

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Bosnia elections 'won't solve any of the problems'

— PAGE 3

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 60 NO. 34 SEPTEMBER 30, 1996

## Clinton is the 'best president for cops'

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Surrounded by thousands of police officers in blue uniforms, and standing in front of a blue banner that read "Law Enforcement Stands Behind President Clinton," Democratic nominee William Clinton accepted the endorsement for his re-election bid by the Fraternal Order of Police. The 270,000-member cop association, the largest in the country, had never before supported a Democrat for president.

The ceremony, which took place in Cincinnati's Music Hall September 16, undercut publicity for a simultaneous major address by Republican presidential candidate Robert Dole in Pennsylvania. Speaking at Villanova University in Philadelphia, Dole shifted his focus from the "economic growth" theme that has dominated his campaign since the Republican convention to a push for tougher "anticrime" measures.

About a week earlier, the Senate had approved by an overwhelming bipartisan majority the Defense of Marriage Act, banning recognition of same-sex marriages. Clinton vowed months earlier to sign this bill into law.

The "law and order" speeches by Clinton and Dole and the passage of the antigay leg-

Continued on Page 8

## Rhode Is. tries to deny socialists ballot slot

BY ANDREA MORELL

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island — Campaigners for James Harris and Laura Garza were notified September 12 by the Rhode Island Director of Elections that the Socialist Workers petitions fell short of the 1,000 registered voters' names required to place the socialist presidential ticket on the ballot in that state. Only 672 of the 1,942 names submitted were ruled valid by officials.

At a hearing before the State Board of Elections September 16, New England Young Socialists leader Ryan Kelly argued that an affront to democratic rights had occurred when the petition signatures of nearly 2,000 Rhode Islanders favoring ballot status for the socialists were brushed aside.

Paul Hubbard, one of three Rhode Island electors for the socialist ticket, stated, "We have been on the ballot here many times in the past. We always collected 2,000 signatures and we always got on with that."

SWP presidential candidates were last on the Rhode Island ballot in 1988. With the aid of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), campaign supporters overcame state officials' attempt that time to deny James Warren and Kathleen Michaels ballot status on a bogus objection to one of their electors.

Among other reasons, Kelly and Hubbard demanded the Board place the Harris-Garza ticket on the ballot because the signatures of 192 students at Brown University had been arbitrarily invalidated on the grounds

Continued on Page 4

## Troops out of Mideast!

Clinton continues military build-up in Gulf



U.S. troops driving a humvee in Kuwaiti desert as part of military exercises in Gulf.

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

While its immediate threat of further bombing raids on Iraq has receded, Washington is continuing its military buildup in the Persian Gulf. The Clinton administration says it will not rule out more strikes against Iraq, after launching 44 missiles at the country's southern region in early September. That action and the debate it stirred highlight the problems the U.S. rulers have in getting their imperialist allies and rivals,

See editorial page 14

as well as regimes in the Middle East, to bow to Washington's dictates.

The Clinton administration announced September 17 that 3,500 U.S. troops were being deployed to Kuwait, joining some 1,200 other GIs already stationed there. The president said the measures were taken "to keep Saddam Hussein in a box." Some 30,000 U.S. soldiers are deployed in the Gulf region.

U.S. defense secretary William Perry stated that the Pentagon sent eight F-117 Stealth fighters and a Patriot missile battery to Kuwait as part of the latest military effort. The government of Bahrain agreed to temporarily base 26 U.S. F-16 jet bombers on its territory. Washington also dispatched the aircraft carrier *Enterprise* to the region, placing 75 more warplanes in the Persian Gulf.

"Whether air strikes will be necessary or not will very much depend on Saddam Hussein's actions, not his words," said Gen.

Continued on Page 3

## TWA crash was no bomb

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

NEW YORK — As we go to press, investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board announced that none of the evidence recovered from the Trans World Airlines Flight 800 crash proves that a bomb brought down the plane. The jet exploded in mid-air July 17, shortly after take-off from New York's JFK airport and crashed into the ocean off Long Island's shore, killing all 230 people aboard.

Federal investigators say they plan tests

intended to show that the explosion of the TWA plane could have been caused by a mechanical failure. "The failure to find proof of a bombing, after more than two months, lends indirect credence to another theory, that an explosion in the Boeing 747's center fuel tank might have been sufficient to destroy the plane," reported the September 19 *New York Times* in a front-page article.

A senior NTSB official told the *Times* the fact that they have not found any parts of a missile discredits that theory as well.

## Activists build immigrant rights march

BY GREG ROSENBERG

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Word has begun to spread throughout the United States about the October 12 national march on Washington for immigrant rights. Activists on both coasts and in the Midwest report initial organizing efforts have begun to bear fruit.

The seven demands of the demonstration are: human and constitutional rights for all; equal opportunities and affirmative action; public education for all children; preserve and expand public health services; labor law reform and a \$7-per-hour minimum wage; opposition to police brutality, and a call for citizen police review boards; and extension of the eligibility date for amnesty for immigrants to get citizenship.

On September 16, activists from Coordinadora '96 — the umbrella organization that called the march and rally — reserved 50 buses to travel to the demonstration from Los Angeles.

The first of these buses have begun to fill for the 50-hour trip to the capital. Traveling in a caravan, the buses are scheduled to stop in San Antonio on October 9 to build participation in the march.

The August 26 *San Antonio Express-News* reported that activists in that Texas city have already held three fund-raisers to help offset travel costs for those who will make the trip.

In Los Angeles, organizations such as One Stop Immigration, California Citizens for Justice, local churches, and several unions are actively building the march. The California AFL-CIO has also decided to formally back the demonstration.

At a September 8 Latino Summit on Affirmative Action, which was attended by

200 people, most of them young, dozens signed up to make the trip on an airplane chartered by the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund.

National action builds

Several prominent new endorsements for the demonstration have arrived at the October 12 march and rally office, located here in the national headquarters of the International Union of Electronics Workers (IUE).

Nydia Velázquez, a Democratic member of Congress from New York, sent her endorsement. Several members of the California Legislature have also endorsed.

"As National President of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC),"

wrote Belen Robles,

"I want to add my

personal endorse-

ment to the

Coordinadora '96

and its call to the

March on Washing-

ton." The board of di-

rectors of the Do-

minican American

National Foundation,

headquartered in Hi-

daleah, Florida, also

decided to participate

in the national

march. "We think

that it's our duty to be

present in this march

in order to let our

voices be heard,"

wrote executive di-

rector Rhadames

Peguero.

As reported in last

week's issue of the *Militant*, AFL-CIO executive vice-president Linda Chavez-Thompson has agreed to speak on October 12. IUE president William Bywater has also endorsed. The union federation's AFL-CIO News made favorable mention of the demonstration at the end of an article in its August 26 issue. March organizers are working to secure labor support in fund-raising, materials, and march participation.

Unionists in the Washington, D.C. metro area report that up until now, a small number of workers have heard about the demonstration through Spanish-language media.

In an effort to expand publicity for the action, a press breakfast and briefing was

Continued on Page 12

### March on Washington for immigrant rights October 12, 1996

- Human rights for all
- Equal opportunities and affirmative action
- Public education for all
- Expand health care



Coordinadora '96 (202) 293-5672 — (202) 466-1637

Nationalists take the initiative in N. Ireland — page 7



## Israeli copters blast S. Lebanon

Israeli helicopters fired rockets into Lebanon September 13 in an assault on the Hezbollah guerrillas who are opposing Tel Aviv's occupation of the southern portion of the country. Several hours before the attack, Israeli soldiers ambushed Hezbollah fighters who were in the Israeli-occupied zone, killing one guerrilla. Hezbollah has threatened to launch suicide bombers against Israeli forces if they mount a new offensive. A massive Israeli bombing campaign in April drove 400,000 people from their homes in Lebanon and left more than 100 dead, many of them refugees in a United Nations camp.

## S. African miners win pay raises

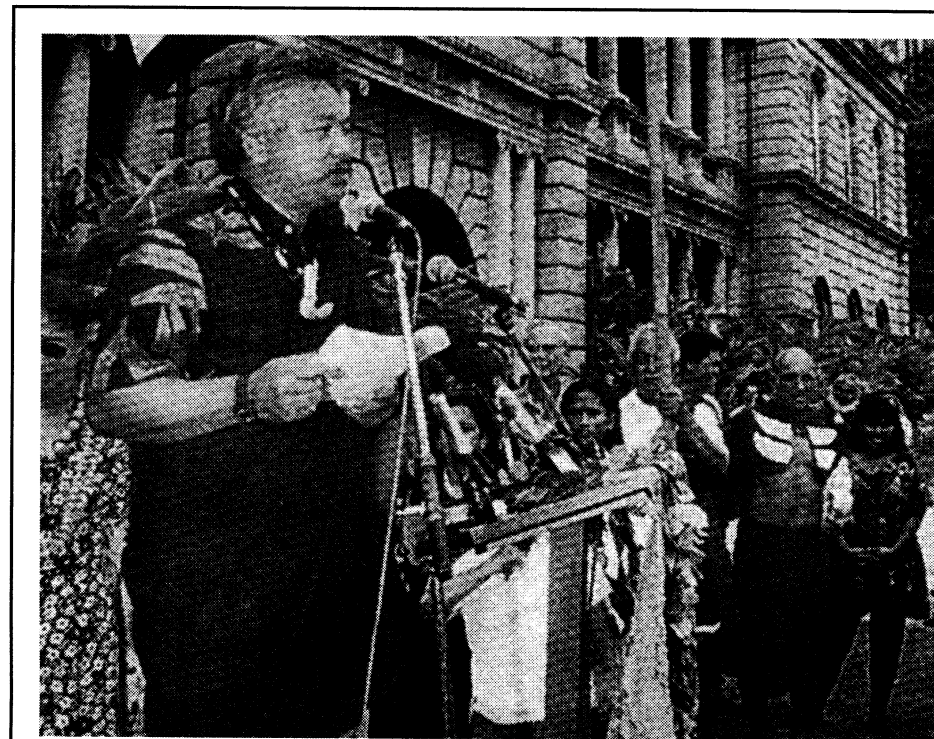
The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) in South Africa, which has 350,000 members, reached an agreement with the mining bosses that includes 5 percent to 13 percent pay raises for gold and coal miners. Most of the workers will get between 8 percent and 10 percent wage increases. In addition to the raises, NUM won provisions that help combat vestiges of the apartheid system. Thomas Ketsise, an NUM official, said the mining companies will have to sponsor training, retirement, and death benefits for black workers.

## France pilots strike over safety

Four pilots unions at Air France Europe walked off the job September 11, after one pilot was disciplined earlier that day for refusing to take off in a protest over security. The company claims that the airplane checks the pilot was asking for were unnecessary and that the pilot had refused to take off 35 times this year. The strike halted about 40 percent of the airline's domestic flights and grounded the flights across Europe. Air France threatened to take the unions to court for not giving five days' strike notice.

## UK unions debate minimum pay

After much debate, delegates at the Trades Union Congress conference in Britain voted overwhelmingly in favor of proposing a £4.26 (\$6.64) an hour national minimum wage within the first year of the anticipated incoming Labour government. Labour Party officials urged the trade unionists to wait



More than 30,000 native Hawaiians voted three-to-one in favor of some form of sovereignty in a mail-in plebiscite September 13. Above, Sol Kaho'ohalahala, chairman of the Hawaiian sovereignty councils, announces results, which are supposed to lead to a constitutional convention, probably in 1998. The Hawaiian government of Queen Liliuokalani was overthrown by U.S. capitalists, backed by the Marines, in 1893. Native Hawaiians make up 13 percent of the Pacific islands' population of 1.2 million today.

until a successful election before discussing concrete numbers. John Edmonds, general secretary of the General, Municipal, Boilermakers, and Allied Trades Union, agreed, saying delegates should not be "parading" their divisions on the actual numbers, but instead celebrating their unity on the principles.

"It's time to name a rate," Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, Britain's biggest union, said. "A decent minimum wage of £4.26 an hour is the defining issue of trade unionism." Labour Party head Anthony Blair said no figure will be set until after elections. David Willets, the British paymaster general, claims that anything above £4 an hour would mean the loss of up to a million jobs.

National Union of Mineworkers president Arthur Scargill, a leader of the recently formed Socialist Labour Party, won applause at the conference when he said he was "sick and tired of Labour Party leaders telling us not to rock the boat."

## Sandinistas change anthem

The Sandinista general secretary and presidential candidate in Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, announced the changing of the party's current anthem from one that vows to "fight against the Yankee, enemy of humanity," to Beethoven's "Ode to Joy." Ortega said the change, made official September 6, "corresponds to the stage that we are living in.... Conditions have been created so that the United States and Nicaragua, and in particular a new Sandinista government, can establish harmonious relations."

## Women chain gangs in Phoenix

Self-proclaimed "equal opportunity incarcerator" sheriff Joseph Arpaio, of Phoenix, has set into motion the country's first female chain gang. Inmates, bound by thick leg irons, will work five days a week for 30 days, supervised by armed guards. "These women will be placed in the same areas where I place men, out in the streets of Phoenix where everyone can see it," Arpaio said. Thirty-four women, many of whom are confined to cramped disciplinary cells with four others, applied for a spot on the chain gang.

## N.Y. cop gets five-year jail term

Blake Struller, a New York cop for seven years, was sentenced to five years in prison for dealing drugs, evading taxes, and breaking into property without a search warrant. He is one of 26 cops convicted so far in an investigation that revealed that a third of the patrol officers in Harlem's 30th Precinct were involved in numerous crimes, including keeping goods confiscated at crime scenes and extortion. Struller got the third stiffest sentence in the investigation so far. In addition to the time he has to serve in jail, he faces a \$10,000 fine and must perform 300 hours of "community service" on his release.

## Gov't okays abortion exclusion

The U.S. Senate upheld the current exclusion of abortion from medical treatments covered under the federal employees' health insurance plan. Congress has taken more than 50 votes on the abortion question over the last two years, with most of them calling for restrictions. With the exception of cases of rape, incest, or possible injury to the mother, there is no coverage for abortion for government workers.

