the Cuban provinces.

More than 100 delegates from the Cuba Lives International Youth Festival traveled to the province of Pinar del Río to discuss the issue of employment. The 1,300 delegates to the youth festival split up for three days to attend conferences on issues ranging from employment to health care and democracy.

Cubans from Pinar del Río gave us a big welcome. Pinar del Río borders Havana province and is the westernmost province in Cuba. The buses stopped several times along the way and we were greeted with parades, dancers, and salsa bands. The Cuban families who we stayed with threw parties the evening we arrived for us to get to know the neighborhood. In addition to the international guests, delegates from Cuba, elected through organizations and workplaces across the country, also participated with us in the festival.

When the discussions got under way, it quickly became clear that despite the large

the problems of Argentina, Mexico, and of all other countries with the exception of Cuba," said Martha Jares of Brazil. "The response of the Brazilian government to the oil workers' strike was to send in the military to break the workers' organizations."

Angel Lariscy from the United States spoke about the strike by workers at Caterpillar in Illinois and how the company has fought to break the union there. "Only 11 percent of U.S. workers are in unions, and this percentage continues to decline," added Rebecca Gettleman, a U.S. delegate from San Francisco. According to her, the attacks against unions are part of the drive by employers and the government to increase productivity and profits as the world sinks into a deepening economic crisis.

Delegates from Cuba explained that Cuba faces the same world economic crisis, even though it is not a capitalist country. The biggest blow to the Cuban economy came in 1989, when the collapse of the Soviet-bloc governments meant Cuba suddenly lost its major trading partners, including its source of oil. Instead of trading sugar for oil, Cuba is now forced to

Press conference calls for end of travel restrictions to Cuba

BY RICH ARIZA

NEWARK, New Jersey — Surrounded by supporters at an August 21 news conference, Raymundo Del Toro, president of the Cuban American Committee for Peace, called on the U.S. government to end the restrictions it imposed exactly one year earlier on family visits to Cuba.

Del Toro said, "The Clinton administration has negotiated an immigration pact with the Cuban government setting up an orderly process for Cubans to leave the island who wish to do so. Yet why are we Cuban-Americans still being punished by being denied the right to visit our loved ones in Cuba?"

The well-attended news conference was held in conjunction with a lobbying effort among congresspeople from New Jersey. Marshall García, vice president of the

Cuban American Committee for Peace, condemned Rep. Robert Torricelli, calling him an agent for right-wing Cuban-American forces. Also speaking at the news conference was Luis Miranda of Casa de las Américas, a New York-based organization that promotes solidarity with the Cuban revolution.

Two days before the press conference, the right-wing Spanish-language daily *Noticias del Mundo* ran a front-page article announcing the event. Unlike some previous incidents, however, no attempt to disrupt the event materialized.

The Spanish-language television networks Telemundo and Univisión reported on the conference during their evening broadcasts. It was also covered by several Spanish- and English-language newspapers.



Marshall García, vice president of the Cuban American Committee for Peace, addresses the media outside the federal building in Newark on August 21.



Participants at commission on Young Women meeting on the Isle of Youth. International and Cuban delegates attended similar meetings in other provinces.

buy everything with hard currency and sell its products at world market prices (often greatly deflated). Cubans have called this crisis the "special period." Due to the lack of fuel and parts, many factories and employers in Cuba have been forced to close or vastly reduce their workforce.

"Unemployment was not a problem before," said Sergio, a Cuban delegate and leader of the Union of Young Communists. "We are now faced with the challenge of how to preserve full employment — one of the main achievements of the revolution — under the pressure of the U.S. blockade, which limits investment. Employment for students after graduation is guaranteed by the government. But there are not always jobs available in the field studied, so people have to take other options."

"The government's police was not unleashed in the streets against these workers," emphasized Salvador Valdés Mesa, Cuban minister of labor and social security, who addressed the delegates the following day. Prior to the revolution of 1959, he pointed out, Cuba was afflicted with chronic unemployment and underemployment in an underdeveloped economy that depended on a seasonal sugar harvest. Unemployment stood at 24 percent, according to official figures which did not include women. With the enormous projects launched by the revolution, unemployment dropped to 1.3 percent in the mid-sixties.

"The first thing was to protect the workers," continued Valdés. "When a worker is unemployed, for a time he receives 60 percent of his salary. Then the state offers him employment in the field in which he has been trained. It may involve moving, and some workers refuse. There is no law that forces anyone to stay in a job."

Despite the shortages, Valdés pointed out, not one hospital, day-care center or school has been closed, and the infant mortality rate has actually declined in the last two years.

After hitting bottom in 1993, the Cuban economy has begun to recover slowly, growing 0.7 percent in 1994 and 2 percent so far in 1995. This recovery is largely due to measures adopted by the National Assembly after being debated and discussed in assemblies by workers across the country. These measures have included increased foreign investment, particularly in the tourism industry, legalization of the use of the U.S. dollar by Cubans, and the opening of agricultural markets at unregulated prices.

Tourism was the largest source of national income last year, and \$2 billion were brought in through foreign investment in "joint enterprises" (jointly operated by a foreign investor and the Cuban government.) The Cuban peso, after dropping to 120 pesos to the dollar last summer, has climbed back up to 35 pesos to the dollar. A layer of Cubans who worked in factories are now self-employed

— working as messengers or operating small restaurants in their home. Further measures are being discussed that would allow Cubans to employ other Cubans in such ventures.

"With these changes, there is the possibility a person will receive benefits that do not correspond to their social contribution," said José Luis Rodríguez, minister of economics and planning. "Self-employment...is essentially of a personal character. We want a single system in which everyone participates."

Rodríguez pointed out that more workers are currently needed in sugarcane production than in tourism. Sugar remains the main product of Cuba, he said, and the harvest has been low in the last several years partly because there is no fuel for labor-saving machines. Several types of incentive pay, including partial payment of salaries in dollars, have been introduced to encourage workers to work in the sugar fields.

These moves have caused some to speculate that Cuba is moving slowly toward adopting a market economy. While there is a layer in Cuba and many in the United States who hope for such a course, it was not the framework presented to us by any of the Cuban leaders who spoke with us. They presented the opposite.

The introduction of capitalist methods such as these, said Valdés, "are risks that we are taking...but if we don't do this, we will lose the revolution. There are symptoms of corruption with tourism and the rest." But, he added, "this has to be solved through the state and the work of the party. Our system does not only produce economic results — it also has to produce moral results."

Speaking of the development of tourism as a major source of income at the final session of the international delegates, Fidel Castro explained that this was "the only alternative for saving the revolution and saving the gains of the revolution." The "joint ventures," the tourist trade, and the legalization of the dollar inevitably brought increased inequality in society, but it is done "not as an opportunist move but as a revolutionary measure — so we can get food, medicine, electricity, and fuel for the people," Castro said.

People continue to talk about the transition occurring in Cuba, he continued, "as if we will follow the example of the former socialist camp." If Cuba seems alone in the world at this moment, said Fidel, "look at the big page of history we are writing."

Delegates to the employment discussion adopted a resolution that called for the recognition of employment as a right and an essential element of participation of the individual in society as a whole. The resolution pointed out that the divisions between employed and unemployed workers, and the divisions based on nationality, race, immigration status or sex, are all obstacles to the workers uniting in struggle.

'Masses defended stability of revolution'

Cuban president speaks at rally on anniversary of disturbances in Havana

The following speech was given by Cuban president Fidel Castro at the end of a demonstration held August 5 along Havana's waterfront in which half a million people marched in defense of the Cuban revolution. The speech was printed in the August 8 issue of the Cuban daily *Granma*. The translation, subheadings, and material in brackets are by the *Militant*.

I'm going to start now, without waiting for you to rouse me, so I'll take just a few minutes, and hope you will excuse me.

Dear friends from different countries who have visited us in a noble gesture of encouragement;

Dear compatriots:

You can't hear, right? Well, what can one do [shouts], nothing can be done. I know from a little experience how these events are in places like this — over here there are still people a kilometer and a half away on this side, and over there they are a kilometer away. The site isn't ideal for a rally, the crowd is really huge, and I understand it's not easy to communicate with everyone like this, nor was it planned this way; something else was expected. For that reason I said I came to reflect briefly, because this rally is itself a real miracle! Well, believers will say it came from heaven. Those with a different philosophy will say it's a miracle of patriotism and revolutionary spirit of the people.

[Applause] We absolutely respect, as a sacred principle, all beliefs; but it really seemed impossible that this event would occur today, and I say to you that in many years of revolution, I have never seen such uncertainty about a march and rally.

I had planned to join the march about 1.7 kilometers from here, at Maceo Park, a place that is symbolic of the events of a year ago. I was going to join there, but on the way I saw such a downpour...not a cloudburst, but a storm — such a deluge that I really didn't think it was possible to organize such a march. I thought: What will people do? And I said: Well, they'll probably march. I was sure of that. At 4:00 on the dot, those who are there will surely set out. [Applause]

I saw the streets of the Plaza district, where the march began, turned into rivers, such a downpour that you couldn't see anything, and I said: Well, if 10 people show up it's already a victory. [Applause] By my estimate, without exaggerating and, if anything, underestimating — Vicky [Victoria Velázquez, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists] will say no, there are more — at least a half a million people have joined the march

[applause and cheers], in these physically unimaginable conditions.

I would have been here among the 10. Of course I can't claim credit for having gotten my share of water, because when I arrived at Maceo Park the rain had stopped; but there were people who had been there for a while standing in line, helping organize, and they were wet, some shivering with cold, because they really

But they were really carrying out destabilizing activities. At that time you could hardly go to Regla, because someone would pull out a knife, someone else a pistol, they would hijack the Regla shuttle, or a little, medium-sized, or even big boat. They would steal anything, because, for the purposes of the propaganda against Cuba, the bigger the scandal, the better, and over there, they would get an extraor-

the first shot. And the result was unprecedented; in a matter of minutes, the entire people took to the streets and established order. Their massive presence and spirit established order without the use of arms. Where else in the world does this occur?