Sen. Michael DeWine argued that not funding abortion is not about abortion rights but a "very, very narrow" question of taxpayers' money.

## S. Koreans protest at U.S. base

One hundred Koreans protested in front of a U.S. military base in Seoul, South Korea September 14. They were responding to the slaying of a South Korean prostitute by a U.S. soldier September 7. Gen. John H. Tillel Jr., a commander of the U.S. military in Korea, called the killing "tragic and senseless" and expressed his regret. But protesters said this was insufficient. They called for an apology from U.S. president William Clinton, the troops' commander-in-chief.

Washington has some 37,000 troops stationed in South Korea. In August, thousands of students confronted riot police for nine days demanding the reunification of Korea and the withdrawal of the U.S. forces.

## U.S. wages likely to keep falling

Drawing from a report issued by the U.S. government's Competitiveness Policy Council, an article in the September 13 *Financial Times* of London stated that "the trend of declining real wages for most US workers is likely to continue during the next 15 years, while wage inequality in the US will continue to grow."

Average real wages are \$1.20 below their peak level in 1973. The report concludes that while some workers might see marginal improvements in their wages, "almost all groups of workers" have had wage deterioration. "There is little likelihood for significant advances," the report found, "particularly for workers who suffered income setbacks in recent years."

— BRIAN TAYLOR

# THE MILITANT

## Support the struggle for Black freedom

Every week, the 'Militant' brings you the news by worker correspondents involved in the struggle for Black freedom — from marches defending affirmative action to protests against police brutality and demonstrations to end the death penalty. 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.

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, \$A15 • Britain, £7 • Canada, Can\$12 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$15 • Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, £8 • Belgium, 375 BF • France, FF80 • Iceland, Kr1,300 • New Zealand, NZ\$15 • Sweden, Kr75 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

## The Militant

Vol. 60/No. 34

Closing news date: September 19, 1996

Editor: NAOMI CRAINE

Business Manager: MAURICE WILLIAMS

Editorial Staff: Megan Arney, Hilda Cuzco, Laura Garza, Martin Koppel, Argiris Malapanis, Brian Taylor, 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

The Militant can be accessed on the internet at:

gopher://gopher.igc.apc.org/11/pubs/militant

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

Periodicals 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: **United States:** for one-year subscription send \$45 to above address.

**Latin America, Caribbean:** for one-year sub-

scription 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 I Mei 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.



# Elections in Bosnia 'won't solve any of the problems'

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The September 14 elections in Bosnia have been broadly acknowledged as "unlikely to solve any of the problems" there, as the *Wall St. Journal* put it. Rather they set the stage for more instability and imperialist intervention in the region.

"It seems that the vote is but the beginning of the beginning of the West's engagement," John Fawcett, a political analyst with the International Crisis Group, told the *Washington Post*. The International Crisis is one of the organizations that is monitoring the implementation of the Dayton agreement patched together last November by the Clinton administration.

A three-member presidency involving a seat for each ethnic group was elected. Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovic, a Muslim, will chair the leadership body for a two-year term. Kresimir Zubak, the president of the so-called Muslim-Croat federation, who vowed to during his campaign to unite Croats in Bosnia with the regime in Zagreb, will be the Croatian representative on the presidency.

Momcilo Krajisnik, the speaker of the Bosnian Serb parliament, will assume the Serb seat. Krajisnik worked closely with chauvinist Serb leader Radovan Karadzic during the four-year war in Yugoslavia and stated in the past he would refuse to swear allegiance to the Bosnian constitution.

"We are concerned about the unique decision making process here," the *New York Times* quoted an unnamed diplomat as saying. "Everything has to be decided six times, with increasing pressure, tension, and emotion." The voting was supervised by U.S. diplomat Robert Frowlick, who heads the Sarajevo mission of the 55-nation Organization for Security and Economic Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Some 100,000 per-

sonnel, including NATO troops, administered the process.

The 60,000-strong NATO occupation force, including 20,000 U.S. GIs, is scheduled to begin withdrawing December 20. NATO officials, however, have begun drafting plans to prolong the occupation for another two years, the *New York Times* reported September 11.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon asserted that Washington was not involved in discussions on "any follow-on force." Bacon said U.S. defense secretary William Perry stated "that if follow-on force is needed, this job could be done with air power stationed outside of Bosnia."

## 'Veneer of a united Bosnia'

With the Clinton administration eager to claim its policy on Yugoslavia a success, "the Bosnian elections hold significant implications for Mr. Clinton as he runs for a second term," the *Christian Science Monitor* noted.

"U.S. officials say that as long as Bosnia does not fall apart completely," wrote John Pomfret of the *Washington Post*, "the veneer of a united Bosnia will be maintained."

Bosnian prime minister Haris Silajdzic, a candidate for the presidency, stated that the "election seems to ratify and approve" the military conquests of Karadzic's forces. "This election is not about secession," admonished Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. emissary who rammed through the Dayton agreement. "This election is about creating central institutions of a single Bosnia-Herzegovina," he added.

The balloting, however does legitimize the current setup that flows from the accord and "lay groundwork for final break up of Bosnia," declared the *Wall Street Journal*.

The Dayton accord spelled out the parti-

tion of Bosnia along the lines carved out on the ground since 1991 by warring factions of the former Stalinist ruling bureaucracy. It separated the Yugoslav republic into a "Serb Republic" and a "Bosnia-Croat federation," which were divided into British-, French-, and U.S.-controlled sectors.

The "trouble-free election" touted by Holbrooke is supposed to codify joint institutions to cobble Bosnia back together with a three-member collective presidency with a Serb, a Croat, and a Muslim representative; a national parliament; two federal parliaments; a constitutional court and a council of ministers. New elections in two years will choose leaders to the presidency who will serve four-year terms.

"I don't see how these joint institutions will be physically constituted or installed," a United Nations official in Grebak, Yugoslavia, told the *Times*. "The whole thing is schizophrenic and absurd, like everything else here."

The election campaigns were marked by nationalist rhetoric from leaders of warring gangs as they consolidated their grip on power under the imperialist occupation force. "We will get united Serbia on the dip-



Maps like this in big-business press showed imperialism's carve-up and occupation of Bosnia through Dayton accord.

lomatic table," said chauvinist Serb leader Biljana Plavsic, candidate for president of the Republika Srpska, the Bosnian Serb entity, on state television September 11.

Arm twisting by officials of the OSCE pressured Plavsic to apologize for making inflammatory nationalist speeches. "The SDS (Serbian Democratic Party) deeply regrets any statements which have suggested that the Serb Republic is an independent state," she said September 13.

According to London's *Financial Times*, the Party of Democratic Action (SDA), which holds power in Sarajevo, challenged the elections in the Republika Srpska, alleging that the number of Serb voters exceeded the number of Serbs living in Bosnia before the war.

"This is not peace, but the absence of war," declared Bosnia president and SDA leader Alija Izetbegovic at a September 1 rally of 10,000 people. "When the Serbs signed the Dayton agreement they were required to let our people go home, and if they do not abide by this agreement I will make sure that their Republic of Srpska is abolished."

Many of Bosnia's 1 million refugees declined to return home to vote, the *Wall Street Journal* reported. Some 2.3 million people were displaced by the war and more than 200,000 people killed.

Despite the divisions that have been reinforced by implementing the so-called peace accord, solidarity among working people in Yugoslavia has not disintegrated. Perica Simonovic, a Bosnian Serb, played his accordion at a September 4 campaign rally in Orasje for the SDA, the leading Muslim nationalist political party. "Among the average people there is real harmony," said Mustafa Hadzispahic, local head of the SDA. "Average people didn't start the war," Mijo Galgic told the *Times*, as he pointed to trenches from which he fought. "We just had to fight in it."

## Washington continues Mideast build-up

Continued from front page

John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a press conference.

"Saddam Hussein poses a threat to our airmen, not only by the six missile firings carried out in the past days but also by the aggressive deployment of mobile surface-to-air missile units.... in the southern sector," Perry told reporters September 16 during a meeting at a Royal Air Force base in London. "All these actions we find threatening, we find provoking, and we find necessary he change."

Perry had met with Michael Portillo and Charles Millon, the foreign ministers of Britain and France, on a mission to the Middle East and Europe to shore up the crumbling "coalition" that previously backed the U.S.-led slaughter against Baghdad in 1991. The defense secretary sought to drum up support for more military assaults on Iraq and the "no-fly" zones Washington imposed on Iraqi soil. London was the only other permanent member of the UN Security Council to fully back Clinton's latest war moves. Paris openly criticized the September 3-4 bombings.

During the Mideast leg of his journey, Perry reviewed with government officials in Bahrain, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait a diplomatic demarche, or petition, issued September 6 by the White House to Baghdad outlining actions the regime needs to take to prevent more U.S. military assaults. The list of demands included removal of mobile missiles from the expanded no-fly zone, no repair of stationary missile sites damaged by U.S. cruise missiles, and no tracking of U.S. aircraft with radar.

Baghdad declared September 13 it would stop challenging the "no fly" zones imposed by Washington in northern and southern Iraq and cease firing at U.S. and other imperialist warplanes flying over its territory. "The position of my government was to suspend the military response in order to let the political means get underway to solve this particular problem according to international law and in a manner that will protect our sovereignty," said Iraqi deputy foreign minister Riyadh Qaysi.

The Clinton administration issued a new set of demands September 16 demanding Baghdad remove certain aircraft equipment,

including missiles, from the zones.

Clinton faced some unexpected trouble in marshaling support among the governments in the Gulf region. The Kuwaiti regime balked at Washington's initial September 13 announcement that it would send 5,000 GIs there, before agreeing to the latest troop deployment. "I think the United States is doing what they think is right, but we have to see whether it is right or not and give them the permission," said Sheik Ahmed Hamoud al-Sabah on September 15.

According to the *New York Times*, Clinton administration officials acknowledged the delay was an embarrassment, which Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich pounced on as an example of a "typical muddle" by the White House.

"I think that what happened was that the decision on the movements that we had made actually became public before we had done our regular consultation and the Kuwaitis had done their regular review," said Clinton, trying to smooth over the incident.

Washington is having other problems building logistical support for its war moves. The Turkish regime in Ankara announced it would not permit the U.S. military to launch attacks from its bases. The government of Jordan also refused to give permission to U.S. warplanes to enter its airspace. And according to the *Wall Street Journal*, the Saudi regime "wouldn't let the planes strike Iraq" operating from an air base in Dhahran.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that "with few supporters" for Washington's latest military episode with Iraq, "four bombers and a lumbering fleet of 14 aerial tankers went the long way, via Guam and unrestricted airspace over the Persian Gulf — a 19,000 mile journey that required the bombers to gas up six separate times in the air" in order to bomb Iraq.

"The credibility of the United States is at stake," said Republican Sen. John McCain criticizing the Clinton administration's blunder with Kuwait as an example of a policy in "terrible disarray." McCain said at a September 17 White House meeting with Congressional leaders, "Saddam Hussein is far better off than he was two weeks ago."

According to the *New York Times*, Sen. Sam Nunn stated his support for Clinton's military moves the past couple of weeks but

questions the "containment" policy on Baghdad. "Every time Iraq moves tanks we can't for the long term send thousands of troops from here, there," he said.

The Defense Intelligence Agency released a declassified report to Congress stating "Saddam's departure from the Iraqi political scene does not appear imminent." The military sweep across northern Iraq by the Kurdish forces backed by Baghdad left the CIA operation "in the Kurdish region in tatters," the *Washington Post* reported.

Massoud Barzani, the leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party who had drawn support from the CIA, planned to meet with Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. Backed by Baghdad, Barzani's troops took control of northern Iraq in August. The *Financial Times* reported Barzani issued amnesty to the defeated Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and said that the PUK would be permitted to function openly as a political party.

Meanwhile, the United Nations World Food Program issued an "urgent appeal" for international food donations for 600,000 people in the region — about one-sixth of the Kurdish population in northern Iraq.

## Books to understand conflicts in Yugoslavia

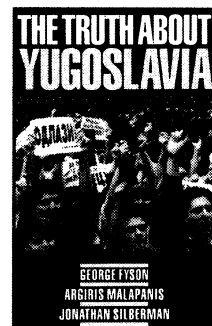
Pathfinder publishes a number of books and pamphlets that are indispensable tools to help working people understand the war in Yugoslavia. Below are a couple of titles that give a framework for the situation in the Balkans

### The Truth about Yugoslavia

Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention

George Fyson, Argiris Malapanis, and Jonathan Silberman

Examines the roots of the carnage in Yugoslavia, where the U.S. and European powers are intervening militarily to advance their competing interests. Explains how groups of would-be capitalists—fragments of the former Stalinist regime—are fighting a war for territory and resources. \$8.95



### 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

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

# Garza's Iceland, Sweden tour draws media

BY GYLFI PÁLL HERSIR  
AND ÓLÓF-ANDRA PROPPÉ

REYKJAVÍK, Iceland — Only a few days after the United States government bombed Iraq, Laura Garza, Socialist Workers candidate for vice president in the United States, addressed the issue at a Militant Internationalist Forum here. "The alliance the U.S. government was able to build in the Gulf War five years ago is no longer there," she said. "Washington does not and never has supported any of the Kurds; no human rights issue is involved," she added, agreeing with the view of one forum participant who pointed out the devastating consequences of the U.S. led embargo on Iraq.

Garza met workers in the fish freezing plant Grandi during their lunch break September 10. "I am on tour to European countries to discuss with working people the situation we face, such as the attacks on social benefits," she said, inquiring about the situation of a conflict between health service doctors and the state. The doctors employed at public health centers had collectively resigned from their jobs to put pressure on their demand for higher wage instead of getting a big portion of their wages paid per task they perform.

"I think the doctors should have the right to strike," a woman replied. "The present situation is intolerable," another woman said and explained a situation where a child with painful wound on his hand had to wait three hours in a hospital emergency room to see a doctor. "Maybe this is the system they want," she added "where the rich can pay and the poor can wait."

Garza spoke to classes at three high schools. At the MH school, much of the discussion was on the issue of abortion and

lesbian and gay marriages. Garza defended women's right to abortion after the teacher questioned the moral issues involved. A journalism student at the FÁ school later interviewed Garza for *Vera*, the Women's Slate political party's monthly journal.

Garza was interviewed by two daily newspapers. *Morgunbladið*, the largest daily associated with the Independence (Conservative) Party, printed a news story under the headline "Cuba, an Example For the World." *Dagur-Tíminn*, a liberal newspaper, published an interview with Garza on the election in the U.S. and other issues, under the title, "I Would Not Call It Democracy."

During the tour, six people signed up for the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students in Cuba 1997.

BY BIRGITTA ISACSSON  
AND CATHARINA TIRSEN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Papa Sowe, a leader of the Friends of Patrick Nadji Committee, kicked off a Militant Labor Forum on the U.S. elections here August 6. Patrick Nadji, originally from the Ivory Coast, was murdered by a Nazi youth on Sept. 9, 1995, in Klippan in the south of Sweden. Sowe urged forum participants to join a demonstration on September 9 in Klippan to commemorate Nadji and attend final arguments in the Supreme Court trial of the man who killed him.

"We want to campaign together with others who want to act against injustices," said Laura Garza, Socialist Workers candidate for vice president of the United States.

Garza described how Clinton has been the most effective U.S. president at cutting away at social rights that workers won 60



Garza campaigning in Harlem, New York, at the African American Day parade. Militant/ Eric Simpson

years ago. Garza also described how Clinton's law-and-order campaign is part of a bipartisan attack on democratic rights. "This is similar to how the rulers use the murders of the children in Belgium to push for the death penalty," she commented.

Republican Robert Dole, Garza said, presents himself as the candidate addressing the real economic worries of working people today, by calling for policies to promote faster capitalist growth. "There is just one problem," she said. "It won't work. It is not

possible to have long-term capitalist expansion when the problem is there are too many products on the market to sell at a profit."

While in Sweden, Garza also talked with Scania truck workers in Södertälje and spoke to a meeting of 25 youth in Jakobsberg, a suburb north of Stockholm. She addressed high school students at the Spånga gymnasium and met aerospace and auto workers at factory gates. Two Spanish-language radio stations interviewed the SWP candidate.

## Socialists win ballot status in Alabama

BY TIM MAILHOT

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama—Supporters of the Socialist Workers Campaign here received official notice September 16 from Alabama's Secretary of State that James Harris and Laura Garza will appear on the ballot in November.

On August 22 campaign supporters here filed more than 8,100 signatures in Montgomery to place Harris and Garza on the ballot as independent candidates for president and vice president. The number of signatures filed was significantly more than the 5,000 signatures the state requires.

"On Wednesday, September 12, we received word that we were supposedly 140 signatures short," said John Hawkins, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate. "Officials in the Secretary of State's office also said that the ballot would be finalized Friday for printing. Supporters of the campaign here decided to meet the next evening and chart a course of action to put some pressure on the state to include Harris and Garza on the ballot."

A team of supporters went to the Jefferson County Courthouse Friday morning. After reviewing less than one tenth of the petitions submitted to the county for verification, they were able to point out to officials that they had not counted at least 16 valid signatures.

Meanwhile, other supporters lodged a protest with the Secretary of State and prepared to take legal action to enjoin the printing of the ballots if a favorable decision was not forthcoming.

After consulting with Jefferson County

officials who agreed that 14 of the 16 were actually valid signatures, state officials agreed that this was cause to suspect that a similar number would turn up in the balance of the petitions — enough in one county alone to make up for the supposed shortfall. On that basis they indicated verbally September 13 that Harris and Garza would be on the ballot. Official notification arrived September 16.

"This is a real victory for all those who are looking for a working-class alternative in the elections, who oppose the bi-partisan attack on Social Security and Clinton's drive toward war in the Middle East," stated Hawkins. "Our campaign won a genuine hearing during the ballot drive and having Harris and Garza on the ballot will help us build on that. This victory is even more important because our candidate for Congress was denied ballot status in 1994."

From mid-May to mid-August campaign supporters here gathered signatures at shopping centers, street campaign tables, and at political events in working class communities — from Gay Pride demonstrations to meetings protesting the burnings of Black churches, as well as workplaces and picket lines.

After completing the drive successfully campaign supporters here decided to hit the streets in a big way Saturday, August 10. The day began with participation in a rally organized by the United Farm Workers in defense of 85 mushroom workers who were fired last year by Quincy Farms for fighting for better work conditions. Bruno's grocery stores, based in Birmingham is one of their biggest customers.

In the evening Louis Farrakhan spoke at a meeting organized by the Nation of Islam. Campaign supporters set up a table outside the meeting place with signs calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Middle East, Federal troops to defend Black churches and defense of the Cuban revolution. Campaigners at these two events sold 12 *Militants*, 2 copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*, and six Pathfinder titles.

"Since that weekend of activity," Hawkins said, "campaign supporters have gone out every weekend and during the week to places where we gathered signatures and have received a good response. It's not unusual for a team of two supporters to go out for an hour and sell 10-15 *Militants* and get out a lot of literature. Most importantly we are running into people who want to help out with the campaign and young people who are interested in the Young Socialists. That's why the victory the campaign won in Alabama is significant."

Nancy Boyasko contributed to this article.

## Rhode Island ballot fight under way

Continued from front page

that their school post office boxes are not addresses.

"Obviously, a post office box is an address. It's where we get our mail. It's our address," commented Ryan Martin later. Martin is a Brown University student who is looking forward to hearing Garza when she speaks in Providence September 20. The Board finally agreed to review the signatures of the students who listed their post office addresses.

Kelly and Hubbard also protested the fact that the socialists were given only three days—two of them Saturday and Sunday—to prepare their appeal to the board. In response the chairman stated, "We all run on a very tight schedule."

## Great response to campaign in Utah

BY JILL FEIN

SPANISH FORK, Utah — Socialist Workers candidates in Utah — Dan Fein for governor and John Langford for U.S. Congress, 3rd District — got an enthusiastic response from the 8,000 young people who came to the fairgrounds here on September 11 to hear Rage Against the Machine.

Rage Against the Machine is a band well known for its support for the Cuban Revolution, the Zapatista peasant rebels in Mexico, and framed-up Native American activist Leonard Peltier, as well as its anti-cop views. A banner of Che Guevara adorned the band's stage.

Literature tables for the Salt Lake City Committee in Solidarity with Chiapas, the Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign, and the Western Shoshone Defense Project were set up on the fairgrounds, by arrangement of the band.

Hundreds of youth came by the socialist table and heard Fein and Langford explain why the U.S. was bombing Iraq. "I want to join the Socialist Workers Party" Brandy Fax said, after reading parts of the presidential campaign brochure for James Harris and Laura Garza.

Five Pathfinder books on Cuba were sold at the literature table as well as six *Militants* and one *Militant* subscription.

Nine youth signed up to go to next summer's 14th World Festival of Youth and Students in Cuba.

A few of the radio stations in Salt Lake City and Provo reported on efforts of right-

In further controversy surrounding the State Board of Elections, the ACLU won a law suit against the Board a week earlier for its failure to implement the National Voter Registration Act, known as the "motor voter law." Since the law went into effect in Rhode Island Jan. 1, 1995, state officials have willfully obstructed voter registration and must now carry out the court's order to organize a media campaign informing people of how they can register to vote before the election November 5.

The Socialist Workers will hold a press conference here September 20, featuring Garza, to press the fight for ballot status. Campaign supporters are organizing other activities in the city, including a meeting with Brown University students.

wingers in Spanish Fork to cancel the concert. The rightists claimed the band was nothing less than Satan, and their performance would bring drugs and gangs to Spanish Fork.

The local cops mobilized to harass concert-goers. Youth had their cigarettes, cigarette lighters, refreshments, and wrist bands confiscated by cops who frisked all those who entered the outdoor fairgrounds.

### Campaign for the socialist alternative!

- ☐ Sign me up as a Young Socialist for Harris and Garza. I want to campaign for the socialist alternative and against the parties of exploitation, racism, and war.
- ☐ Sign me up as a campaign supporter and keep me informed of protests, picket lines, and other political activities.
- ☐ Enclosed is a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ contribution
- ☐ I want to invite a candidate to speak at my union, school, or organization
- ☐ Enclosed is \$10 for a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly, or \$6 for 4 months of *Perspectiva Mundial* in Spanish.

NAME _____			
ADDRESS _____			
CITY _____		STATE _____ ZIP _____	
PHONE _____		UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____	

Mail to: Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign, P.O. Box 2652, New York, NY 10009  
Compuserve: 104124,1405



# SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

## Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

BY GREG McCARTAN

Socialists around the world are campaigning against Washington's military assault on Iraq among unionists on the job, youth on campuses, and at pickets lines and protest actions, and getting out increased numbers of *New International* no. 7, which features "Washington's assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III," by Jack Barnes.

Washington's threats against Iraq won't go away leading up to election day in the United States. This, and the political repercussions of the growing imperialist disorder in the region, give socialists a special opportunity to get out the truth and win a new generation of those resisting the bipartisan assault at home to oppose imperialism and its wars abroad.

Pathfinder supporters can consider calling up bookstores and libraries to see if they would want to order titles distributed by Pathfinder that explain the developments in the Mideast.

"Two students in Vermont bought copies of *New International* no. 7 after meeting socialists petitioning to put James Harris and Laura Garza, the Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. president and vice-president on the ballot in the state," reports Mary Nell Bockman.

Socialists in Boston organized a class series, and have set up a session on the *NI* no. 7. Two high school students purchased copies of the magazine to study as part of the classes.

The petitioning team built a meeting of 30 people against the bombing, out of which several youth expressed interest in joining the Young Socialists. Socialists who are members of industrial unions sold one copy of *NI* no. 7 to a coworker in the United Autoworkers Union, and a copy of *Nouvelle Internationale* no. 4, containing the same articles in French, to a member of the International Association of Machinists.

Bob Miller from Newark reports that he and a coworker set up a socialist campaign table on the campus of Rutgers college in New Brunswick the evening of the second U.S. missile attack on Iraq. Three Pathfinder titles were sold: the *Communist Manifesto*, *Israel's War against the Palestinian People*, and *Leon*

*Trotsky on Black Nationalism and Self-Determination*. One student asked to join the Young Socialists. Miller's co-worker volunteered to help set up such a table every week.

Three workers at a K-Mart warehouse in North Carolina who are members of the garment and textile workers union UNITE purchased copies of *NI* no. 7, and two additional copies were sold at a Militant Labor Forum last week.

Another book socialists are promoting as part of this effort is *U.S. Hands off the Mideast!*, which contains speeches by leaders of the Cuban revolution Fidel Castro and Ricardo Alarcón that make the case against Washington's 1990-91 embargo and war against Iraq.

These are just a few examples of the work by socialists since the U.S. bombing and the kind of response they are getting.

Sales of books and pamphlets distributed by Pathfinder in August to retail outlets, college bookstores, libraries, and wholesalers surpassed the monthly goal of 1,400 by 396 units. This increase is due in large part to orders for Pathfinder titles to be used as texts in college courses. Eight cities surpassed their goal this month.

A wide range of titles were ordered for classroom adoptions last month. These include 7 copies of *Reform or Revolution* by Rosa Luxembourg from a store in Atlanta; 40 *New International* no. 6, 50 *Panama: The Truth about the U.S. Invasion*, and 50 *Ameri-*

*can Labor Struggles* to a New York college; 30 of *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End* to a college store in Chicago; 40 copies of *Marx and Engels on Colonialism* to a college in Ohio; and 233 of *Communist Manifesto* to a college in upstate New York.

The August results are in keeping with the trend so far this year. Beginning in March of 1996, Pathfinder has been maintaining modestly higher net sales each month over those in 1995. For the January-August period, 1996 net sales were \$45,300 higher than in the same period in 1995. The book return rate for Pathfinder in the first eight months of 1995 was 32 percent; in 1996 that has been lowered to 20 percent.

These figures represent the cumulative results of the decision by members of the Socialist Workers Party to place sales of Pathfinder books and pamphlets at the center of the work of party branches and trade union fractions. Part and parcel of how socialists respond to political developments around the world—such as the U.S. attack on Iraq—is by getting literature that explains the world from the point of view of the working class into the hands of workers and youth.

Organizing sales to non-Pathfinder bookstore outlets can become an integral part of the overall sales efforts. As the results from some areas show, there is real potential to increase classroom adoptions of Pathfinder

titles, especially at college and universities. Professors contacted in September and October will have time to consider adding a Pathfinder titles and to get in an order for books for winter or spring terms.

Socialists in Chicago, for example, have made an effort to get out a team or two every month to retail stores in the area. The results have been consistent sales, and a growing list of stores to service on a regular basis. In Salt Lake City, Pathfinder supporters regularly visit a university bookstore. This consistent relationship has meant ongoing sales to the store, even if at a modest level. Most recently the store's buyer ordered *New International* no. 7 and *The Politics of Chicano Liberation*.

Reviews of *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War* and *Lenin's Final Fight* reprinted in this issue of the Militant will be of real value to Pathfinder supporters to getting bookstores and libraries to order these and related titles.

The highest selling titles so far in 1996 include *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War* by Ernesto Che Guevara, released at the start of 1996; the *Communist Manifesto* which has already outstripped sales for 1995; *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*, which has doubled sales so far this year over 1995; *A New Probe by the Workers League*, an Education for Socialists bulletin released at the end of 1995; and *Genocide against the Indians*, by George Novack.

## Quick reprint will put 'Opening Guns of WWII' into more hands

BY BILL ESTRADA  
AND LISA ROTTACH

An extra effort is being made to rapidly reprint *New International* no. 7, featuring "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq" and the Spanish-language *Nueva Internacional* no. 4, with the article "Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War." The quick reprint will ensure that socialist workers can use these issues of the Marxist magazine to respond to the recent attacks by Washington on Iraq, the increasing instability in the Mideast, and the impact of the Kurdish struggle around the world.