Those who watch television — and everyone does — see what happens around the world; in civilized, developed Europe; in the United States, in the richest countries, crowds of police are constantly seen firing buckshot and tear gas, beating and kicking people on the ground — this appears on television every day in many countries. And you see people killed, so many killed, so many wounded, so many arrested. It's common, it's our daily bread.

That doesn't happen in Cuba. Oh! but if in Cuba there is the least attempt at a disturbance, there is so much propaganda, so much talk everywhere, you would think the revolution was being overthrown.

Some years ago we said this revolution would not crumble. [Applause and cheers of "This does not fall!"] Some years back we used an image, that this revolution couldn't be whipped, because it was made of steel and wasn't beaten with egg whites — that is to say, it wasn't frosting [laughter and applause] — and it's based on popular support, on the consensus of the people, on the consciousness of the people of what this country was and can never return to. This is true regardless of their opinions,

or the fact that they protest over everything that justifiably should be protested, or even complaints due to not having all the information and to the rebellious nature of the people.

This is the most noble, selfless, courageous people imaginable. It's a people that struggled fiercely for its independence and won it, that struggled very hard for justice; that fortunately achieved, through the revolution, a higher level of culture than the great majority of countries in the world. It has a high level of education and there are fewer illiterates, for example, than there are in the United States, total illiterates or those they call "functional" illiterates. [Laughter and applause]

Cuba still stands

This country has many qualities. It has learned and it thinks. This country is writing one of the most glorious pages ever written: since the socialist camp crumbled, since the USSR disappeared and many people in the world believed Cuba would last only days, or at most, weeks, five years have passed and here it is: And look at its strength! [Applause]

August 5, 1995, will be remembered too, because this rally has been organized under incredible conditions. It pained me to think of the effort the youth had made to organize this rally over so many days, and just when it had begun these acts of nature occurred, and I believe anywhere else such a crowd would have dissolved, but that isn't what happened.

That's why I say that this day, August 5, 1995, will also be historic, and every year it will be our duty to remember the great victory of August 5, 1994, when the people smashed the counterrevolution without firing a shot. This date says a lot, it teaches and inspires a lot, because the people don't face the same conditions as 10 years ago, when there was an abundance of many things, so many that we even wasted them — fuel, resources, everything. That is one of the disadvantages of abundance.

Today we have less than half of what we had. Today we face tougher tests, more complex ones; but out of this test, without doubt, we will emerge stronger. [Applause] Those are the advantages of difficulties.

Standing here in front of this event, I am convinced that none of us will ever forget what we see today. I have had the privi-



Youth march in support of revolution in Havana August 6, 1994.

Bohemia/Walfrido Ojeda

got soaked. And it wasn't one, but two, intense, very intense cloudbursts! So I didn't get my quota of water. What merit can I claim today in this march? None! [Applause and shouts]

Pride in our people

What I have had is the privilege of enjoying an event of this nature, which makes us feel truly proud of our people; proud of the revolution and its results in the consciousness of the men and women of this country; proud of our youth, for being capable of organizing such brilliant events. [Applause] I have many reasons for feeling gratified.

Vicky was saying, among other things, that we were here today because I had been here last August 5. I came then because I had to come — it was my most elementary duty to be with the people at a moment in which the enemy had worked overtime to create a disturbance. A disturbance! It can't be said it was even an attempt at rebellion, they were simply disturbances. Those disturbances were created around groups that mobilized to steal boats to go to the United States, where they were received like heroes.

ordinary welcome; they received privileges no citizen in the world gets. All this was for the purpose of destabilization, in the midst of a difficult economic situation, in the midst of great sacrifices by our population. And it was those groups that began to create disturbances.

However, following our philosophy that this people is revolutionary and is with the revolution and will be, under any circumstances [applause], we weren't going to allow ourselves to be provoked. What did the external enemy and their internal allies — even though they were a small minority — want? They wanted to provoke a bloody confrontation. They wanted us to use arms. And we have arms, arms for millions of people, that are for defending the revolution. But we have our arms to fight external enemies.

Unless they land here, unless they use arms inside the country against revolutionaries, we have no need to use arms, having the people and the masses to defend the stability of the revolution. [Applause]

That was my role: to help prevent anyone from being provoked, and we preferred they shoot at us rather than us firing

More on the Cuban revolution from Pathfinder

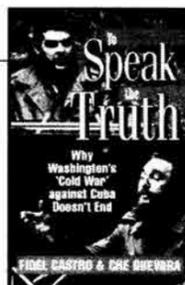
New International no. 10
Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution
MARY-ALICE WATERS \$14



To Speak the Truth

FIDEL CASTRO AND CHE GUEVARA

In historic speeches before the United Nations and its bodies, Guevara and Castro address the workers of the world, explaining why the U.S. government is determined to destroy the example set by the socialist revolution in Cuba and why its effort will fail. \$16.95



Dynamics of the Cuban Revolution

JOSEPH HANSEN
How did the Cuban revolution come about? Why does it represent, as Joseph Hansen put it, an "unbearable challenge" to U.S. imperialism? What political challenges has it confronted? This compilation, written with polemical clarity as the revolution advanced, is irreplaceable in understanding the Cuban revolution today. \$20.95

Available at bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax (212) 727-0150. Tel. (212) 741-0690. If ordering by mail, please include \$3 for the first book and \$0.50 for each additional title to cover postage and handling.

lege of seeing many rallies, challenges of all kinds in war and peace, the heroism of war and the heroism of peace. But I would say this, without reservations, despite knowing the problems we have, despite knowing there always are those who lack the necessary spirit under conditions like these, I believe the [Cuban] people today have more worth, more consciousness, and more heroism than ever. [Applause]

Perhaps some thought they were going to take photos of a line of citizens marching down the Malecón and that 100 soaked people would gather here, dripping wet, and they could say, "Look how the Cuban revolution is doing!" They weren't going to speak of the downpour, the storm, the deluge. They were going to say that no one wanted to attend the August 5 rally and that only 100 people showed up.

What a remarkable response! We feel the duty, really, to thank our people and the people of our capital. [Applause] It is precisely in the capital where we have the most problems with housing, water supply, transportation, of electricity, and many other things. And look how the people of the capital act!

You there below, visitors from 65 countries [attending the Cuba Lives International Youth Festival], you aren't up here to see what we are seeing. We're happy you've been able to accompany us on this glorious day. [Applause]

No embargo against dictatorships

I truly have no words to express our gratitude for the support you have given us, for this beautiful Cuba Lives youth festival. I have no words to express our gratitude for the fact that you have accompanied us in such difficult times, and it's worth emphasizing that among you are 262 representatives of the people of the United States, because this also tells us about the qualities and virtues of the people of the United States [applause], who are opposed to the unjust and criminal blockade being imposed against Cuba, the likes of which have never been used against any other country, and which has been in effect for more than 35 years.

They didn't do this against apartheid, nor against governments in Latin America that disappeared 2,000 or 10,000 or even 30,000 citizens, the location of whose remains is unknown. This was not done against governments that disappeared more than 100,000 citizens in a small country like Guatemala. [Shouts] They do it against Cuba, where there is not a single death squad, a single disappearance, a single political assassination in the streets; a country — I say it with all the energy that the truth gives us — where no one has ever been tortured. [Applause] I wonder in which other country the same can be said.

Every day, even children are killed, and teenagers, and even children are prostituted in many countries in the region. That's the reality. Every day people take justice into their own hands, there is violence, drugs, and problems that don't exist in Cuba. Yet we are the only country that is blockaded in the world.

It's for this reason that we must react with great dignity and honor, with a great sense of patriotism, with all the necessary patience and to wait as long as necessary. We can't have any illusions when extremist elements are dictating policy today in the United States, aiming to erase all social benefits for the people of the United States.

It can't be ruled out that in the future these extremist elements, using all their resources, which are plenty, might gain total power in the United States for 4, 8, or 12 more years. If these extremist elements succeed and gain control, not only of the Senate but of the government, it will mean for us new periods of danger, risk, blockades, and that's why it's not an exaggeration to say that if we must struggle another 100 years, we will struggle another 100 years. [Applause]

Our country has struggled more than 100 years for its independence, quite a bit more than 100 years, against attempts to annex us, to swallow us, to devour us. We can never give up that struggle, and we won't give it up! Time doesn't matter, in this we have to have more patience than the Chinese; in this we have to act, one might say, with the wisdom of a thousand-



Militant/Laura Garza

Youth from the United States march in Havana August 5, 1995, demanding end to Washington's hostile policies against Cuba.

year-old people.

And I am sure that neither this generation nor subsequent ones — that is, neither the youth of today nor those of tomorrow — will give up that glorious struggle, not only for independence and freedom but for equality and justice. [Applause] Our people will never renounce those aspirations!

We neither exaggerate nor dramatize when we say we're ready to struggle as long as necessary. Yes, we should do things better and better, and we're obligated to do them better, to be more efficient, to be more dedicated to our obligations, to our duty, to our beloved and heroic people, to learn all the lessons from these difficult times.

Vicky was telling me some of our visitors' impressions when you saw, for example, the Computer Center, or the rehabilitation schools, the schools for the disabled, the child-care centers, the family doctors, the hospitals, the efforts this country makes to sustain all this and how, in spite of having lost 70 percent of our imports, not a single school or hospital has been closed, nor is there a single child without health care or education. [Applause]

What excuse can those who handle great resources — billions and billions — find or use when they haven't been able to solve even one of these problems? Capitalism has been unable to solve even one of these problems. [Applause]

There are countries that have countless amounts of oil, mineral resources, reserves in the banks, and they cannot point to any of the things that our people, in a special period and under a blockade, can

point to.

What will we be able to do, then, the day the blockade ends, the day they leave us in peace? We will struggle for that day and wait for that day, and your confidence will not be betrayed, your love and encouragement will not be useless, the seed you plant in our hearts will never be lost.

We will continue to count on you and on the millions and millions of people like you who, fortunately, exist around the world. [Applause] We will continue to count on this support from everywhere.

Cuba welcomes youth festival

The youth of the world will meet again, and if they can't meet somewhere else, or if a country doesn't offer itself for a festival organized like this one, then a world festival can be organized. What's lacking is not money, what is needed is modesty, generosity, good will [applause], like that of those families who hosted you, like that of the neighborhoods that welcomed you and greeted you everywhere. Millions are not needed, so it can be organized like this festival, in which each person made an effort and paid for their own trip.

After this experience, if world festivals don't continue, then here in Cuba, under a special period and a blockade, we have enough generosity, common sense and organizational capacity to hold an event of this kind. [Applause]

It's not that we're proposing it here; I was told it was to take place in South Africa but that it wasn't possible. Reactionaries don't like such festivals. Right-wing extremists and hegemonists don't like them, and so not many people are concerned about holding youth festivals.

But what a beautiful event this has been, what experiences it leaves us with — the method, the style, the meetings in the provinces. Cuba is even bigger and a festival can reach Baracoa, Santiago de Cuba, Holguín, everywhere, with or without a hurricane, because a storm went around the Youth Festival, but it behaved well, it headed north. It's not that we wished it would go to Florida; it would have been better if it had veered earlier and headed to the Atlantic; but, well, it left you and us with the water, because I believe you were greeted with water and you got wet. So you may return to your countries a little bigger, having grown like our sugarcane, which is growing now with the water and the heat. [Laughter and applause]

Thanks a lot, thank you very much, dear guests. [Applause and chants of "Fidel, Fidel!"] Cuba lives and will live as long as there are men and women like you in the world, as long as there is a people as heroic as ours, capable of defending that right to life! [Applause]

Once again, I loved that slogan Vicky proclaimed here so beautifully:

Socialism or death!

Homeland or death!

We shall win!

[ovation]

Now we turn over the stage to the musicians, whom we almost forgot, so their magnificent art can be enjoyed by the whole country, by those here and at home.

A speech can't be listened to for much more than half an hour. But good music, good art can be enjoyed all afternoon and all night.

Thank you. [Applause]

Cuba joins Caribbean trade group

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The inaugural summit of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) opened in Port of Spain, Trinidad, August 17 with sharp political differences between the governments of Cuba and the United States taking center stage.

"I was asked by the organizers of this conference, whose celebration Cuba deeply enjoys, to address it on behalf of the three countries in the Greater Antilles represented here, given the painful absence of our brother country Puerto Rico," said Cuban president Fidel Castro, addressing the opening ceremony. The three countries Castro referred to were Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic, which are among the 25 Caribbean and Latin American nations making up the organization.

Castro criticized Washington for prohibiting its colonial possessions — Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands — from joining the newly founded group because Cuba is a member. "We used to be no more than other countries' naval and military bases, attacked, defended, captured, retaken, repossessed, bartered, donated," he said. The Cuban president hailed the new formation as an expression of Caribbean sovereignty.

Some 500 people participated in the

summit, including the heads of 30 Caribbean countries and colonies.

The event marked the largest gathering of heads of state in the hemisphere since the Summit of the Americas held in Miami last December. Castro was the only national leader in the hemisphere excluded from that meeting, which was hosted by U.S. president Bill Clinton.

The ACS conference reflected an important opening for Cuba, as almost all member nations supported Cuba's membership, despite Washington's objections. The ACS registers the first time both Cuba and Haiti have been invited to join a regional trade bloc. Many countries in the Caribbean have called for an end to Washington's 35-year economic embargo against Cuba.

Referring to the U.S. embargo and lauding the concept of a united Caribbean, Castro said, "We are doing it at a time when the world is dividing into large commercial blocs and ferocious wars over markets break out.

"And the gap continues to grow between the rich countries with access to advanced technologies and the poor countries overwhelmed by the burden of their debts and their insoluble social problems," he added.

The ACS is made up of the states of the

Caribbean Community plus Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the countries of Central America, Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela. The treaty establishing the ACS was signed in Cartagena, Colombia, last year, after a commission recommended expanding the 13-nation Caribbean Community to include all countries around the Caribbean basin. Officials participating in the summit agreed to establish the ACS headquarters in Trinidad and appointed Simon Molina Duarte of Venezuela as its first secretary-general.

The new group has a total trade volume of some \$180 billion a year, but less than 10 percent is estimated to be between member states. Much to the dismay of Washington, Havana has forged links or normalized relations with almost all the nations in the Caribbean.

The ACS gathering discussed working toward closer ties in tourism, transportation, and trade. No concrete pact was reached, however.

Meanwhile, Cuban foreign trade minister Ricardo Cabrisas announced August 15 that Havana plans to open an embassy in Trinidad and Tobago. Cabrisas invited Trinidad and Tobago's industry and trade minister, Kenneth Valley, to attend an international trade fair in Havana this year.

Activists in Southeast build for Cuba rally

BY JAMES HARRIS

ATLANTA — The National Network on Cuba (NNOC), a coalition of some 70 local and national groups that organize activities in opposition to U.S. policy toward Cuba, held the second regional meeting of its affiliates in the Southeast here August 20.

The main decision participants made at the meeting was to shift gears and put at the center of their activities over the next two months building a march in New York City on October 21. The demonstration will demand an end to Washington's economic embargo of Cuba, normalizing relations between the two countries, lifting the U.S. travel ban on the Caribbean island, and respect for Cuba's self-determination.

The New York action was originally one of four regional demonstrations called by the National Network for October 14. The date was shifted to take into account that U.S. president Bill Clinton and Cuban president Fidel Castro are scheduled to address the United Nations General Assembly October 22.

Some 30 people from throughout the South attended the regional NNOC gathering here. They represented local coalitions and organizations involved in defense of Cuba in Atlanta, Georgia; Miami and Sarasota, Florida; Durham and Greensboro, North Carolina; Birmingham, Alabama; and Houston, Texas.

Andrés Gómez, one of the four national

coordinators of the Network, chaired the meeting and gave the opening report. The night before, Gómez spoke at a public forum sponsored by the Atlanta Network on Cuba, which 80 people attended. He described the reality in Cuba today and talked about the situation in the Cuban community in Miami, where he lives. Gómez is also the national coordinator of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, a Miami-based group of Cuban-Americans who support the Cuban revolution.

Discussion at the August 20 conference centered on whether NNOC affiliates in the South should continue to build the regional demonstration in Atlanta or concentrate their efforts on mobilizing people for the march in New York City.

Many participants at the meeting pointed out that the New York demonstration is now seen by numerous local coalitions and national political organizations involved in Cuba solidarity work as a national action for which forces from around the country are being mobilized. Several groups in Miami, such as the Association of Workers in the Cuban Community (ATC), are already planning to organize members and supporters to go to New York on October 21, not to build an action in Atlanta the weekend before.

Most participants agreed that it would be impossible to successfully promote participation in demonstrations with the same character two weeks in a row. If lo-



Militant/Sam Manuel

Youth joined march in Washington, D.C., November 12, 1994, against U.S. government's policies on Cuba. October 21 action in New York is gaining more support.

cal coalitions divided their energies and resources between an October 14 regional demonstration and organizing to get people to New York a week later, many of the activists here said, both would be smaller and weaker as a result. It would cut across building the largest and broadest action possible this fall in defense of the Cuban revolution.

A few people at the meeting argued that maintaining the focus on building the regional mobilization in Atlanta would be the most effective way to do work in the South in opposition to U.S. policy against Cuba.

In the end, the meeting decided that

building the regional demonstration in Atlanta was unrealistic at this point and that NNOC affiliates should instead concentrate their work on mobilizing people for the march in New York.

Representatives of the Atlanta Network on Cuba announced that their group will organize a teach-in on Cuba here on October 14, as a local action geared toward promoting participation in the New York march.

Representatives of other coalitions also said they will bring proposals back to their groups to plan similar educational activities on the same date as part of their efforts to build October 21.

FROM
PATHFINDER

Fifty years since World War II

25% discount to members of the Pathfinder Readers Club

OFFER ENDS SEPTEMBER 15, 1995

THE CHANGING FACE OF U.S. POLITICS

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions

JACK BARNES

A handbook for workers coming into the factories, mines, and mills, as they react to the uncertain life, ceaseless turmoil, and brutality of capitalism in the closing years of the twentieth century. It shows how millions of workers, as political resistance grows, will revolutionize themselves, their unions, and all of society. \$19.95 (special offer \$14.95)

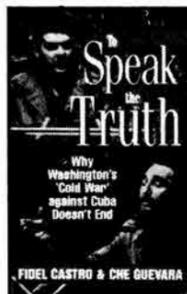


TO SPEAK THE TRUTH

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

FIDEL CASTRO AND CHE GUEVARA

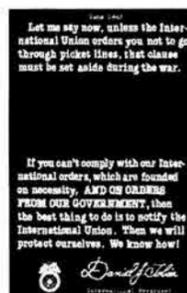
In historic speeches before the United Nations and its bodies, Guevara and Castro address the workers of the world, explaining why the U.S. government is determined to destroy the example set by the socialist revolution in Cuba and why its effort will fail. \$16.95 (special offer \$12.70)



TEAMSTER BUREAUCRACY

FARRELL DOBBS

How the rank-and-file Teamsters leadership organized to oppose Washington's policies in the second inter-imperialist slaughter in this century; support struggles against colonialism and racism; and confront government efforts—backed by the top union officialdom—to gag class-struggle-minded workers. \$18.95 (special offer \$14.20)