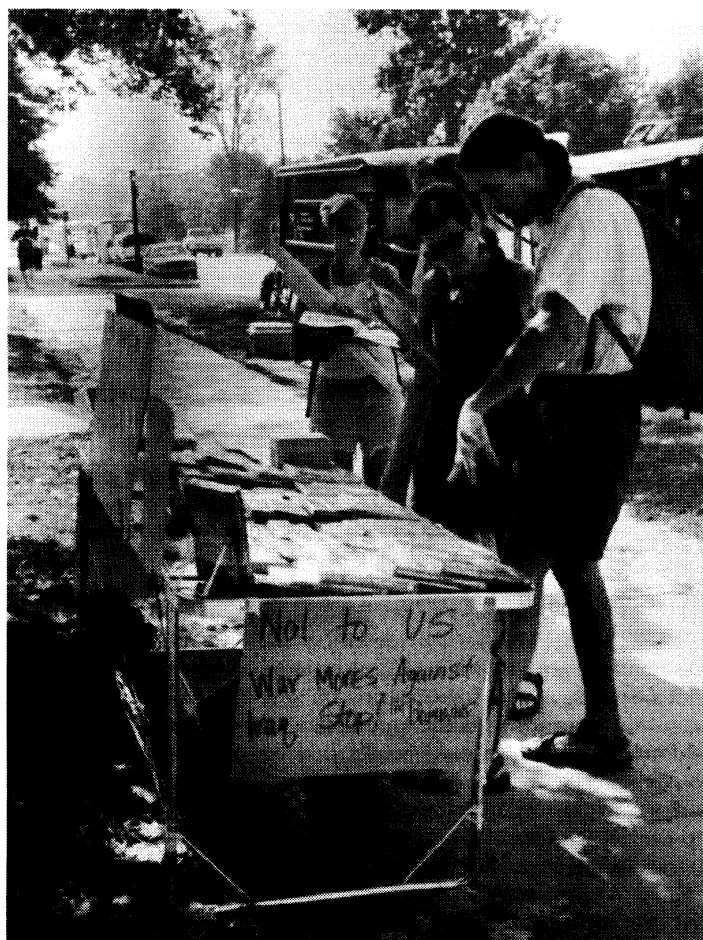
*New International*, with 10 issues in English and several each in French, Spanish, and Swedish, is an indispensable tool to politically arm the vanguard of the working class for the task of overthrowing a decaying worldwide capitalist system and turn replacing it with a workers and farmers gov-

ernment. The magazine of Marxist theory is distributed by Pathfinder Press, and printed in Pathfinder's printshop.

So far this year, Pathfinder has taken orders for 246 copies of *New International* no. 7, 67 of them in September. Over 5,500 copies of *New International* no. 7 have been sold since the first printing in 1991. The stocks of that issue and of *Nueva Internacional* no. 4 are now nearly depleted and need replenishing.

As soon as the news of the latest U.S. aggression against Iraq was reported, printshop workers—who produce Pathfinder books, the *Militant*, and *Perspectiva Mundial* in addition to *New International*—discussed and organized an eight-day delivery schedule for issue no. 7.

The reprint of *New International* no. 7 is scheduled to ship along with this issue of the *Militant*; the delivery of *Nueva* no. 4 is scheduled for the following Monday.



Militant/ Brock Satter  
Socialists at table in Vermont, selling revolutionary literature.

## 'Episodes' is good addition to literature on the Cuban Revolution

The following review appeared in the September 1996 issue of *Choice*, a monthly magazine of reviews published by the Association of College and Research Libraries, a prominent guide to current books used by academic libraries.

Guevara, Ernesto Che. *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War, 1956-58*. Pathfinder, NY, 1996. 483p index ISBN 0-87348-823-7, \$65.00; ISBN 0-87348-824-5 pbk, \$23.95

This new and expanded edition of the writings of Che Guevara is a convenient addition to the literature on the Cuban revolution. Many of the articles covering the difficult and precarious campaign to overthrow Fulgencio Batista were included in previous collections of Guevara's writings. But this edition has some previously unpublished material, a very good introduction, a chronology of

events, a series of excellent photographs, and a detailed list of individuals mentioned in the Guevara writings. It is not hard to understand why Guevara became a Cuban and international hero during the late 1950s and early '60s. His writings convey an unusual intelligence, a romantic idealism, an uncompromising candor, and a good eye for details. He wrote gracefully, with considerable wit and wisdom, reminiscent of the companion of Hernán Cortés in New Spain, Bernal Díaz del Castillo. These articles bare the early days of the revolution, showing its nobility and sacrifice as well as its crass venality and personal rivalry. The experience in Cuba was heady and educational for the young Guevara, although as the Bolivian diaries would later indicate, his was an incomplete education. All levels. — F.W. Knight, Johns Hopkins University

### Monthly Sales of Pathfinder Books to Non-Pathfinder Outlets

City	August	July	June	May
Atlanta	94	42	31	5
Birmingham	39	109	0	0
Boston	79	73	89	38
Brooklyn	144	0	8	43
Chicago	184	111	25	1
Cleveland	77	37	6	29
Des Moines	0	135	755	0
Detroit	30	38	3	2
Greensboro	117	1	0	20
Houston	27	56	13	0
Los Angeles	246	229	139	66
Miami	10	30	62	25
Morgantown	18	17	0	0
New York	520	521	41	80
Newark	35	0	12	44
Peoria	1	0	3	1
Philadelphia	45	66	90	39
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	35
Salt Lake City	2	155	30	5
San Francisco	71	246	165	56
Seattle	56	56	18	49
Twin Cities	0	58	3	1
Washington, D.C.	1	126	19	33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1796</b>	<b>2106</b>	<b>1512</b>	<b>572</b>

# — YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD —

## YS launches fund drive, ups recruitment

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists (YS), an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS write to: Young Socialists, P.O. Box 14392, St. Paul, MN 55104. Tel: (612) 644-0015. Compuserve: 105162,605

BY TOM ALTER

ST PAUL — The Young Socialists launched a \$6,000 fund drive September 15 that will last through October 15. Over this time YS members will be responding to the growing resistance by young workers and other youth to the bipartisan assault on their standard of living and democratic rights. YS members will be active in political activities around the country by joining picket lines and participating in demonstrations such as the immigrant rights march to be held October 12 in Washington, D.C.

While organizing classes around such issues as Cuba and how to protest Washington's recent assault on Iraq, YS chapters are adopting goals for how much their chapter can contribute to the fund and planning ways to achieve them.

Young Socialists—sponsored events are great ways to raise money. The Twin Cities chapter showed part of the PBS documentary series *Chicano*, which chronicles the rise of the Chicano rights movement up to the 1970s. The Chicago YS hosted a poster-making party the night before an immigrant rights demonstration, during the week of the Democratic National Convention, that raised

over \$100. Video showings, YS parties, educational weekends, and asking young people we meet while campaigning for a socialist alternative to contribute are just some of the ways the YS can organize to reach the goal of raising \$6,000.

Meeting this fund goal enables the YS National Office to function as an international communist youth organization center by covering expenses such as phone, e-mail, and office supplies. It means YS leaders can be on the road, helping chapters jump into politics, recruit, and consolidate their work.

With a successful fund drive the YS will be in a strong position to meet our goal of solidifying chapters and doubling the YS membership by recruiting 80 new members by November 15. Contributions towards the fund can be sent to: Young Socialists, P.O. Box 14392, St. Paul, MN, 55114

**The following is an interview conducted by Verónica Poses with Paul Pederson, a member of the Young Socialists chapter in St. Paul, Minnesota. This column will be running a series of interviews with new members of the YS.**

Q: How old are you Paul?

A: 21

Q: Do you work, go to school?

A: I work at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Q: When did you join the Young Socialists?

A: Around August 8 or 9, after returning from the US-Cuba Youth Exchange.

Q: What were you doing before joining the YS? Were you involved in politics?

A: I was trying to make it as an artist. I tried to read as much as I could and participated in some environmental protests but I wasn't involved with any organization.

Q: How did you meet the YS?

A: I ran into an old friend of mine who had joined the YS. He told me he was going to Cuba this summer and I wanted to know why, so I went to the next meeting of the Twin Cities Cuba Network.

Q: What made you decide to go to Cuba?

A: It was a combination of things. I wanted to see if socialism could work, if people could actually control their government and their country. I had heard some things about Cuba, I wanted to see if they were true, so I went to see it for myself.

Q: What made you decide to join the YS?

A: There wasn't only one experience that made me decide to join, but Cuba was the experience that convinced me. I joined because going to Cuba made me realize that anyone can get involved in politics. You don't have to be a science major. I wanted to be part of the fight and that is what a revolutionary organization is about, getting out and struggling, being part of the fight. That's why I joined the Young Socialists.

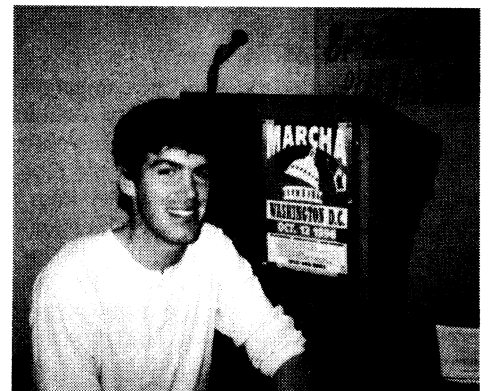
Q: What activities have you been involved in since you joined the YS?

A: I went down to St. Louis the day the McDonnell Douglas workers were discussing their contract, and debating whether or not to continue their strike. It was my first time seeing the realities of the workers' struggle here in the U.S.—you could see very clearly the sides of the fight.

I'm also a member of the Twin Cities Cuba Network and I'm starting to get involved with the local coalition that's building the immigrant rights march in Washington D.C. on October 12.

Q: What books are you reading?

A: I'm reading a few: *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*, *The History of the Russian Revolution* by Leon Trotsky, and *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capi-*



Militant/Verónica Poses

Paul Pederson, new member of the YS.

talism by V.I. Lenin.

Q: What would you say to young people who are reading this article?

A: I would say to anybody that they have the power to bring about real change in their society but they must first understand that the only way real changes have ever been made is in the streets, through struggle and by regular people. Politics don't start in the White House.

## Fund events help link books on revolutionary history to present

BY TED LEONARD

NEWARK, New Jersey — "Thank you for your efforts to print and circulate revolutionary literature worldwide. Enclosed is a check for \$125 for your fund drive," wrote Juan Martínez from San Francisco.

The 10-week \$125,000 Pathfinder Fund drive is aimed at raising the resources necessary to keep the nearly 300 titles published by Pathfinder Press in stock and in the hands of fighters around the world.

Supporters of the international fund in Seattle decided to raise their goal from \$8,000 to \$9,000. This effort, along with

goals set in other areas, pushes the reprint fund total — from cities across the U.S. and around the world — to over \$125,000.

Pathfinder supporters have sent in about \$10,000 for the fund so far — 8 percent of the \$125,000 goal. The figure should be 20 percent to be on target. "Careful weekly attention to collecting pledges and winning new contributors is the key to getting back on track," said Maggie Trowe, director of the fund. "We have a list of books we need to reprint in the next months, including some of our key titles, like *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* by Jack Barnes and *The Bolivian Diary of Che Guevara*. The money coming in is going directly to these efforts."

Supporters in Seattle are planning a fund-raising event October 26 to celebrate the anniversary of the Russian revolution. The program will highlight Pathfinder Press' recent reprinting of Leon Trotsky's *The History of the Russian Revolution*. The book, written by one of the Bolsheviks' central leaders, tells the story of the social, economic and political dynamics of the first socialist revolution.

Doug Jenness will be the featured speaker in Seattle. Jenness is the author of the Pathfinder booklet *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s*. He also edited the booklet *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, which explains how a program to fight for jobs and affirmative action, and to combat imperialist pillage of the Third World is crucial to uniting working people internationally.

The *Action Program* is now being reprinted by Pathfinder. This will ensure that enough copies are in stock while a new edition, modeled after the new French-language edition, is designed and produced.

Ma'mud Shirvani, who co-authored the introduction to *To See the Dawn: Baku, 1920, First Congress of the Peoples of the East*, also published by Pathfinder, has been asked to speak at fund-raising events in Detroit and Miami. The Baku Congress — the complete record of Congress proceedings are contained in the book — was convened by the Communist International. 1920 was period of mass revolutionary struggles in surrounding Central Asia and in much of Europe —inspired by the 1917 workers and peasants victory in Russia — and gave hope of a new dawn for the world's toilers.

Shirvani will also speak at the grand opening of the Pathfinder bookstore in Newark, New Jersey, in its new storefront location.

### 26 new members in the YS!

From July 10 till September 17

City	# of new members
Atlanta	2
Chicago	2
Cleveland	2
Denver	2
Houston	1
Los Angeles	3
San Diego	1
Twin Cities	1
Morgantown	1
Newark	1
New York	2
Salt Lake City	1
San Francisco	3
Seattle	2
Washington D.C.	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>

## Court rules that biased judge will hear new evidence for Abu-Jamal

BY PETE SEIDMAN

PHILADELPHIA — On September 10, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ordered that a defense appeal for a hearing on new testimony pointing to the innocence of Mumia Abu-Jamal should be decided by the same Philadelphia Common Pleas Court judge who presided over the original frame-up trial in the case. Abu-Jamal is a Black activist who was convicted in 1982 of the murder of Officer Daniel Faulkner. His case has become a focal point of opposition to the death penalty.

The May 22 defense appeal asked the state Supreme Court to order a hearing on new testimony by Veronica Jones. The defense also asked the court not to assign Albert Sabo, the original Common Pleas Court judge in the case, to rule on this appeal. Sabo has been widely condemned, including in editorials by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, for showing extreme bias against Abu-Jamal.

Jones was a key witness at the original trial. She now says that days before she took the stand, Philadelphia police detectives visited her in jail, where she was facing major felony armed robbery charges. The cops, according to Jones, "told me that if I would testify against Jamal and identify Jamal as the shooter I wouldn't have to worry about my pending felony charges." Bowing to this pressure, Jones, called as a defense witness, changed her testimony. Originally she had told investigators that she had seen two men flee the scene immediately after the shooting of Faulkner. But on the stand, she denied her earlier account, seriously undermining the defense.

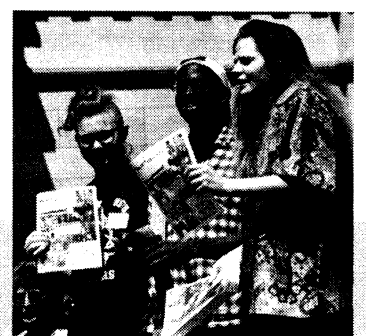
Defense attorneys plan to challenge the Supreme Court's decision to deny their motion for a change of judge. They also plan to demand a reopening of last year's post conviction relief hearing based on the issues of judicial and police misconduct raised by Jones' new testimony.

\$125,000 Pathfinder Fund Chart			
City	Goal	Paid	% of Goal
Brooklyn	\$6,500	\$1,455	22%
Salt Lake City	\$3,600	\$800	22%
Washington, D.C.	\$3,500	\$650	19%
Detroit	\$6,000	\$975	16%
Manhattan	\$8,000	\$985	12%
San Francisco	\$10,000	\$1,077	11%
Miami	\$2,800	\$265	9%
Los Angeles	\$12,000	\$1,013	8%
Pittsburgh	\$6,000	\$425	7%
Chicago	\$7,500	\$500	7%
Boston	\$6,000	\$250	4%
Newark	\$8,500	\$345	4%
Cleveland	\$3,100	\$110	4%
Philadelphia	\$5,000	\$125	3%
Greensboro	\$2,400	\$25	1%
Des Moines	\$2,350	\$20	1%
Peoria	\$2,750	\$20	1%
Twin Cities	\$7,000	\$50	1%
Atlanta	\$2,700	\$0	0%
Birmingham	\$4,500	\$0	0%
Houston	\$3,000	\$0	0%
Morgantown	\$1,500	\$0	0%
Seattle*	\$9,000	\$0	0%
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>\$123,700</b>	<b>\$9,090</b>	<b>7%</b>
Australia	\$750	\$0	
Canada		\$30	
France		\$511	
Greece			
Iceland			
New Zealand	\$4,220	\$378	
Sweden	\$400	\$0	
United Kingdom		\$143	
<b>INTERNATIONAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$129,070</b>	<b>\$10,152</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>20%</b>

Now available: YS pamphlet!

### Political Principles, Campaigns and Rules of Organization

Newly published from the Young Socialists. Contains decisions from the first convention of the YS and revolutionary greetings from the African National Congress Youth League in South Africa, the Union of Young Communists in Cuba, and recently released Mark Curtis. This pamphlet is for all young people who want to fight the injustices bred by capitalism and are looking for a socialist alternative.



1-9 copies, \$4 each; 10 or more copies, \$3 each.  
Checks made payable to  
**Young Socialists**, P.O. Box  
14392, St. Paul, MN 55114.



# Nationalists take the initiative in N. Ireland

BY MARCELLA FITZGERALD

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — As the "inter-party" talks on the future of Northern Ireland were reconvened September 9, no one doubted that London's attempt to gain the initiative in developments here is nothing but a fiasco. It is less possible today than several months ago to justify the exclusion of Sinn Fein, the leading republican political force, from negotiations.

During the summer months the movement to end British colonial rule of northern Ireland registered major steps forward, intensifying the crisis that confronts London. The Unionist forces — a political bloc based on the caste-like privileges of the Protestant population here, which has been promoted over decades by British capitalism — were dealt an important setback.

## Drumcree was a watershed

"Drumcree was a watershed." That was the assessment many Irish nationalists interviewed by *Militant* reporters, during a four-day visit here the first weekend of September, repeated over and over again. "Drumcree turned into a disaster for the Unionists," was another common comment.

These remarks were referring to the gathering of thousands of loyalists (those loyal to the British crown) at Drumcree, a Catholic neighborhood in Portadown, July 8. This action set off two months of fierce confrontations between Unionists attempting to lead sectarian marches through predominantly Catholic communities, with the help of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and the British army, and nationalist residents.

The Unionist marches are aimed at preserving the caste-type system of domination through which Protestants are treated preferentially to Catholics. This system is the cornerstone to British rule. Several residents said it would be like the Ku Klux Klan marching through Black neighborhoods in the South of the United States.

The campaign for the re-routing of the sectarian marches, which numbered 3,000 this summer in an area where 1.5 million people live, became the focal point of the fight for democratic rights in the six-county statelet. Thousands of people, the majority of the population in many villages, were involved for the first time in years in active resistance to the oppression by the British occupied Orange state. The military repression London unleashed in response to the nationalist revolt showed once again that this state can be maintained as part of the United Kingdom only through brute force.

Gerard Rice, one of the leaders of the Lower Ormeau Concerned Community, told a July 15 rally in Newry, "We have no rights, no state, no government and certainly no police. The rights we have are here in front of me. The people are our rights." Some 10,000 people participated in the protest after a week of bloody repression.

That week Michael McGoldrick and Dermot McShane were killed. Several more people were put on life support machines after serious injuries and thousands more were wounded from the wholesale use of plastic bullets by the British army and the RUC against unarmed civilians.

As a result, demands to end British colonial rule gained a wider hearing. The July 15 march and rally in Newry that Rice addressed were called under the banner "Dis-

mantle the Orange State."

Rice was at the forefront of the growing campaigns by residents to prevent the abusive marches by the rightist Orange Order — an all male, all Protestant, secret society — from being forced through predominantly Catholic areas. The rally in Newry was one of many that day called in response to the events of the previous week. The most sizeable actions took place in Belfast and Derry.

Addressing the July 15 Belfast rally, the largest since the 1981 hunger strikes by Irish political prisoners, Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said that "recent events have validated the IRA's refusal to decommission its weapons. If anyone ever wanted a reason why the IRA said it would not surrender its

weapons, A huge security operation was put in place. But as more and more Orangemen gathered on the site beginning the morning of July 8, tension mounted.

Members of the paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force were visibly present. William Wright — one of the most well-known members of the UVF and widely believed to be responsible for many sectarian murders with the aid of the British SAS — stewarded the affair. Wright and David Trimble were filmed meeting together. On the first night of what became a four-day siege, Catholic taxi driver Michael McGoldrick was murdered. Responsibility was later attributed to the UVF's Portadown brigade.

Altogether, several thousand people

hoods July 12. But the RUC had to viciously beat off the streets thousands of local residents to let the loyalists through.

People everywhere were stunned. The siege had not happened quietly this time as in the past. Pictures from Drumcree were beamed all over the world. Working people in Britain, many for the first time, began to see the real face of anti-Catholic violence and discrimination.

Millions watched on TV, for example, what was happening when an RUC jeep moved down the street to allow 40 rightist thugs with bricks, bottles, and sticks to come into Garvaghy Road. Then, as local resident John McKeown described it, "Six houses had their doors broken open and loyalists ran through them, smashing anything in sight and shouting, 'Get out ye's Fenian Bastards'." Many journalists reported case after case of Catholics being driven out of their homes in North Belfast as loyalist gangs set them alight.

## British troops join rightists

The repressive nature of the occupying British army was laid bare once again as Major sent in two extra battalions to northern Ireland. These troops were not used to restrain Unionists or maintain law and order at Drumcree or elsewhere. On the night of July 12 the British army rioted in Derry, firing 1,000 plastic bullets — six-inch-long and one-inch-wide batons that can break limbs or kill — at Catholic protesters.

What happened to Kevin McCafferty is just one example among hundreds. McCafferty, 16, left Squires disco at the centre of Derry and crossed the road to get away

from the hail of plastic bullets. But he was hit in the chest, and as he fell down he was hit again in the face. His father was able to identify him only by his clothes. As McCafferty lay unconscious in a hospital bed, the RUC attacked people at the entrance of the hospital kicking and batoning them and setting the dogs on them.

A week later, McCafferty had not regained consciousness. He is almost certain to lose one eye.

In the two weeks after the assault on Garvaghy Road the British army and RUC fired 6,000 plastic bullets at Drumcree and throughout the six counties to try to intimidate Catholics who responded with protests.

## Turning point for resistance

The turning point for the nationalist resistance came in Derry on August 10. The rightist Apprentice Boys who were due to march along the City walls above the predominantly Catholic Bogside area of the city were compelled to negotiate with residents of the neighborhood, though no agreement was reached on the march route.

Thereafter the loyalists were pushed back in town after town, village after village. The final weekend of the main "marching season," August 30-September 1, passed off quietly. Unionist marches that weekend were in every case held back and limited in scope by the organized resistance of residents. In the course of eight weeks of struggle the nationalists gained the upper hand and definitely conquered the moral high ground in public opinion.

Events since Drumcree showed that the balance of forces has shifted further against the forces of reaction.

Every Catholic, as well as every supporter of an independent and united Ireland, could now see clearly for themselves and explain that whatever the reforms of the last 27 years — since the onset of the civil rights movement in northern Ireland — they were still living in a sectarian "Unionist state for a Unionist people." The British government showed that not only it would not guarantee their safety against loyalist violence, but its army and police would mete out violence to defend the forces of reaction.

But the increased numbers on the nationalist demonstrations and the fact that the British government was forced to pull back from any further violence on the final weekend of the main marching season testified to the growing strength of the movement to

Continued on Page 13



Militant/Pete Clifford (Above)

**Above: Residents protest march by a rightist group through Bellaghy. Right: Police attack Catholic youth during July protests against loyalists marching through their neighborhoods.**

weapons then look back on what happened in the last week." The British government demands the surrender, or decommissioning, of arms by the IRA as a precondition for allowing elected Sinn Fein representatives into the "all-party" talks.

Adams was referring to events since the previous Monday, July 8, at the center of which was the Unionist-organized showdown at Drumcree. The rightists planned to make Drumcree a rallying point for the Protestant caste.

## How events unfold in early July

Their aim was to repeat the events of last year. That was when Unionist Members of Parliament David Trimble and Ian Paisley led some 15,000 Orangemen who descended on Garvaghy Road in Drumcree and finally, after three days, marched through it. Trimble was subsequently elected head of the Official Unionist Party (OUP) whose votes in British parliament keep John Major's government from falling.

This year, after growing protests in Belfast and elsewhere against the routing of marches through predominantly Catholic neighborhoods, the loyalist demonstration was banned by head of the RUC Hugh



throughout the statelet joined the protest at Portadown by blocking roads in many places, preventing people from going to work or school, in an attempt to bring the six counties to a halt. Protestant businessmen parked their company lorries (trucks) across roads under the escort of RUC officers. Aldegreve international airport was closed for several hours. Other loyalist businessmen showed their support by sending supplies to the Orangemen besieging Garvaghy Road.

Two things were demonstrated by these actions. One was the widespread identification of these entrepreneurs with the Orangemen's stand. Despite their daily dealings with many Catholics, these businessmen supported and were prepared to act to defend the Orange regime. Second, it became evident that it was impossible for the Unionists to repeat the actual shut-down of the north of Ireland with a general strike as they had done in the Ulster Workers Council strike of 1974. That strike was backed by loyalist paramilitary groups. The Drumcree showdown was rather an act of desperation than strength, and it backfired.

Loyalist gangs did attack mainly Catholic housing projects in cities and villages other than Portadown. Some 100 armed with handguns and a rifle chased youths through the Colingwood Estate on the night of July 10. They were halted when confronted by an armed defence of the estate. Elsewhere nationalist youth protested against the RUC, burning cars.

Amid mounting violence, threats and the danger of sections of the RUC openly disobeying orders and going over to the Orangemen, the Major government met with leaders of the Unionist parties. RUC chief Annesley then reversed the decision to prevent the Orangemen from marching, "because of the fear of increasing civil unrest and the likelihood that his force would have had to open fire on Orangemen." The RUC of course, an armed unionist organization, could not stomach such a prospect.

The Orangemen marched in triumph through the blockaded Catholic neighbor-

FROM PATHFINDER

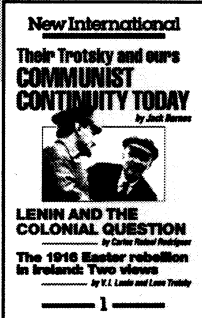
## Ireland and the Irish Question

KARL MARX, FREDERICK ENGELS

For workers in Britain, Marx and Engels explain, "the national emancipation of Ireland is no question of abstract justice or humanitarian sentiment, but the first condition of their own social emancipation." \$19.95

MARX ENGELS

Ireland and the Irish Question



## The 1916 Easter Rebellion in Ireland

TWO VIEWS BY V.I. LENIN AND LEON TROTSKY  
In *New International* no. 1

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax (212) 727-0150. Please include \$3 to cover shipping and handling.

# Clinton is best for cops

Continued from front page

islation marked a shift — at least for now — of the campaigns of the two big-business parties from economic policy to what right-wing politician Patrick Buchanan has dubbed the “culture war.” Waged with conflicts and contradictions within the bourgeois parties over its extent and pace, the so-called culture war is a necessary part of the ideological preparation by the employers for further assaults on Social Security and other conquests by the working class.

As with capitalist austerity, Clinton’s “New Democrats” have taken the lead on these issues, shifting the boundaries of bourgeois social policy further to the right.

## The best friend of cops

“Rank-and-file police officers have never had a better friend in the White House than Bill Clinton,” Gil Gallegos, Fraternal Order of Police president, said in a statement.

In the month prior to this endorsement, Clinton had received the backing of two smaller police groups — the International Union of Police Associations and the National Association of Police Organizations. Together with the Fraternal Order, these groups represent 70 percent of all police officers in the country.

In his speech to the Fraternal Order gathering, Clinton bragged about his record of running a “law and order” administration, which includes expanding the police force nationwide by 100,000. “We passed the three-strikes-and-you-are-out law,” he said. “We are indicting people, convicting people under it.” Clinton was referring to legislation that mandates life imprisonment without parole for people convicted of three federal felonies. “We expanded the death penalty,” the Democratic president boasted.

The administration’s “anticrime” and “anti-terrorism” bills, signed by Clinton in 1994 and the spring of 1996 respectively, did expand the use of the death penalty to include 60 federal crimes, up from two; narrowed the right of appeal of the convicted, especially those on death row; and pushed back freedom from illegal search and seizure more so than other recent administrations even dreamed of.