THE TRUTH ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA

Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention

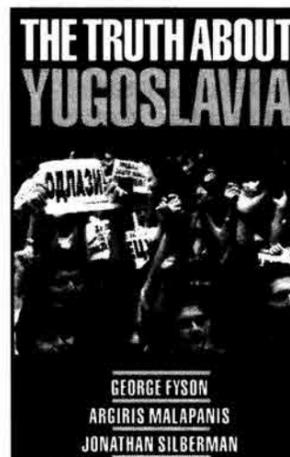
GEORGE FYSON, ARGIRIS MALAPANIS, AND JONATHAN SILBERMAN

\$8.95 (special offer \$6.70)

THE BALKAN WARS (1912-13)

The War Correspondence of Leon Trotsky

On-the-spot analysis of national and social conflicts in the Balkans, written 80 years ago, sheds light on the conflicts shaking these countries today. \$32.95 (special offer \$24.70)



IN DEFENSE OF MARXISM

The Social and Political Contradictions of the Soviet Union

LEON TROTSKY

Leon Trotsky replies to those in the revolutionary workers movement at the close of the 1930s who were beating a retreat from defense of the degenerated Soviet workers state in face of looming imperialist assault. He explains how the rising pressures of bourgeois patriotism in the middle classes during the buildup toward U.S. entry into World War II were finding an echo even inside the communist movement, and why only a party that fights to bring growing numbers of workers into its ranks and leadership can steer a steady revolutionary course. \$24.95 (special offer \$18.70)

FIGHTING RACISM IN WORLD WAR II

C.L.R. JAMES, GEORGE BREITMAN, EDGAR KEEMER, AND OTHERS

\$20.95 (special offer \$15.70)

OUT NOW!

A Participant's Account of the Movement in the United States against the Vietnam War
FRED HALSTEAD

The story of the U.S. component of the international anti-Vietnam War movement: how it refuted Washington's rationales for the war and mobilized opposition to it; the political fight for a course that could involve the maximum number of working people, GIs, and youth; and how the antiwar movement, gaining momentum from the fight for Black civil rights, helped force the U.S. government to bring the troops home, thus spurring struggles for social justice and changing the political face of the United States. \$30.95 (special offer \$23.20)



IN SPANISH

EN DEFENSA DEL MARXISMO

LEON TROTSKY

IN DEFENSE OF MARXISM
\$24.95 (special offer \$18.79)



IN FRENCH

LA DEUXIÈME DÉCLARATION DE LA HAVANE

THE SECOND DECLARATION OF HAVANA

In 1962, as the example of Cuba's socialist revolution spread throughout the Americas, the workers and farmers of Cuba issued their uncompromising call for a continent-wide revolutionary struggle. Booklet \$5.00 (special offer \$3.75)



AVAILABLE FROM BOOKSTORES LISTED ON PAGE 12 OR DIRECTLY FROM PATHFINDER, 410 WEST ST., NEW YORK, NY 10014. FAX: (212) 727-0150. TEL.: (212) 741-0690. IF ORDERING BY MAIL, PLEASE INCLUDE \$3 FOR THE FIRST BOOK AND \$0.50 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL TITLE TO COVER POSTAGE AND HANDLING.

Women's liberation is part of class struggle

Below are excerpts from "Socialist Revolution and the Struggle for Women's Liberation," a resolution adopted by the national convention of the Socialist Workers Party in August 1979. The resolution aimed "to set down our basic analysis of the character of women's oppression, and the place the struggle against that oppression occupies in our perspectives for all three sectors of the world revolution: the advanced capitalist countries, the colonial and semicolonial world, the workers states."

The entire resolution can be found in Part One of *Communist Continuity and the Fight for Women's Liberation*, a three-part series of Education for Socialists bulletins containing documents of the SWP from 1971-1986. The series is copyright © 1992 by Pathfinder Press and reprinted with permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

The roots of the new radicalization of women are to be found in the economic and social changes of the post-World War II years, which have effected deepening contradictions in the capitalist economy, in the status of women, and in the patriarchal family system. To varying degrees the same factors were at work in every country that remained within the world capitalist market. But it is not surprising that the resurgence of the women's movement today first came about in the most advanced capitalist countries — such as the United States, Canada, and Britain — where these changes and contradictions had developed the furthest.

Advances in medical science and technology in the field of birth control and abortion have created the means by which masses of women can have greater control over their reproductive functions. Control by women over their own bodies is a precondition for women's liberation.

While such medical techniques are more widely available, reactionary laws, reinforced by bourgeois customs, religious bigotry, and the entire ideological superstructure of class society, often stand in the way of women exercising control over their own reproductive functions. Financial, legal, psychological, and "moral" barriers are fabricated to try to prevent women from demanding the right to choose whether and when to bear children. In addition, the limits placed on research due to capitalist profit considerations and sexist disregard for the lives of women have meant continuing health hazards for women using the most convenient methods of birth control.

This contradiction between what is possible and what actually exists affects the lives of all women. It has given rise to the powerful abortion rights struggles, which have been at the center of the women's movement on an international scale.

More women entering the workforce

The prolonged boom conditions of the postwar expansion significantly increased the percentage of women in the labor force.

To take the United States as an example, in 1950, 33.9 percent of all women 18 to 64 years of age were in the labor force. By 1975 this had risen to 54 percent. Between 1960 and 1975, nearly two-thirds of all new jobs created were taken by women. Working women accounted for 29.1 percent of the total labor force in 1950; 43 percent by 1978.

Equally important, the percentage of working women with children increased dramatically, as did the percentage of working women who were heads of households.

In Spain, three times as many women are working today as in 1930....

Contributing to the growth of the women's liberation movement in recent years, and increasing the involvement of working-class women, has been the drive to cut back social expenditures in most advanced capitalist countries. After the Second World War, in a context of heightened demands by the working class that more social services be provided by the state, the bourgeoisie, especially in Europe, was forced to expand housing developments, health services, and family allowance pro-

grams. Later, as the boom of the 1950s and 1960s generated a growing need for female labor power, facilities such as child-care centers and laundromats were extended in order to encourage women to seek employment.

Today, faced with deepening economic problems, the ruling class is slashing social expenditures and trying to shift the burden back onto the individual family, with all the consequences that has for women. But resistance to being driven out

and political radicalization....

Women's liberation is not a matter of interest only to women of the advanced capitalist countries with their relatively high educational level and standard of living. On the contrary, it is of vital concern and importance to the masses of women throughout the world. The colonial and semicolonial countries are no exception.

There is great diversity in the economic and social conditions and cultural traditions in the colonial and semicolonial

ica and parts of Asia and Africa and thrust them into the world market. With the European and eventually American conquerors came Christianity as well, which was often turned to advantage as one of the central links in the chain of subjugation.

For women in the semicolonial and colonial world the penetration of the capitalist market economy has a contradictory impact: on the one hand it introduces new economic relations that begin to lay the basis for women to overcome their centuries-old oppression. But on the other hand, it takes over and utilizes the archaic traditions, religious codes, and antiwoman prejudices, initially reinforcing them through new forms of discrimination and superexploitation....

Combines with revolutionary fight

The struggle for women's liberation has always been intertwined with the national liberation struggle. Whatever women do, they come up against the might of imperialist control, and the need to throw off the chains of this domination is an urgent and overriding task for all the oppressed in these countries, as the examples of Iran and Nicaragua have once again clearly demonstrated. Large numbers of women become politically active for the first time through participation in national liberation movements. In the process of the developing struggle, it becomes evident that women can and must play an even greater role if victory is to be won.

Women become transformed by doing things that were forbidden to them by the old traditions and habits.

They become fighters, leaders, organizers, and political thinkers. The deep contradictions they live with stimulate revolt against their oppression as a sex, as well as demands for greater equality within the revolutionary movement. In Vietnam, Algeria, Cuba, Palestine, South Africa, the Sahara, and elsewhere, struggles by women to end the most brutal forms of the oppression they suffer have been closely intertwined with unfolding anti-imperialist struggles....

The new rise of women's struggles internationally and the emergence of a strong women's liberation movement prior to revolutionary struggles for power is a development of prime importance to the world party of socialist revolution. It increases the political power of the working class and the likelihood that the international revolution will be successful in carrying through to the end its task of socialist reconstruction. The rise of the women's liberation movement is an additional guarantee against the bureaucratic degeneration of future revolutions.

The struggle to liberate women from the bondage in which class society has placed them is a struggle to free all human relationships from the shackles of economic compulsion and to propel humanity along the road to a higher social order.



Militant/Top: Argiris Malapanis Bottom: Hilda Cuzco
Greater integration of women in workforce has spurred fight for women's rights worldwide. Advances for women in Cuba show the fight for women's rights is intertwined with fight to end imperialist domination in many countries. Inset, Cuban woman in dairy factory. Bottom, April 9 rally in Washington draws tens of thousands to defend abortion rights.

of their newly acquired places in the workforce, and broad female opposition to social cutbacks such as the closing of child-care centers, have created unexpectedly thorny problems for the rulers in many countries. Imbued with a growing feminist consciousness, women have been more combative and less willing than ever before to shoulder a disproportionate burden in the current economic crisis....

The fading of the postwar boom and the deepening economic, social, and political problems of imperialism on a world scale, highlighted by the 1974-75 international recession, led to an intensification of the attacks on women's rights on all levels. This did not lead to a decline in women's struggles, or relegate them to the sidelines as more powerful social forces came to the fore. Far from diminishing as the struggles of the organized working class sharpened in recent years, feminist consciousness and struggles by women continue to spread and to become more deeply intertwined with the developing social consciousness and political combativity of working-class women and men. Women's resistance to the economic, political, and ideological offensive of the ruling class has been stiffened by the heightened feminist awareness. Their struggles have been a powerful motor force of social protest

countries. They range from extremely primitive conditions in some areas to considerable industrialization in countries such as Puerto Rico and Argentina. All semicolonial and colonial countries, however, are defined by the imperialist domination they suffer in common. This also has specific effects on women in these countries.

Imperialist domination has meant that capitalist relations of production have been superimposed on, and have combined with, archaic, precapitalist modes of production and social relations, transforming them and incorporating them into the capitalist economy. In Western Europe the rise of capitalism was punctuated by bourgeois-democratic revolutions in the more advanced countries which broke the economic and political power of the old feudal ruling classes. But in the colonial countries imperialist penetration most often reinforced the privileges, hierarchies, and reactionary traditions of the precapitalist ruling classes, which it utilized wherever possible to maintain stability and maximize imperialist exploitation.

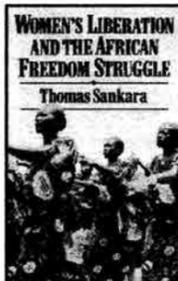
Using torture, extermination, rape, and other forms of terror on a mass scale, and in Africa through the outright enslavement of the native peoples, expanding European capitalism brutally colonized Latin Amer-

for further reading

Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle

Thomas Sankara

"There is no true social revolution without the liberation of women," explains the leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso. Booklet \$3.50



Communist Continuity and the Fight for Women's Liberation

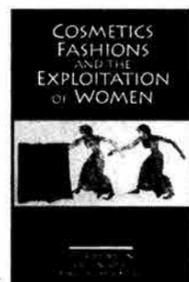
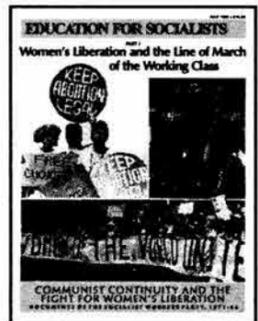
Documents of the Socialist Workers Party 1971-86

Edited with an introduction by Mary-Alice Waters. How did the oppression of women begin? Who benefits? What social forces have the power to end the second-class status of women? This three-part series helps politically equip the generation of women and men joining battles in defense of women's rights today. 3 vol. set \$30.00

WOMEN'S LIBERATION AND THE LINE OF MARCH OF THE WORKING CLASS Part 1 \$10

WOMEN, LEADERSHIP, AND THE PROLETARIAN NORMS OF THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT Part 2 \$9

ABORTION RIGHTS, THE ERA, AND THE REBIRTH OF A FEMINIST MOVEMENT Part 3 \$11



Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women

Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed, and Mary-Alice Waters

How big business promotes cosmetics to generate profits and perpetuate the oppression of women. In her introduction, Mary-Alice Waters explains how the entry of millions of women into the workforce during and after World War II irreversibly changed U.S. society and laid the basis for a renewed rise of struggles for women's equality. \$12.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212)741-0690. Fax: (212) 727-0150. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 for the first book and \$0.50 for each additional title to cover postage and handling.

Leave a forwarding address — "More than 44 million Americans live within range of a deadly toxic cloud that could result from a chemical accident at a facility located in their zip code" — Hillel



Harry Ring

Gray, co-author of a study on potential U.S. chemical disasters.

The sane society — "As Los Angeles County prepares to sharply cut back psychiatric ser-

vices, law enforcement officials said they are gearing up for waves of violent mentally ill people who need hospitalization but instead will be on the streets, causing harm to themselves and others." — News item on Los Angeles health care crisis.

Girding for 'terrorists' — Atlanta's Olympics committee, preparing for the games there next year, was picketed after an Olympics security adviser told an international symposium on terrorism that, at the Olympics, "rowdy youth" could be targeted under a broad definition of terrorism. After the protest he said he was misunderstood.

The justice system — In Mon-

treal, four cops were convicted of beating a cab driver so badly he was left permanently comatose. One cop was ordered to do community service, two got 90 days, and one got 60 — with jail time to be served weekends. Meanwhile, the cops have not been fired from the force. An official said he has to await a report from the police ethics body.

Meanwhile... — Arlene Antoine was fired from the Montreal police force after being charged with 28 counts of misconduct and being found guilty of 15. An official said it was little things, like failing to give notice of change of address. But, he sternly added, the little things piled up. Antoine was

one of two Montreal cops who are Black and female.

'Safety first' — In 1992, The Federal Aviation Administration waived a safety rule to permit Delta to install a door between the first class and business class sections on some of its planes. Delta claimed the doors didn't block access to emergency exits and were necessary to ensure "first class ambience." Faced with complaints, the FAA declined to renew the exemption in '94.

Oh — Ten of Arizona's exclusive country clubs (initiation fees as high as \$62,500) bar women members from the golf course on Saturday mornings. Explained the assistant pro at one club, "The

men just feel Saturday is their day."

Not to hurry — For more than 50 years, Edwards Air Force Base, a test site for military planes in the California desert, has fouled earth, water, and air with toxic waste. Finally, the feds tagged it one of the most contaminated sites in the country, and 419 toxic concentrations were identified. That was in 1990. So far, 10 have been cleaned up.

That's a comfort — California's toxic cleanup chief, John O'Kane, says he doesn't think Edwards Air Force Base "is any more contaminated than any local airport."

Gov't plans Amtrak sell-off; bosses attack unions

LINDA MARCUS-LEONARD AND RUTH ROBINETT

NEW YORK — Under a banner reading "Amtrak Workers United for Decent Wages and Working Conditions — Stop the Cuts," members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and the United Transportation Union (UTU) at Amtrak greeted Staten Island ferry passengers during the morning rush hour June 13.

The more than 60 rail unionists distributed 15,000 flyers protesting the Amtrak Reform and Privatization Act, which was to be voted on the next day by the House of Representatives Committee on Infrastructure and Transportation. The House Subcommittee on Railroads, which initiated the legislation, is chaired by Rep. Susan Molinari from Staten Island.

The protest was coordinated by the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department. It was the first public action organized by the unions against the proposed cuts in service and jobs that Amtrak workers have been facing from congressional legislation and Amtrak's management. The bill was later defeated in committee.

Major cuts being carried out by Amtrak's management — as well as government measures such as this bill — strike at the heart of maintaining a national passenger rail service. In December 1994, Amtrak president and board chairman Thomas Downs announced a major reorganization plan to close a \$200 million budget deficit this year. He proposed slashing 21 percent of rail service and 24 percent of the union workforce. Most of these cuts are to take place by September 10. The *Wall Street Journal* applauded Amtrak's management, stating that "costly union work rules" were one reason for Amtrak's budget problems.

1,200 jobs cut so far

These first cuts have been mostly in the west, Midwest, and south. So far, some 1,200 workers have lost their jobs. Additional routes are slated to be eliminated or reduced in September and October.

Jeff Payne, a conductor on the rail line, said, "Amtrak will at least use this restructuring to get more 'productivity' and eliminate jobs, so we should oppose it. It's just a ruse that this will ever be profitable. No passenger system anywhere in the world is. They'd like to cut this workforce to the

bone and rehire all workers nonunion. Safety and workers training, which are totally inadequate now, would be a joke without a union."

The government proposal to privatize Amtrak contained sweeping antilabor measures that would have severely weakened the unions. There were three provisions in the bill that specifically overrode current union contracts. The bill would have authorized Amtrak to subcontract out all work, repealed the layoff protection in union agreements, and eliminated the dual seniority that workers hired before 1983 hold with both Conrail and Amtrak. Dual seniority allows these workers to "flow back" between the two rail companies every six months through bidding on jobs.

In addition, the bill proposed Amtrak decide on routes based on profit, ending the requirement to operate a minimum nationwide basic system.

Amtrak was chartered in 1971 when the freight railroads no longer wanted to be saddled with passenger service. The safety and infrastructure requirements of a high-speed passenger service were cutting into the profitability of the rail bosses.

The Interstate Commerce Commission intervened to maintain a national passenger rail service whose routes would utilize trackage owned by various freight carriers. Through massive subsidies the federal government set up a stockholder corporation — the National Railroad Passenger Corp. (AMTRAK).

The Amtrak Reform and Privatization Act was a genuine giveaway to business. That law instructed Amtrak to "promote the potential privatization of Amtrak's operations." It mandated that within three months of passage the Department of Transportation's preferred stock, valued at \$8.6 billion, and the federal liens and mortgages on Amtrak's assets would be voided. Under this scheme Amtrak would be required to purchase its 9.4 million shares of common stock. Burlington Northern, Inc., holding 3.3 million shares, and the Penn Central Corp., with 5.2 million shares, would profit handsomely.

Amtrak's 1994 annual report valued its property and equipment at \$4.3 billion. Relieved of all government liens, Amtrak's net value would be \$3.1 billion. As Bill Braden, an Amtrak conductor and UTU member, said, "This is just a setup for a giant corporate raid. Amtrak could be plundered."

Amtrak inherited the private rail carriers' antiquated rolling stock. Amtrak has aging locomotives (the average age is 22 years) and deteriorating stations and repair facilities. During the 1980s the government limited the capital appropriations the railroad needed to buy new trains and refurbish its facilities. "Amtrak lets the cars and track run down and cuts the men," explained Tom Bailey, a conductor.

'Deserve medals for keeping it running'

Today, Amtrak's rolling stock includes 40-year-old-plus coaches. As Braden pointed out to a member of Congressman Bob Frank's staff at a protest in New Jersey recently, "You want to make Amtrak right? Where's the appropriations for the new equipment? We don't deserve to lose our jobs. We deserve medals for keeping this stuff running."

Even on the northeast corridor, home of Amtrak's high-speed Metroliner, the electric propulsion system is 60 years old. The railroad's electric transmission system, built by the Pennsylvania Rail Road in the mid-1930s, was once state-of-the-art. An engineer told the *Washington Post* that today the switching gear and circuit breakers "belong in a museum."

Bridges and tunnels need to be refurbished. For example, a 123-year-old Baltimore tunnel needs updated evacuation routes and renovation, and the Hudson and East River tunnels into Penn Station, New York, also need repair and improvement. Amtrak's president Downs told the

Newark *Star Ledger*, "New Jersey Transit spends more on capital improvements each year than Amtrak, by almost \$100 million. And we have 24,000 miles in our system, compared to 450 miles in New Jersey."