In April of this year, Clinton signed legislation mandating the government to deport immigrants previously convicted of a felony or misdemeanor without due process. And in May, he signed a nationwide “Megan’s Law,” which requires states to publicize the names of persons convicted of a sex offense after their release from prison, in effect adding years to their sentences without the right to a trial or a jury.

## Probes against democratic rights

On September 9, Clinton asked Congress to adopt a \$1.1-billion package of new “anti-terrorist” measures. These include a special computer tracking system to flag passengers authorities claim have “suspicious” travel patterns or convictions on their record. The names, addresses, telephone numbers, travel histories, and billing records of passengers would be run through a giant database that might lead to a thorough search of the luggage of those deemed suspicious. Hiring hundreds of new agents for the FBI, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and increasing the staff for federal prosecutors and courts are among Clinton’s latest proposals.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) took issue with the notion of passenger “profiling” by federal agents. “At a ticket counter, airplane passengers check their baggage, not their rights,” ACLU legislative counsel Gregory Nojeim stated at a hearing before the Aviation Safety and Security Commission, established by Clinton days after the TWA Flight 800 explosion.

The new proposals by Clinton, however, have little chance of being approved by Congress right now. The campaign by the U.S. rulers and big-business press to stir up a “terrorism” scare has continued to fall flat. Two months after the July 17 TWA crash, with 70 percent of the plane recovered off the ocean floor, federal authorities have had to admit the likelihood that a mechanical failure, not a bomb, caused the explosion.

When Clinton proposed a similar package of “antiterrorist” measures in August, Republican House majority leader Newton Gingrich was able to posture as a defender of civil liberties by organizing to vote down

the White House proposal to increase government wiretapping powers.

Many Republicans had a similar response to the September 9 proposals by Clinton. “This whole rapid-response concept has gotten out of hand,” said Kenneth Quinn, who was FAA general counsel under former President George Bush. “These are all very expensive, intrusive solutions in search of a problem. We still have not determined a probable cause on TWA 800.”

Clinton’s proposals maintain the Democratic administration’s position at the forefront of probes by the employing class against democratic rights.

## Defense of Marriage Act

This was also the case with the passage of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act.

This bill targets certain individuals — that is gays and lesbians — as less than fully equal before the law by allowing state governments to refuse to recognize marriages performed legally in another state other than those between a man and a woman. The act also for the first time defines marriage in federal law as the “legal union between one man and one woman” and labels “spouse” as “a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or wife.”

Conservative Republicans and other reactionary forces were stirred into action last year and introduced this legislation on the mere expectation that the state of Hawaii may begin permitting marriages between gays and lesbians.

Early this year Clinton jumped into the forefront of the controversy, promising to sign the bill. And many Democrats in Congress campaigned vigorously for its passage. “Let us defend the oldest institution, the institution of marriage between male and female as set forth in the Holy Bible,” declared Senator Robert Byrd, Democrat of West Virginia. “The permanent relationship between men and women is a keystone to the stability, strength, and health of human society.”

The House of Representatives approved the bill in July by a vote of 342 to 67. The Senate voted 85-14 in favor of an identical version two months later. The measure now awaits the president’s promised signature.

This bill permits abrogation of the U.S. constitution. Article IV of that document requires that “full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state.”

In a similar way, the so-called miscegenation laws, barring marriage between a white person and a Black person, were enforced in the states of the Old Confederacy as if, de facto, there were no constitutional obligation to recognize matrimony between whites and Blacks performed in other states. Under the impact of the massive civil rights battles, those laws were struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967.

That high court decision involved a couple, Richard and Mildred Loving, who had been married in Washington, D.C., and then arrested and prosecuted for miscegenation when they returned to live in their home state of Virginia. When the couple was charged in 1958, miscegenation laws were in effect in 17 states.

The Lovings were convicted, among other charges, of violating the following Virginia statute: “If any white person and colored person shall go out of this State, for the purpose of being married, and with the intention of returning, and be married out of it, and afterwards return to and reside in it, cohabiting as man and wife, they shall be punished as provided in” the state anti-miscegenation law. The 1967 decision in the *Loving v. Virginia* case struck down the Virginia law on the basis that it violated the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment to the constitution.

Before the Senate approved the Defense of Marriage Act, 15 states had enacted legislation banning or denying recognition to same-sex marriages, or doing both. In addition, the governors of Alabama and Mississippi had signed executive orders to the same effect.

By barring federal recognition to marriages between gays and lesbians, the Defense of Marriage Act singles out a layer of the population and denies them federal entitlements — such as the right of a surviving spouse to continue receiving a portion of Social Security, Medicare, veterans’, or



Militant/Nelson Blackstock

Youth in LA protest the beating of Mexican immigrants by border cops in April 1996.

other benefits of a deceased partner. It is thus part of the attack on the social wage of working people, which Clinton is leading with the signing of the Welfare Reform Bill.

In the Senate, 32 Democrats joined all 53 Republicans in supporting the antigay bill. Fourteen Democrats voted no, and one was absent. Those voting against the bill included several of the established liberal Democrats like Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and Tom Kerrey of Nebraska, as well as Daniel Moynihan of New York, who was also among those who criticized the welfare law.

The bulk of Democratic Senators voting yes ranged from “New Democrats,” associated with the Democratic Leadership Council that Clinton presided before his election to the White House, such as Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut; to conservative Democrats like Robert Byrd of West Virginia; and Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, who is on the left-wing of the Democrats.

The same day the Defense of Marriage Act was approved, the Senate also narrowly defeated a bill that would ban discrimination against homosexuals in hiring in most circumstances. The vote in this case was 50 to 49, with 41 Democrats and 8 Republicans favoring it and 5 Democrats and 45 Republicans opposing it.

Conservatives hailed these votes as victories. “This is a huge string of victories for the pro-family movement,” declared Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition.

## The scourge of liberalism

Those liberals whose credentials among opponents of antigay measures remained high took the lead to channel disaffected voters back into the fold of the Democratic Party. Senator Kennedy, who opposed the Defense of Marriage Act and sponsored the anti-discrimination bill, attempted to paint a rosy picture for gay rights advocates by pointing to the narrow defeat of the measure that would bar discrimination in hiring of homosexuals. “We’re on the move — we’ve got momentum,” said Kennedy.

The Senator from Massachusetts was also one of the two sponsors of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, touted by liberal Democrats as an antidote to the Welfare Reform Bill, which eliminated social programs the working class won during the labor battles of the 1930s. But many elements of this bill converge with the assault on social security most overtly registered in the welfare law. By mandating the establishment of so-called private medical savings accounts, for example, the “health insurance” reform opens a wedge to begin gutting Medicare as a government-funded entitlement for all.

The bipartisan measure, sponsored by Kennedy and Republican Senator Nancy Kassebaum, became law with Clinton’s signature August 21.

Taking stock of Clinton’s record, Ralph Reed told the press at the opening of the Christian Coalition’s conference September 14: “He signed welfare reform... he signed legislation outlawing pornography on the Internet, he has talked about school uniforms... I think you can make a strong case that Bill Clinton is running the most culturally conservative campaign since Ronald Reagan.”

Dole and his running mate, Jack Kemp,

have continued to push their economic growth theme as an alternative to Clinton’s “status quo” at a time of persistent job insecurity, declining real wages, and growing social inequality. “Bob Dole and I have set out to expand our economy,” Kemp said in a speech to the Christian Coalition conference September 14. Kemp is also persisting on the Republican campaign effort to appeal to Blacks.

## Kemp-Dole ticket trails in polls

In his September 14 speech, Kemp praised the Coalition for “your efforts to help rebuild black churches burned by hate.” He was referring to the racist arsons of more than 70 Black churches in the South since last year. “If this movement and my political party truly seek and earn the respect and support of African-Americans, our house divided will finally be healed.”

At the same time, Kemp explained his support for the Defense of Marriage Act, saying, “The future of our nation will be determined by the state of this union... the union of a man and a woman.” Kemp also stated his support for a ban on so-called partial birth abortions, a measure Clinton vetoed earlier this year. Dole, who introduced Kemp to the conference, vowed in his brief remarks to sign the anti-abortion measure if he wins the presidency.

Prior to this gathering, Dole had been criticized by Reed and other conservative and rightist figures for not focusing his campaign on “family and faith” values. Initially, Dole had indicated he would not attend the Christian Coalition conference, but decided to appear at the last minute.

At the Villanova University appearance two days later, Dole presented a series of tougher “anticrime” measures. But his effort was overshadowed by Clinton’s show in Cincinnati. Dole has also pushed for including an amendment allowing states to deny free public education to the children of undocumented immigrants in an immigration bill currently before Congress. Such a provision would most likely delay any action on the legislation until after the election. Both the House and Senate versions of the bill already include provisions doubling the number of Border Patrol agents, denying undocumented workers almost all public benefits, and restricting legal immigrants’ access to benefits.

Seven weeks before the November 5 elections, the Republican ticket continues to trail substantially behind the Democratic slate in the polls. The Clinton administration is also trying to take advantage of recently released economic figures reflecting the high point of the upturn in the current capitalist business cycle.

Unemployment in August fell to 5.1 percent from 5.4 percent the previous month. The Gross Domestic Product grew at 4.8 percent in the second quarter of 1996, raising expectations of annual growth nearing 3 percent, up from earlier forecasts of 2.4 percent for this year.

## Weakening of Perot’s movement

On September 17, the Commission on Presidential Debates announced that billionaire Ross Perot had no realistic chance of winning the presidential election and would not be invited to join Clinton and Dole in this year’s debates. Perot, who received 19

Continued on Page 12



# Quebec youth visit Cuba, see the truth

BY SÉBASTIEN DESAUTELS  
AND PATRICIA O'BEIRNE

LIMONAR, Cuba — "I heard about the Québec-Cuba Brigade in a class at school. I thought that going to help the Cubans was a noble cause; the Cubans were really in misery. What struck me the most was the unity of people in the countryside, because it was different in the city. They are an intelligent people, enthusiastic and they have the will to improve their situation. I saw an example of real communism."

That's how Hironnelle Melançon Gignac, a 22-year-old university student, described her decision to join a work brigade to this Caribbean island. She and 20 other youth from Montreal, Trois-Rivières, and Shawinigan participated in the three-week trip from July 28 to August 18.

The international volunteers worked on the Horacio Rodriguez cooperative in Limonar, Matanzas province, planting sugar cane for the next harvest. We were hosted by the Union of Young Communists (UJC) and housed at the cooperative's camp along with workers mobilized by the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC).

We participated in numerous meetings with leaders of the CTC in the province of Matanzas. Reynaldo Valdés Grillo, first secretary of the union federation in the province, described how workers have confronted the "special period" in Cuba. This economic crisis was provoked by the collapse of aid and trade at preferential prices with the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries in 1989.

Grillo described the shortages of food, medication, and financial credit that resulted. "Everything we have here is not perfect," he said, "but the majority of Cuban workers are convinced that socialism is the model that suits them best."

One brigade member asked how workers are mobilized to work in agriculture. "The labor movement, in response to the labor shortage in agriculture, developed a process of discussion with union members," Grillo said. "The workers are conscious volunteers who decided to leave their regular jobs for a while and are incorporated for a set period of time in a variety of tasks in the fields. There are also material and moral incentives to encourage them."

One of these workers was Miguel Pérez Alfonso, a mechanic in Matanzas before the special period, who volunteered to work in sugar cane full time when the crisis hit. He is still doing so six years later and has been recognized three years in a row as the best cane-cutter in the province.

Another brigade member asked Grillo about the benefits of being unionized. "In a socialist society, the unions have a lot of power," the CTC leader said. "In Cuba, 96 percent of workers are unionized voluntarily.... The companies must place their goods to the service of society, and the union ensures that this takes place. We participate in the main decisions of the country. We undertook a process of discussion at the grassroots level and workers debated measures to deal with the economic crisis, such as the expansion of tourism and the legalization of the U.S. dollar." Their opinions weighed heavily on decisions made by the government.



Militant/Monica Jones

**Montreal picket protests U.S. embargo and threats against Cuba in March, 1996.**

Volunteers were able to learn about Cuba's health care system through visiting a polyclinic in Limonar and other medical facilities. Several brigade members were impressed by the fact that, despite the economic difficulties, Cuba has maintained accessible health care and education for all — unlike Canada where the government is cutting down the limited social services that exist. The head doctor at Limonar said that there is one doctor for every 120 families throughout the island.

A lively discussion broke out when Marco, from Switzerland, asked, "Is it true that people with AIDS in Cuba are confined to sanitariums?" The doctor explained that in the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, there were clinics established for infected people, where they lived and received medical care. He described how the system changed. Now people with AIDS can live

at home and continue to receive treatment, including counseling on safe sexual practices. There have been some 1,750 known AIDS cases in all of Cuba to date.

A visit to a genetic dairy complex provided further evidence of how the Cuban people have organized themselves to reverse the drop in industrial and agricultural production during the first years of the special period. The complex was created in 1959 when peasants pooled their lands together, and in return, received electricity, running water, and schools. In 1987, the complex produced 27 million liters of milk, dropping to 8 million liters in the last few years.

Workers at the complex described how production has increased in the last three years. One center, which was established in 1988, genetically alters insects that damage crops and then releases them into nature to eliminate the pests. The head scientist ex-

plained that there are now some 200 such centres in Cuba that are finding long-term solutions to the lack of pesticides.

This resourcefulness impressed Veronique Aubé, an 18-year old science student from Shawinigan. "What we hear in the news about Cuba isn't the same as what we saw," she said. "I found that Cuba is coping pretty well in sciences and research with few resources and materials, and that if they had those resources, they would be very advanced."

Another highlight of our stay was a visit to Playa Girón (Bay of Pigs), where a 1961 invasion by U.S.-organized Cuban mercenaries was crushed within 72 hours by the Cuban militia and revolutionary armed forces. Joss Agustín Portillo, a 58-year-old worker at a fertilizer factory in Matanzas, accompanied us. He was 14 when he joined the July 26 Movement and was a student in a military school in Matanzas at the moment of the Bay of Pigs invasion. He gave a detailed description of how the Cuban people crushed the counterrevolutionaries.