Passenger trains are an energy-efficient, safe, and nonpolluting method of public transportation. In many cases trains provide the only viable method of transport, especially from rural areas. Myrna Diaz, an Amtrak conductor, explained, "We need Amtrak for young people, older folks, and poorer working people to tour around, visit family, go to school. It shouldn't just be for Metroliner riders — the Wall Street types and politicians."

John Boyers, a 21-year veteran on the railroad, said, "The railroaders at Penn Central didn't think they would ever look around to see weeds and fields on the railroad tracks. We don't have anything more to give up after the last 10-15 years. People didn't think the depression of the 1930s would happen. We should get loud and squawk about this now before it is too late."

Conductor Bailey pointed out, "Maybe we could do like they did in South Africa. The powerful minority could run things there until the majority got organized and put an end to it."

Linda Marcus-Leonard and Ruth Robinett are members of UTU Local 1370 at Amtrak in New York.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

September 18, 1970 Price 10¢

LOS ANGELES -- The reaction of the Chicano population of Los Angeles to the government-sponsored attack on their community and to the brutal police murders of Ruben Salazar and Gilberto Diaz has continued to deepen and has drawn other social layers into protest action.

Five days after the killing of the noted Chicano journalist, Ruben Salazar, by sheriff's deputies, a newspaper of the Chicano community, *La Raza*, came out in an edition of 100,000 copies, carrying photos and two eyewitness accounts of Salazar's murder. Unable to ignore this, the *Los Angeles Times* ran the pictures on its front page Sept. 4.

The response of Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess, whose men carried out Salazar's murder, was to say: "The photographs...in and of themselves...offer no evidence of improper procedure on the part of the officers present."

In a mass meeting of 600 people on Sept. 3, it was voted to finish the interrupted antiwar demonstration on the 16th. The following additional demands were added: end the police occupation of the Chicano community; free all those arrested and drop all charges against them stemming from the police attack; and for an investigation of the police murder of Ruben Salazar by a body which would in-

clude representatives elected from the Chicano community.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

September 1, 1945

CHICAGO, Ill., Aug. 21 -- Over 7,000 unemployed CIO workers demonstrated in the Coliseum auditorium and the streets of Chicago's Loop last night, demanding jobs, severance pay and adequate unemployment insurance. Layoffs here are expected within a few months to exceed 500,000.

Climaxing the demonstration was an impressive and dramatic torch-light parade through the busiest streets of the Loop. This was the first workers' demonstration held in the streets of Chicago for many years.

Marching in the parade were large contingents of workers from Dodge, Buick, Studebaker, Bendix, Amertorp, Foote Bros., Pressed Steel Car Co., Pullman Standard and other war plants which had closed their doors, turning close to 100,000 workers into the streets with only a few hours notice in many cases.

Tens of thousands of spectators lined the streets as the demonstrators marched by shouting "WE WANT JOBS!" and holding aloft hundreds of banners bearing militant slogans and demands such as "THERE WILL BE NO PEACE WITHOUT JOBS!" "WORK OR FIGHT!" "IT HAPPENED IN ENGLAND, IT CAN HAPPEN HERE," "THE LITTLE STEEL FORMULA BE DAMMED," "NEGRO AND WHITE UNITE FOR JOBS!"

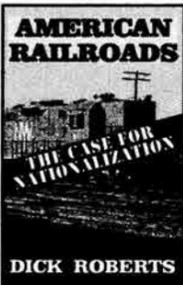
From Pathfinder

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions

Jack Barnes

A handbook for workers coming into the factories, mines, and mills, as they react to the uncertain life, ceaseless turmoil, and brutality of capitalism in the closing years of the twentieth century. It shows how millions of workers, as political resistance grows, will revolutionize themselves, their unions, and all of society. \$19.95



American Railroads

The Case for Nationalization

Dick Roberts

"A provocative glimpse of the economic interests that built the railroads and have managed their demise" — *Transportation Research*. \$11.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 for the first book and \$0.50 for each additional title to cover postage and handling.



Support Detroit news strikers!

The unfolding newspaper strike in Detroit has become a focal point for the entire labor movement. The Knight-Ridder and Gannett newspaper kings thought that, as they have done in other cities, they could run roughshod over the 2,500 workers and housebreak or crush their unions. They thought they could easily pit strikers from different unions against one another, and pit the unionists against other working people throughout the area. They thought the fear of the cops' billy clubs would intimidate them. But they underestimated working people.

The strikers at the Detroit *Free Press* and *News* are making a united stand. They are fighting to protect their dignity, jobs, wages, working conditions, and the right to bargain jointly with the two newspapers. Will union labor produce Detroit's daily newspapers? In the eyes of thousands of workers in the area, the struggle is over this crucial question.

The response in the working class and even broader layers of society has been widespread solidarity with the strikers. Tens of thousands in the Detroit area have rejected the company's union busting by canceling their subscriptions to the two struck papers. The numerous acts of daily solidarity, from contributions by other unions to gestures of support by individual workers, are testimony to the example these fighting workers have set. As a result, the newspaper companies are hurting, as they lose readers, newsstand sales, and advertisers.

The fight has struck a chord among workers around the country because millions face deteriorating wages

and conditions on the job. In factories and plants from coast to coast, unionists have faced assaults by bosses who want to be free to treat workers, not as human beings but as disposable machine parts. The Detroit newspaper workers have said, "No, we won't allow you to do that to us." By taking action, the strikers are showing it is possible to stand up to the bosses and the cops, gain broader support, and win.

The newspaper strike reinforces other labor battles such as the strike at Caterpillar by members of the United Auto Workers union. The Caterpillar workers have been striking for the past 14 months against similarly intransigent bosses out to cripple the union.

AFL-CIO leaders and many local unions have called for a national Solidarity Weekend in Detroit over the Labor Day holiday to back the newspaper strikers. A march and rally will take place there Saturday, September 2, and the traditional Labor Day parade will be held on Monday, September 4.

Unionists from other areas should get on buses and cars to be in Detroit that weekend. Students and other fighters for social justice — from those just getting back from the international youth festival in Cuba to those fighting against the death sentence imposed on Mumia Abu-Jamal — should join them too.

Labor Day rallies in other cities will also be an opportunity for working-class fighters to organize and demonstrate solidarity with this important labor battle and many other local union fights.

The true face of the police

The recent exposures about racist cop violence described by Los Angeles ex-policeman Mark Fuhrman on taped interviews highlights once again the nature of police in capitalist society. While the tapes obtained by the defense attorneys in the O.J. Simpson murder trial do not shed light on his guilt or innocence, they do expose the corruption, frame-ups, and total disregard for the most elementary rights of human beings by the police.

Reflecting the raw bestiality permeating the cop profession, Fuhrman stated in a transcript obtained by the *New York Times*, "Most real good policemen understand that they would just love to take certain people and just take them to the alley and just blow their brains out." Fuhrman described a "kill party" where cops celebrate shooting some working person. There's "nothing better" than "a good beating.... That's when everybody wants to get some beer," he said. "You're on the real high."

Fuhrman described a cop assault on a Latino housing project where they inflicted a beating and turned people's faces into "just mush." This is what the cops were trying to do to Rodney King, an assault the whole world witnessed on videotape. This is typical cop behavior ever "since policemen have been policemen," as Fuhrman puts it.

The tapes of Fuhrman supposedly were based on interviews for a screenplay on tensions between men and women in the Los Angeles Police Department. For working people, experience with cops is no film script or Hollywood movie. When Fuhrman describes how cops must cover their face when shooting someone in the temple to keep bone fragments out their eyes, that's reality for hundreds of Blacks and other oppressed nationalities.

In one segment of the tapes, Fuhrman states that "all these niggers in L.A. city government should be lined up

against a wall" and shot along with others. Fuhrman reportedly uses the racist slur "nigger" no less than 30 times in the interviews he gave between 1985 and 1994.

But Fuhrman is not the only law enforcement official bantering racist epithets. At the August 12 rally to celebrate the stay of execution of death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal in Philadelphia, a police captain told a Black cop videotaping the demonstration, "You're sweating like a nigger." The captain, who is white, was the head of a special unit that handles special "sensitive racial issues." In addition to the brutal police conduct that has come to light as a result of the Abu-Jamal case, the Philadelphia police department is also in the spotlight over a massive campaign of racism and frame-ups. "The city is sorting through the wreckage left by rogue cops who went on a rampage of illegal arrests for five years in the 39th Police Precinct," reported the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Whenever the rotten character of the police is exposed, the authorities are quick to point to "rogue" cops or "rotten apples" and act surprised.

"I don't know why people keep getting surprised when they hear stories about brutal L.A.P.D. officers. It's not anything new," Constance Rice, western regional director for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc., told the *Times*. "Blacks, Latinos, poor whites and poor Asians have known about this sort of behavior for years."

Working people and the labor movement should get behind any fight against cop brutality. The police department is an anti-working-class, racist institution.

The brutality they inflict on working people is the same, whether in the Black community or on the picket line against workers striking the Detroit newspapers. We should demand that criminal cops be put behind bars whenever they carry out violent assaults against anyone.

1996 campaign

Continued from front page

and that his "objective is to try to reconnect people to the political process from outside that political process." He added, "We need to find language and.... a way to do that."

Speaking from the point of view of an established bourgeois politician, he noted this is not the "script" followed "for [the past] 30 or 40 years.... Neither political party speaks to people where they live their lives," he said. "Both have moved away from my own concept of service and my own idea of what America can be."

Bradley assailed the Democrats for being "enamored of the possibility of a centralized federal bureaucracy in solving very complex human problems." By giving a nod to an "independent" campaign he becomes the latest example of how the two-party system is tending to disintegrate around the edges. Under the pressures of the political polarization bred out of the continuing crises of world capitalism, an increasing number of big-business politicians are groping for a more effective way to rule.