This visit had a big impact on many brigade members. "Now I understand more why the U.S. government is so determined to crush Cuba," said Marie Claude Vanier, a student at Cap de la Madeleine. "History classes in school don't teach us anything!"

Brigade participants vowed to get involved in other projects to build solidarity with Cuba upon their return — such as the next Québec-Cuba Brigade, and the World Festival of Youth and Students that will take place here in the summer of 1997. "I was lucky to have had the opportunity to open my eyes to the truth about Cuba on this trip," said Véronique Deshaies, a 19-year-old student at Ste-Angèle-de-Laval. "I want other people to have the same chance."

*Sébastien Desautels is a member of the Young Socialists (YS) in Montreal. Patricia O'Beirne is a member of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers union Local 205 and the YS in Montreal.*

## Minnesota youth recount Cuba trip

BY MICHAEL PENNOCK

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota — "I learned that Cubans have much to teach the world," said Doug Nelson. He was one of 29 youth from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area who went to Cuba this past summer as part of the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange. A dozen spoke of their experiences to 55 people at a report-back meeting here September 7.

"To create a new society in Cuba," Nelson said, "workers and farmers had to take state power. This is their message to the world. And their new society educates and cares for its people, houses them, and nurtures all the children. All in an underdeveloped country in the middle of harsh economic conditions."

Eli Johnson was the youngest member of the exchange. He is a 15-year-old high school student. In his talk he conveyed a sense of the excitement "we all felt in Cuba. For me, it was when I sat down to write an article on my trip for the newspaper I was interning at this summer. I was supposed to write 1,250 words," he said, "but I turned in over 4,000."

Damon Tinnon, one of the organizers of the delegation from this city, said, "What impressed me most was that there is a real, live fight over ideas in Cuba. There are those who want more foreign capitalist investment. But there are more people who want to defend their dignity and defend the socialist character of their revolution."

Paul Pederson also spoke about human dignity and the different values generated in a society run by the working class. "I'm a music student at the University of Minnesota," Pederson explained. "My teachers are trying to get across to us the idea of the 'starving artist' in this country." He said there are only a few ways for musicians to make a living with their art in the United States.

"But one teacher had a solution for us," he said. "He encouraged us to join the U.S. Army and play in their bands. He said it's a good wage, plus you get medical benefits."

"Cuba showed me a different road. I met people there who could be both musicians and revolutionaries. I thought I'd like to live

in Cuba."

After returning to this country, Pederson said he's come to a different conclusion. "I found out there's work to be done here, defending Cuba in the United States. And more importantly, making our own revolution and taking power."

"Before I can be a musician in this coun-

try, I also have to be a revolutionary."

Youth Exchange participants at the meeting signed up other young people in the audience for a trip to Cuba next summer to attend the 14th World Festival of Students and Youth. The international event will take place in the Caribbean country July 28-August 5, 1997.

## Editor of 'La Gaceta' invited to tour U.S.

CHICAGO — Norberto Codina, editor of the Cuban magazine *La Gaceta de Cuba* and a well-known poet, has been invited to speak at more than a dozen universities in the New York and Chicago areas between October 6 and 20. Codina will be speaking on the theme of art and culture in Cuba today.

This will be Codina's second U.S. visit. In October of 1995, he did a successful series of lectures on the same subject in Los Angeles, Houston, New York, and Washington, D.C. He addressed audiences at numerous campuses and cultural institutions.

*La Gaceta de Cuba* is a leading forum for discussion in Cuba on culture, politics, and the challenges facing the revolution today. It has published contributions and lively exchanges on a range of topics, from the works of Cuban-American poets to Marxism in Latin America today, to attitudes toward gays in Cuba.

Codina's speaking engagements are being coordinated by Dr. Félix Masud-Piloto, director of the Center for Latino Research at DePaul University in Chicago. Codina has been asked to speak as part of a Latin American cultural festival at DePaul.

In the Chicago area the Cuban writer has also been invited by Frank Safford, director of Latin American-Caribbean Studies at Northwestern University; Beatriz Riefkohl, program coordinator of the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Chicago; and Lizzette Richardson, director of the Latino Center

at Malcolm X College.

In New York, Codina has received invitations from Katherine Roberts-Hite, acting director of the Institute of Latin American and Iberian Studies at Columbia University; Frances Fox Piven, political science professor at the Graduate School and University Center of the City University of New York; José Torres-Santiago, chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican Studies Program at Hunter College; and Brenda Greene, chair of the language and literature department at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn.

Before his U.S. visit, Codina will be attending a conference in Montreal on culture in Cuba, as well as speaking in other cities of Quebec, from September 22 to October 6.

Codina submitted his application for a U.S. visa, together with letters of invitation from professors in New York and Chicago, within the normal deadlines to receive his visa before departing for Canada September 22. Officials at the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, however, later returned the invitation letters, claiming falsely that the professors had not indicated their telephone or fax numbers. The invitation letters have been re-submitted.

Masud-Piloto reported that the professors who invited Codina were contacting the U.S. State Department to protest the unjustified stalling and to ask that the Cuban writer be granted a visa on time.

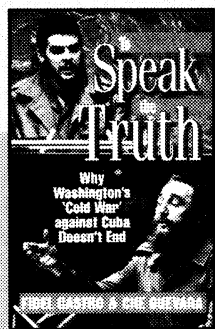
—FRANK FORRESTAL

from Pathfinder

### 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**



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

# UAW, Ford reach tentative contract deal

BY FRANK FORRESTAL  
AND JOHN SARGE

DETROIT — Two days after the September 14 bargaining deadline, Ford Motor Co. and the United Auto Workers reached a tentative contract agreement.

Terms of the accord were not released as of press time. But the media reported that the three-year contract for the first time sets a permanently lower wage for some Ford parts workers. At the same time the company agreed to keep at least 95 percent of the union members in each of its 49 plants. Ford, however, retains the right to dip below the UAW employment level if auto sales stumble. The company employs 105,000 workers and is second largest among General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler.

Initial reports in the big-business press painted the agreement as favorable to the union. "Ford, UAW agree to a landmark deal," was the headline of the September 17 *Chicago Tribune*. The accord "offers generous economic gains and sets new precedents for preserving jobs that are likely to cause problems for General Motors Corp.," said the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

"Auto industry and labor experts say they are stunned by the far-reaching implications of Ford's promise to keep its UAW hourly employment at 95% of the current level for the next three years, even as workers retire or otherwise leave," said a front-page article, in the September 18 *Wall Street Journal*. "The worry is that the Ford agreement could open the way to labor-contract terms that would limit industrial companies' ability to reduce their work forces."

CNN reported September 17 that the proposed agreement represents "a sad day for shareholders."

From the beginning of negotiations this summer, union officials made no strike preparations in UAW-organized plants. Talks continued after the expiration of the old contract without a formal extension and with production unaffected. The contracts at Chrysler and GM were extended on September 13, allowing either side the right to end the extension with three days notice.

For decades the union has negotiated a contract with one of the Big Three and then got the other two to sign a similar agreement. UAW tops are giving different signals this year, however. UAW president Stephen Yokich has indicated from the beginning of negotiations he is willing to tailor contracts to suit the needs of the different auto makers.

The last national strike against Ford was in 1976. Union officials at Ford discarded the concept of "no contract, no work" in 1987, when they told workers to stay on the job after the contract expired. This was repeated during in 1990 and 1993.

The UAW international executive board was scheduled to present the settlement to the Ford UAW council, made up of 300 local union officials, September 19. Once the pact is approved by the council, it will be presented to the rank and file. Yokich said he expects that the ratification vote will be held by September 29.

So far, it has been difficult for workers in the plants to get information on the agreement. At the Ford plant in Chicago, as well as other assembly and parts plants, workers have been passing around news articles on the settlement.

## Highlights of settlement

From the reports in the media, the main

highlights of the agreement are as follows:

Ford agreed to guarantee the jobs of at least 95 percent of UAW members in each of its 49 plants during the life of the three-year contract. The company had proposed earlier an 85 percent level of protected employment. Past Big Three contracts provided some wage protection for laid-off UAW members, but never guaranteed a minimum number of jobs. According to news accounts, however, the pact includes an escape clause scuttling this guarantee during a downturn in sales.

GM, the largest automaker, is aiming to cut 50,000 to 70,000 jobs to be as productive as Ford. But 5 percent reduction of the workforce the Ford settlement provides would amount to only 11,000 jobs. During recent negotiations, Yokich said, "We are going after an agreement that all companies can live with, and that's where we are." According to the *Wall Street Journal*, GM is "clearly hoping that the UAW will give the company wiggle room — escape clauses and exceptions — to trim its workforce."

Ford was not successful in extending the so-called "grow-in" two-tier wage period from three to six years. The new pact maintains the terms of contract signed in 1993, where new production workers start at 70 percent of full union rate and take three years to reach top pay. Even at this scale, Ford would save an estimated \$70 million for every 1,000 workers hired.

Over the next seven years, 242,000 of the UAW's 400,000 members in the Big Three plants will face retirement. The two-tier wage period is unpopular in the plants, especially among the thousands of new hires. In its latest offer to the union, GM demanded a starting wage 50 percent of union scale and a 10-year period to reach top rate.

The UAW agreed to a permanent two-tier wage structure for new hires in parts



Militant/Steve Marshal  
Walkout forced General Motors to hire more workers at the AC Delco plant in Flint, Michigan in 1995. GM is now aiming to cut up to 70,000 jobs.

plants. These workers will be hired at approximately \$9 per hour, about half the current hourly pay in the Big Three.

UAW members are to receive a \$2,000 lump-sum payment the first year, and increases of 3 percent each of the next two years. This represents the first time since 1984 that Big Three workers will receive annual wage increases. According to one news account, "Ford wanted to stay closer to the old contract that allowed a 3 percent pay raise the first year and lump sum payments for the final two years." UAW members do not favor bonuses because they hold down wages and benefits, which are figured on hourly wage rates.

Pensions for UAW retirees after 30 years of employment will rise by 11 percent to \$2,260 per month. Discussions in the plants are just beginning on these issues.

In a related development, the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW), representing 53,000 members, reached a tentative settlement with Chrysler September 18. According to initial media reports, the union backed off the company's demands to outsource some of its production to non-CAW factories.

Frank Forrestal is a member of UAW Local 551 at Ford in Chicago. John Sarge is a member of UAW Local 900 at Ford in Wayne, Michigan.

## Black political convention announced

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, DC — Some 12,000 voting and non-voting observer delegates are expected to participate in a national political convention in St. Louis. The meeting has been called by the National African American Leadership Summit (NAALS) and the Million Man March Inc.

The two groups were sponsors of the march that resulted in a massive outpouring of Blacks in Washington last year on October 16. Another event is being planned to take place at the United Nations plaza in New York City this October 16.

The convention will be held at the America's Center TWA Dome. It will open with a concert at the Clyde Jordan Stadium in the nearby predominantly Black city of East St. Louis. The East St. Louis city government gave official backing to the Million Man March and organized busses for the event out of City Hall. Among the featured speakers schedule to address the convention are Alabama Democratic congressman Earl Hilliard, Columbia University professor Manning Marable, National of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and NAALS convenor Benjamin Chavis. The event is open to poor and oppressed members of other ethnic groups, according to Chavis.

A pre-convention planning conference on "National Issues and Public Policy" was

held in July where a programmatic document entitled "The National Agenda 1996: Executive Summary" was approved. Chavis said the document initially addresses the interests of the black community, "but also would be broad enough to allow Hispanics, Asian, Pacific Islanders, Native and Arab Americans and even whites to stand on a solid agenda."

Chavis compared the St. Louis convention with the National Black Political Convention held in Gary, Indiana in 1972. That meeting was the most significant and representative of its kind in decades, drawing 8,000 activists from across the United States. The Gary convention came on the heels of the massive social movement of Blacks in the 1960s.

None of the material on the St. Louis gathering proposes independent political action outside the capitalist two-party system. Conference organizers have circulated copies of the policy statement to delegates of the Republican, Democratic, and Reform party conventions.

Chavis stated that the convention would seek to create "a third force" to register Black voters and pressure the big business parties as well as the Reform Party of Ross Perot. "Then comes November — D-Day," he said at a July 27 news conference in Chicago. "Our focus would not be who to vote for, but what to vote for," Chavis told *The Final Call*.

Among the agenda items to be discussed at the national political convention are: Independent political parties; political prisoners and opposition to the death penalty; U.S. foreign policy toward African and Caribbean nations; and the fight against the burning of Black churches.

Chavis said the convention will probably issue a condemnation of United States and United Nations sanctions against Libya, Sudan, Iraq, Nigeria and Cuba.

### Convention will attract layer of fighters

The September 27-29 convention will attract a layer of workers and youth looking for a way to fight the effects of a stepped up bipartisan assault on a half century of gains by working people in this country. This assault has resulted in a weakening of affirmative action in employment and education. Agencies like Head Start which provided educational, daycare and health care programs for preschool children have been

gutted. Last month, with the backing of both capitalist parties, president William Clinton signed legislation which he said was the best chance at achieving his goal of "ending welfare as we know it."

The assault on social programs has been coupled with a deepening attack on civil and democratic rights. The Clinton administration's "antirime" and "antiterrorism" bills have expanded the use of the death penalty; narrowed the right of appeal especially for those on death row; and pushed back freedom from illegal search and seizure.

These attacks fall hardest on Black, Latino, and immigrant workers and other oppressed groups. The so-called welfare reform bill contained a special provision aimed at immigrant workers. An estimated 1 million immigrants with residence papers will be cut off from food stamps.

These assaults have deepened the alienation among working people with the two major capitalist parties. "TO HELL WITH THE LESSOR OF TWO EVILS — It's Time For A Third Political Party!" read the September 4 headline editorial in the New York *City Sun* a prominent Black weekly. "The Republicans will deliver nothing no matter what Colin Powell and Jack Kemp say. The Democrats have taken advantage of us for years," the editorial stated. The article ends with information on the Democratic Party primary and which local Democrat to vote for, "regardless of their shortcomings."