Politicians flock to Perot event

Bourgeois politicians, many of whom are running for U.S. president, from liberal Democrat Jesse Jackson to Republican and ultrarightist Patrick Buchanan, flocked to a political conference organized in Dallas August 10-12 by Perot's United We Stand America.

The meeting became a political debate among the politicians. Many of the speeches sounded themes against big government combined with proposals on how best to press forward the attacks on real wages, Social Security, and social services benefiting working people, job conditions, and working hours. Their talks appealed to the insecurities — real and perceived — of millions that come from the seemingly insoluble conditions bred by the capitalist crisis.

Banker Pete Peterson, a leader of the Concord Coalition, urged the Perot forces to attack all entitlements, including Social Security, which he called "the mother of all unfunded mandates."

California governor Pete Wilson touted the moves made by his administration to begin to roll back affirmative action programs, such as those by state universities. He also pointed to measures aimed at preventing workers who are immigrants and their children from having access to education, health care, and social programs. Wilson was a central backer of Proposition 187 in California, which passed in the midst of chauvinist appeals.

Indiana senator Richard Lugar cautioned against making "an issue of affirmative action," saying those who attack it "are on the edge of riling up fears that ought not to be riled up." Lugar argued for replacing the federal income tax with a national sales tax.

Ovations for Buchanan

Buchanan, as the *Wall Street Journal* reported, was accorded "the warmest reception" from the 3,000 people at the convention, where "he won repeated standing ovations with his blunt promises to end all foreign aid, cancel the North American Free Trade Agreement, build a border fence to keep out illegal aliens, establish term limits for federal judges, [and] look out for 'the forgotten Americans.'"

"When I get to the White House," Buchanan told the audience, "NAFTA will be canceled and there'll be no more \$50 billion bailouts of Mexico," referring to the massive backing of the Mexican peso organized by the Clinton administration earlier this year in response to the collapse of the Mexican currency on world markets.

"The politicians of both parties sold us out up in Washington, D. C.," he said, claiming to speak for "the single mom in a textile plant in South Carolina" who has been forced "by investment bankers on Wall Street... to compete with Asian workers who have to work for 25 cents an hour."

Writing in the *Washington Post*, columnist David Broder took up the response to Buchanan, saying it is a "mistake" for the press to "treat his campaign lightly."

"Like George Wallace, he has a deadly knack for finding the most divisive issues in American life, including race, and a growing skill in exploiting them. Its dangerous to pretend that he will disappear," Broder wrote.

Buchanan followed up his reception in Dallas with a third-place finish in a straw poll in Iowa. The *New York Times* reports that 10,000 people gave the Republican front-runner, Senator Bob Dole, a "polite response." The crowd "saved its enthusiasm for [Republican Phil] Gramm and Mr. Buchanan."

Buchanan, who seeks less to capture the Republican nomination than to build an ultrarightist and fascist cadre to prepare for battles against a working-class movement down the road, has captured significant media coverage over the past month.

Columnist Robert Novak, writing in the conservative *National Review*, calls Buchanan a "populist Republican" and chastises Republicans "who believe the demonization of him as a crypto-fascist." Admitting Buchanan's syndicated column "explored the outer reaches of nationalism," Novak calls "outrageous" Republican William Bennett's assertion that the presidential candidate is "flirting with fascism."

Conservative Republican senator Gramm, who tied Dole in the Iowa straw poll, has meanwhile been trying to put some life into his campaign. The outcome of the contest was largely a result of the campaigns paying \$25 voting fees for supporters to attend the convention. Gramm called the affair a "stunning victory."

Chevron 'antiterrorist' drill aimed at workers

BY ILONA GERSH

SALT LAKE CITY — A photo on the front page of the July 26, 1995, issue of the *San Ramon Valley Times* depicting black-garbed sharpshooters accompanied an article entitled "Chevron drills for man-made disaster." The article sparked discussion on layoffs and safety at the refinery where I work.

Many Chevron refineries routinely hold drills called "hypotheticals." These are designed to train workers on how to re-

mon. "We talked about this [drill] nine months ago," said one Chevron manager. "We're having this drill like this because it's a possibility. This type of disgruntled employee situation has been around a number of years. We want to be a step ahead of the curve and know what to do in case it happens."

No concern for laid-off workers

Chevron's corporate "hypothetical" kicked off a lively discussion among my coworkers about the company's misdirected concern. "Why aren't they concerned about the welfare of the workers that are getting laid off, and the future of their families?" asked one.

Competition to be the top oil producer has led Chevron to take drastic steps. Like many other big corporations, Chevron is "downsizing" the workforce at its refineries. This is affecting low-level management as well as operators and maintenance workers.

Crew sizes are down to the bare-bones minimum needed to keep the refinery running. Absences due to vacations, illnesses, injuries, or special assignments create gaps that can only be filled by overtime.

Operators at most of Chevron's refineries work 12-hour shifts that rotate from days to nights. Even for workers who volunteer for some overtime, the forced long hours are beginning to be a burden. "They should hire more people, not cut back on personnel," is a common sentiment.

The anti-terrorist drill led some coworkers to recall a safety meeting our crew had a few months ago. Safety meetings are held by each crew monthly to discuss a topic chosen by the supervisor or a crew member.

Workers' real safety concerns

This one was scheduled a couple of days after two contract maintenance workers were killed in a small nonunion refinery nearby. One was welding inside a nitrogen-filled tank. The other was on



Militant/Walter Lippman

Oil refinery workers in Los Angeles striking in 1980 for better safety conditions. Fatigued condition of U.S. refineries have led to several catastrophic disasters.

UNION TALK

spond to various emergency situations that could occur. Co-workers of mine were surprised to hear that now the corporate offices are doing "hypotheticals" too.

The article reports that "in the 1990s, big businesses have to prepare for more than just tragic acts of nature, such as earthquakes. They must prepare for acts of mankind. Police, rescue workers and Chevron officials played out such a scenario Tuesday, staging a large-scale drill in a two-story office building at the company's quiet San Ramon business park.

"The scene was this," the article continued. "Two disgruntled former Chevron employees enter one of the company's office buildings, shoot a roomful of employees and take two hostages. It was only a drill, but organizers realize that it could happen to them.

"One of the shooting victims, Alex Smith, ran out of the building covered with Hollywood 'blood' and collapsed on the grass, critically wounded, until a police officer came to his aid.

"Firefighters and paramedics were called to the scene along with a California Shock Trauma Air Rescue helicopter, which arrived to transport Smith to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek. Less injured victims were taken to San Ramon Regional Medical Center."

The background to the drill is that Chevron announced last January that it was laying off 475 employees in San Ra-

standby, watching out for his safety. The oxygen tank the welder was wearing ran dry without adequate warning, and he died from lack of oxygen when he ripped off his face mask. The second man had no standby oxygen tank, but went in to save his partner anyway. He died within seconds.

Many of us thought that appropriate topics for that month's safety meeting would be the dangers of a nitrogen-filled atmosphere, and confined space work and rescue procedures. But the supervisor chose to lead a discussion on what we should do if we get a bomb threat on the telephone.

Safety meetings organized by the workers through the union would reflect the real safety concerns in the refinery, including the lack of attention paid by the company to equipment and pipes that are deteriorating with age. The fatigued condition of U.S. refineries have caused sev-

eral catastrophic disasters in the past couple of years. The budget and workforce cutbacks by the oil companies over the past three decades are directly responsible.

Couldn't plenty of workers be hired to do the work of rebuilding, repairing, and maintaining refineries that are safer to operate? The cutbacks in the workforce and in capital expenditures are criminal under these conditions.

One co-worker, pointing out that the union's contract runs out next spring, explained to me that Chevron's corporate "hypothetical" fits in well with the government's anti-terrorist campaign, which can be used against working people who speak out for political rights and stand up for union struggles.

Ilona Gersh is an operator at the Chevron refinery in Salt Lake City, and is a member of Local 2-931 of the OCAW.

LETTERS

Gas workers lockout

Members of the International Union of Gas Workers on August 14 overwhelmingly rejected the latest contract offer proposed by Washington Gas Light Co., as the utility's lockout of the 1,050 workers in Washington, D.C., and parts of Maryland and Virginia enters its third month. The company distributes natural gas to more than 750,000 customers in the capital city area.

In an effort to entice workers to approve the utility's contract offer, the company offered a special return-to-work proposal that would give each union worker a \$750 bonus and restore some medical benefits.

According to James Mort, president of the International Union of Gas Workers, 89 percent of union members rejected the contract offer, an even higher percentage than rejected the company's original proposal in June. "It seems to me our people are getting stronger and more determined than ever," stated Mort.

The utility's offer would allow the company to transfer workers regardless of seniority and to hire unlimited numbers of contractors and part-time employees. The gas company also demanded that the union withdraw its charges of unfair labor practices filed with the National Labor Relations Board.

Negotiations are continuing.
Brian Williams
Washington, D.C.

Cancel third world debt

In the May 25 issue of the *Journal of Commerce*, a four-page advertising supplement appears called "Argentina: Trade and In-

vestment."

Carlos Alfaro, head of the Argentine-American Chamber of Commerce in New York, explains to the *Journal* the point of raising taxes, slashing government programs, and cutting wages: "These measures have the purpose of ensuring that foreign debt will be honored, that credit and the financial sector are able to recover, and that confidence in the Argentine economy is regained. At the same time, they aim at leaving behind the fear of devaluation and are an evidence of the support of the economic program in Washington."

As a result of [President Carlos] Menem's "monetary stability and fiscal discipline," the *Journal* reports, Argentina has now received a total of \$7 billion in loans from the IMF, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and Japan's Eximbank.

A major part of the antilabor offensive in Argentina, as in other semicolonial countries, has been the wave of privatizations in key sectors of the economy. Last year in Argentina, the five huge terminals that comprise the Port of Buenos Aires were turned over to private companies. Rafael Conejero, undersecretary of Ports and Waterways for Argentina, bragged in another article, "The problems we used to face with labor, regulations, and high costs are no longer a reality."

I don't know how much the imperialists believe their own propaganda. But the "problems with labor" that Conejero refers to are part of the reality that the blood-sucking class must confront, in Argentina and elsewhere.

The *Militant* coverage of the re-



sistance of Argentine workers underscores the importance of the U.S. labor movement taking up the question of the third world debt.

Bill Kalman
Des Moines, Iowa

Prison conditions

I am writing an article about the Iowa State Penitentiary and prisons around the world (see below).

I was sent to prison at 14 years of age, and have been locked up for over five years. ISP is one of the most constitutionally incorrect institutions in the United States and I am out to prove it.

Also I am currently in lockup with no way of obtaining funds, but would like a copy of your paper.

Thank you for your help in my struggle.

Unjustifiable
ISP (Iowa State Penitentiary) has been allowed to continue with its ethically and humanely incorrect blatant disregard for human rights far too long.

Society has been blinded by the words of prison officials and I feel it is my duty to put the record straight.

We are all aware of the prison cycle. The fact is that most men who have been to prison shall return.

Prison spokespersons tend to blame the cycle on bad upbringing. They tend to blame the problem on the convict for lack of willpower.

They fail to connect or associate the cycle with the treatment we

receive while incarcerated. They fail to see we are capable of memory.

If you raise a dog. If you cage him and chain him. If you starve him and beat him. If you never show him he is special or love him. If you take away the chain and the cage, do you expect him to be tame? Do you expect him to love or show affection? Of course not.

This is the way which prisons are being run, the way the convict cycle is allowed to continue.

To make a change the prison officials and the handling of convicts must be changed. Someone has to remove the foot which lays upon the neck of every prisoner and embrace him and love him.

Someone has to be responsible for the spending of tax dollars in this nonconstructive, unacceptable way which is currently used.

A prisoner
Fort Madison, Iowa

The *Militant* receives many requests from readers behind bars. The *Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund* makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't afford to pay for them. To help us respond to requests for subscriptions please send your contribution to the *Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

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.

30,000 mark bombing of Nagasaki

Rallies conclude World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs

BY ROBERT MILLER

NAGASAKI, Japan — More than 30,000 people assembled in the Peace Park here August 9 to mark the 50th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of this city. At the same time, following an antinuclear march called a "peace wave," 6,000 people overflowed the city's arena to rally against nuclear weapons. These events marked the closing session of the 1995 World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, organized by the group Gensuikyo.

In addition, 4,000 people protested nuclear weapons at the Nagasaki Prefecture arena at the Congress Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, hosted by Gensuikin, another major antinuclear group in Japan. Hundreds of high school students attending the 22nd National High School Peace Conference took part in a "die in" at the Peace Park. And 250 patients and staff at the Nagasaki A-Bomb Hospital held a meeting in the building's auditorium to mark the events.

At 11:02 a.m., the moment 50 years ago when the atomic bomb exploded 500 meters above this city's most densely populated area, the entire city stood still for a minute of silence. Only the blare of the siren could be heard.

The U.S. bombing killed 74,000 people and wounded 75,000, overwhelmingly civilians.

The day before, the Japanese Federation of Trade Unions (Rengo) sponsored a conference of 3,000 called "Rengo's 1995 Nagasaki Peace Assembly," which called for a nuclear-free world.

Korean survivors speak out

This year, for the first time ever, 10 Korean atomic bomb survivors — known as *hibakusha* — resident in South Korea were formally invited to attend the ceremonies sponsored by the city government in the Peace Park. Nine had been in Hiroshima, one in Nagasaki. "I was coerced into the war as a 'Japanese.' After the war, as a foreigner, I was tossed out without any compensation," one of the Koreans

told the paper *Nagasaki Shimbun*. Survivors who live outside Japan do not have their check ups and bomb-related medical bills covered by the Japanese government, as some of the resident *hibakusha* do.

Kim Soon Gil, now 72, was forced to work in a compulsory labor gang in Mitsubishi's shipyards here. He has initiated a lawsuit against Mitsubishi and the

On August 8, both Gensuikyo and Gensuikin organized six workshops to discuss different aspects of the antinuclear struggle. Delegates from France led a workshop on the French nuclear tests. Other workshops discussed the Japanese government's role as one of the major powers responsible for World War II, the fight against nuclear weapons, building a grass-

At the end of World War II, 2 million Koreans were living in Japan, including 60,000 in Nagasaki Prefecture. The Association of Korean Bomb Survivors estimated that 20,000 Koreans were exposed to the Nagasaki atomic bombing and half died as a result.

Five international delegates presented remarks to the workshop on building a grassroots campaign at the Gensuikyo conference. In an article subtitled "Workers solidarity stressed," the *Nagasaki Shimbun* quoted this reporter, a member of the Socialist Workers Party and an auto worker in the United States. "[He] said people were killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the nuclear bombs because they were used as guinea pigs. Internationally, working people should join together and build a unified movement to abolish nuclear weapons," the paper reported.

Bombed residential area

The plutonium-core atomic bomb was dropped over Nagasaki after the B-29 bomber pilots decided the top choice, Kokura, needed to be bypassed due to cloud cover. The ensuing fireball reached several million degrees, instantly killing every human and animal in the area known as Matsuyama, now the site of Hypocenter Park.

The district under the bomb, Urakami, was a congested residential area and home to the Nagasaki Medical College and a large number of schools at the time. The medical college was about 500 yards east of the hypocenter. A total of 892 teachers and students died there from

the bombing, as did two-thirds of the 300 patients.

Although there were no students at the Shiroyama Primary School on that day, 1,400 of the 1,500 pupils enrolled died at home.

Washington's atomic bomb, with a force equivalent to 21,000 metric tons of TNT, obliterated everything within two miles.

On Sept. 5, 1945, the British newspaper *Daily Express* carried a report about the atomic bomb damage in Hiroshima, informing the world for the first time not only that the city had been destroyed but the horrific fact that survivors of the blast were still dying of the aftereffects.

As soon as the article appeared, however, a special U.S. government "investigation group" announced that there were no survivors suffering from the effects of radiation. On Sept. 19, 1945, a "press code" was put in force by the U.S. military command curtailing all further news reports on the damages caused by the atomic bombs.

At the August 9 Gensuikyo rally, Senji Yamaguchi, president of the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Sufferers Association, reminded the audience of his continued anguish over the loss of his brothers and friends, including those still dying from cancer. "We need to spread the movement to abolish nuclear weapons throughout the entire world," he said.

Yamaguchi appealed for an "unrelenting effort of young people to unite together with people from abroad" in this fight.

Robert Miller is a member of the United Auto Workers Local 980 in Edison, New Jersey.



Militant/Bob Miller

Participants in the "Peace Wave" march against nuclear weapons in Nagasaki, August 9. Protesters commemorated anniversary of atom bombing and condemned French government's planned nuclear tests in Pacific.

Japanese government demanding compensation and an apology. "We are only seeking the same treatment as the Japanese," he told the *Nagasaki Shimbun*.

Shigetoshi Iwamatsu, chairperson of Gensuikin, told demonstrators, "We must take the first steps to build a new movement to launch a nuclear-free society." Protesters at both rallies emphasized the importance of condemning the planned nuclear tests by the French government at the Moruroa atoll, part of the colony of French Polynesia.

roots movement, and an upcoming demonstration against the U.S. naval base at the nearby city of Sasebo.

At the Gensuikin workshop on "Japan's responsibility for the war and national compensation," Son I Son of the North Korean *Hibakusha* Peace and Antinuclear Association said, "My older brother was killed by the bomb and my younger brother was wounded. There needs to be a formal apology and compensation for the anguish inflicted on the people from abroad."

'We were perfect guinea pigs,' says survivor of U.S. gov't radiation tests

BY MARK FRIEDMAN

HIROSHIMA — Two of the participants in the activities held here for the 50th anniversary of Washington's atomic bombing of this city were from Utah. Priscilla Empey is President of the National Association of Radiation Survivors and Claudia Peterson is a member of the Nevada "Downwinder" organization.

Peterson's father, father-in-law, daughter, and sister all died from various cancers due to the radioactive fallout from U.S. military tests in Nevada that drifted into Utah in the 1950s.

Peterson said in an interview: "What happened to people here in Hiroshima and those in southern Utah is similar, but we were killed in a secret and devious manner. The government almost gloats over it.

"Many people where I live see Hiroshima as something that had to happen,"

she continued, "but I can't justify it. We were perfect guinea pigs. The government told us everything was OK and we let it happen. People believed what they were told. People couldn't believe the government would do this to them."

The activist added, "Lives have been devastated by illness and birth defects, as the government lied for 40 years." Peterson pointed out that some people have received government compensation, but melanomas and other cancers are not covered.

Some 2,870 people have filed claims and 2,208 were paid a maximum of \$50,000. Test site workers received a one time payment of \$70,000 and uranium miners got \$100,000. These are maximum benefits to cover years of medical expenses. Funds have run out for many people just as new illnesses and cancers arise.

In her testimony to an international symposium here on the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Japan, Empey explained that her father was a uranium miner who died at 51 from lung cancer. "My father may have been exposed to the equivalent of 13,672 months worth of radiation during the 120 months he worked in the mines from 1950 to 1960."

The whole Empey family was exposed because there was no place at work for miners to clean up before coming home. "My father was so fluorescent at times that when my grandfather put his Geiger counter on him in the dark he would glow," Empey said.

The U.S. government knew of the dangers. In 1950, U.S. Public Health Service teams sampled radon concentrations at the mine site and found averages at 120 times the recommended safe working level.