### Republicans court Black vote

"My goal for America is that by the end of the century, 50 percent of all African-Americans in the country is voting Democratic and 50 percent is voting Republican," said Republican vice-presidential candidate Jack Kemp. At the end of August he made campaign stops designed to give the Republican ticket higher visibility in the Black community. Kemp spoke to a Black journalist conference in Nashville, community leaders in South Central Los Angeles and Southside Chicago, and Harlem, New York. On September 6 Kemp spoke at Sylvia's, a popular restaurant in Harlem, to an audience that included Conrad Muhammad, New York spokesman for Farrakhan. "I think he [Kemp] is a man that Black America must look at very seriously," said Muhammad. "He adds a lot to the Dole ticket."

**Pathfinder books on struggle for Black liberation**

**Independent Black Political Action 1954-1978: The Struggle To Break with the Democratic and Republican Parties**  
MAC WARREN \$8.00

**The National Black Independent Political Party: An Important Step Forward for Working People**  
NAN BAILEY, OTHERS \$5.00

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



# Professor branded as terrorist for his ideas

BY JANET POST

MIAMI — Sami Al-Arian, an engineering professor at the University of South Florida [USF] in Tampa, was to have resumed teaching when the university opened its fall term. Instead, Al-Arian is on a forced paid leave-of-absence, accused by the U.S. government of "connections to terrorism" in the Middle East.

Al-Arian has taught computer engineering at USF since 1986 and leads a group called the Islamic Committee for Palestine (ICP) that he explains was formed to "expose some of the atrocities of Israel during the *intifada*," the Palestinian uprising of the late 1980's and early 1990's.

Al-Arian came under investigation when ICP fund-raising donations were rumored as going to the Islamic Jihad. An FBI agent also claimed that phone calls had been made from Al-Arian's home to "phone numbers associated with known alien terrorist suspects," including two people investigators claim were linked with the World Trade Center bombing, though charges were never laid against them. In November of last year, Al-Arian's home and offices were searched by FBI agents for six hours, during which they carted away bank statements, airline ticket records, telephone bills, tapes, and computer disks.

The government also claims that Al-Arian failed to mention his political involvement with different organizations on his application for U.S. citizenship. He faces a Florida state investigation for voting in a 1994 Hillsborough County election after receiving his voter registration card that officials say he should have known was an error.

The *St. Petersburg Times* reported that USF-hired investigator William Smith, former university president, has "found no evidence" beyond Al-Arian's Palestinian nationalist views to link him to terrorism." Smith interviewed journalist Steven Emerson, author of the PBS documentary called "Jihad in America," who claims to document "proof of terrorist ties" by Al-Arian from a videotape of an Islamic rally and copies of a Palestinian magazine.

Al-Arian is also the founder of the World and Islam Studies Enterprise (WISE) in Tampa. This group worked with the university's Committee for Middle Eastern Studies to co-sponsor programs, train and finance graduate students, and share libraries. After the Persian Gulf War, the groups sponsored six conferences.

When the organizations invited speakers such as Hasan Turabi from Sudan to speak on Islamic law and Rashid Ghanoushi from Tunisia, "one of the most controversial Islamic movement leaders," according to the South Florida *Sun Sentinel*, the programs were heatedly contested by some as "anti-Israel." Ghanoushi's visa was denied.

In May, Al-Arian's speaking engagement at an academic conference at Villanova University in Philadelphia was canceled after the Anti-Defamation League warned the university of violence if he spoke.

Al-Arian is also accused by immigration agents of assisting U.S. entry for two USF instructors who worked with WISE. One instructor, Basheer Nafi, was forced to leave the United States this year under threat of deportation even though he had a three-year work permit and was working as a journal

editor in Washington, D.C.

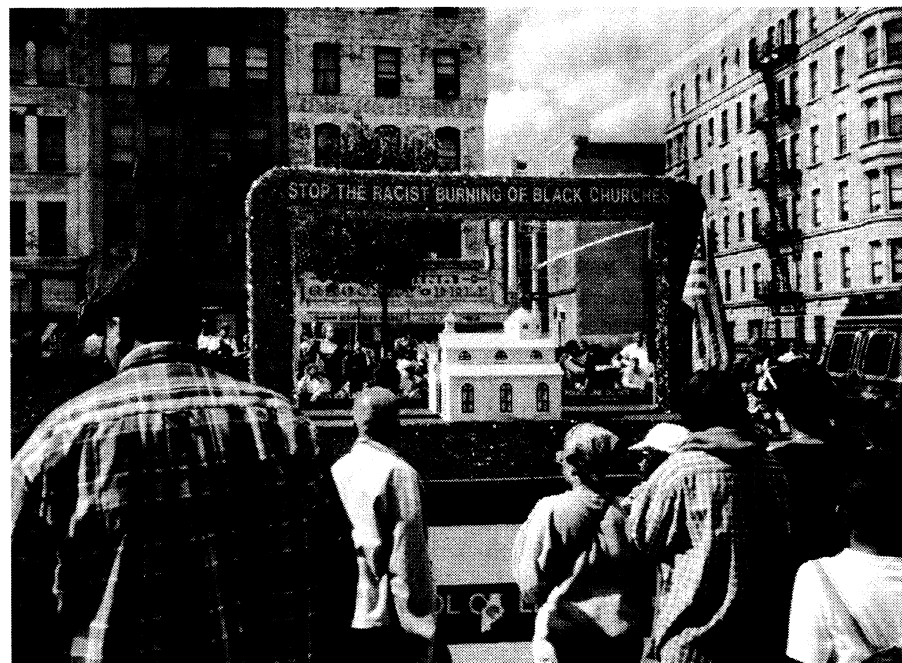
The other professor was Ramadam Abdullah Shallah, who holds a doctorate in economics from the University of Durham in England, taught Middle Eastern studies at USF, and edited an academic journal for WISE. Last year Shallah returned to the Middle East to help lead the Islamic Jihad when a founder of its Palestinian section, Fathi Shikaki, was assassinated, presumably by Israeli agents. Shallah helped lead a funeral march of 3,000 through the streets of Damascus.

In the May 6 issue of *Newsweek*, a senior U.S. Justice Department official called Shallah a "poster child" for the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act that President William Clinton signed April 24. The bill authorizes the government to ban from the United States individuals from other countries who have links to organizations branded as "terrorist" by Washington, even if there is no evidence they broke any laws. It calls for the prosecution of anyone in the United States accused of raising funds for any such organization. The law also allows the government to deport those accused of terrorism based on secret evidence.

The FBI and Immigration and Naturalization Service have refused to name any criminal acts by Al-Arian and, as a U.S. resident, he is fighting the denial of his U.S. citizenship.

At the end of the spring 1996 term at USF, the university received an unidentified bomb threat from "The Leader of the War Purgers," claiming to have ties with Hamas in Palestine and the Islamic Jihad and demanded an apology to Shallah. The school moved its week of final exams ahead and closed the school during the period of the threatened bombing. There is no evidence that the letter was tied to any pro-Arab organizations or its members.

The university has come under fire for



Militant/Eric Simpson

Annual African-American Day parade of thousands of people in Harlem, New York, September 15. Some participants in the parade carried banners protesting budget cutbacks and the series of 70 racist church burnings that took place in the South of the United States since January 1995.

allowing the association between WISE and the Committee for Middle Eastern Studies. A *St. Petersburg Times* editorial took aim at USF vice-president of public relations Harry Battson, who defended the association, saying, "We espouse diversity, we espouse understanding different cultures, and we will always do that."

"The Islamic Jihad does a lot of things," said Battson. "There may be a terrorist element to it, but it is also an important cultural group in the Middle East."

In response the editorial called on someone "to explain to Battson the difference between diversity and terrorism."

Officials at the school are also discussing a proposal to fingerprint some 10,000 professors and staff members. "I find it a horrifying thing," said Sara Mandell, president of the local faculty union and a religion professor. "It's insulting, but it's also very, very

dangerous."

Today, Al-Arian is teaching at the Islamic Academy of Florida, a school supported by one several mosques in the Tampa area. After the *Tampa Tribune* published a photo of the mosque and the school, a mosque member wrote a letter of protest to the paper fearing the photo and tone of *Tribune* articles were inflaming the already heated anti-Islamic propaganda.

Meanwhile, Al-Arian's brother-in law, Mazin Al-Najjar, a former USF student who also taught at the university and was the volunteer executive director of WISE, is currently involved in deportation hearings in Florida around his own legal status. Al-Najjar, 39, was born in Gaza and came to the United States to attend school in 1982.

Janet Post is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 368.

## Gov't okays ValuJet over union complaints

BY GLEN SWANSON

MIAMI — On September 15 the U.S. Transportation Department rejected an appeal by the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA) to review the process that led to ValuJet Airlines' clearance to resume operations. It marks the clearance of one obstacle to ValuJet Airlines flying again. ValuJet was decertified following the May 11 crash of Flight 592 into the Florida Everglades that killed 110 people and the ensuing federal investigation, which found the discount airline's safety record and maintenance procedures unacceptable.

Federal regulators tentatively cleared the airline to resume operations August 29. The AFA, which represents 40,000 flight attendants at 26 airlines, blasted that decision, and on September 4 asked for a federal investigation into how it was made. "This appears to be a whitewash of the most horrendous safety record in the airline industry," AFA president Patricia Friend was quoted as saying in the August 30 *Miami Herald*. "The DOT [Department of Transportation] is apparently poised to disregard its duty to protect the safety of the traveling public and the crew members."

The flight attendants union has been pushing for public hearings on ValuJet's safety record and in July filed a formal report with the DOT. The report explains that the airline's "accident rate was seven times higher than the industry average" and says that between Feb. 6 and May 16, 1996 there was an average of one unscheduled landing every other day.

The report recommends that ValuJet's CEO, Robert Priddy, and its chief operating officer, Louis Jordan, be removed from the company. Susan Clayton, president of the ValuJet council of the AFA told the July 24 *Miami Herald*, "Our first and foremost concern is safety." Clayton charged that management put their priority on "pursuing an overly aggressive growth strategy, establishing 'an absolute commitment to finding the lowest cost providers, regardless of quality,' obsessing over fast turn-around times and hiring inexperienced, unqualified managers to oversee safety operations," the *Herald* article continued.

Company officials responded by saying, "This latest move reflects a whole new level of desperate behavior by a union that has clearly violated the trust of its members by abandoning the wishes of ValuJet flight attendants." They also condemned the union's demands as "an outrageous attempt to involve the Department of Transportation in labor matters."

The Cleveland *Plain Dealer* reported on August 23 that a 21-page internal Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) document that it had obtained indicated that ValuJet had misled the government about its fleet re-inspection. The article also reported that one of ValuJet's DC-9s was found to be so corroded the plane's manufacturer would not allow it to fly again. This report led the AFA to amend its DOT safety complaint to include the *Plain Dealer* article.

Other airline workers are discussing the flight attendants protest of ValuJet's start-up. At United Airlines in Miami a kitchen worker said, "The flight attendants should know the safety conditions best of all, they are the ones up there all the time."

"I think it's significant that the workers speaking out most about safety at ValuJet are the ones organized in a union — the

flight attendants," said a United mechanic.

ValuJet management is pushing for the startup and hopes to resume service to five cities with seven aircraft.

As of September 14, the price of ValuJet stock had fallen 29 percent in the past year. Barbara Beyer of AvMark, an aviation consulting firm, commented, "Every day it drags along, it costs ValuJet millions of dollars more."

Glen Swanson is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1126 at Merrill-Stevens Dry Dock in Miami.

## Hundreds protest attacks on health care in New Zealand

BY JANET ROTH

KAITIA, New Zealand — "Hang in there Harry!" This banner led a march of some 800 people along the main street of this small rural town on August 24, in a protest against attacks on free hospital care for the elderly.

Eighty-year-old Harry Findlay's wife, Ida Findlay, has Alzheimer's disease and has been hospitalized since 1994. Harry Findlay is refusing to pay a hospital bill of \$NZ36,000 (\$NZ1 = US\$68) for her care. He has already paid \$NZ21,000. Elderly people are the only group required to pay long-stay hospital bills. If the patient receiving care has a partner still living at home, their assets, other than the house, worth more than \$NZ40,000 are legally required to be used to pay \$NZ600 weekly toward medical care.

"Harry is taking a stand for justice and fair play. We are here with him fighting government policy which is selective discrimination against old people.... We call for asset-testing to be abolished and to put everyone on equal terms." This is how Millie Srhoj, chairman of the Kaitia Hospital Action Group, summed up the sentiments of the protesters who packed the local community center for a meeting after the march.

*from pathfinder*

**THE CHANGING FACE OF U.S. POLITICS**  
Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions  
Jack Barnes

**The second assassination of Maurice Bishop**  
by Steve Galt

**CUBA'S RECTIFICATION PROCESS**  
The American Revolution  
by Robert Wright

**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**

**Washington's 50-year Domestic Contra Operation**  
by Larry Seigle

in *New International* no. 6 **\$10.00**

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

# Building Oct. 12 immigrant rights action

## Continued from front page

held here September 17 for Spanish-language newspapers, television, and radio journalists. Reporters from six local newspapers attended, as did representatives of the EFE news agency of Spain, Notimex of Mexico, and El Grafico of Guatemala, each of which has reporters based here. A full press conference is scheduled for the following week.

Tentative plans advanced by October 12 organizers are for participants to assemble at Lafayette Park across from the White House at 10:00 a.m. and march to the Lincoln Memorial. Federal agencies, however, have yet to issue any permits for the march and rally.

## March builds in Washington area

"The march is an outlet for the community to express their opposition to continued attacks they've been facing by anti-immigration forces," said Saul Solorzano in an interview. Solorzano is the director of the Central American Resource Center and a leader of the coalition building October 12 in the Washington metro area.

"Judging by our last fund-raiser, we are doing a good job." Solorzano noted that on less than two weeks' notice, approximately 130 people turned out to the Latin Jazz Alley September 13, raising about \$500 in funds for the local coalition.

Another such event is planned for September 22 at the popular Habana Village nightspot.

The D.C. coalition has also begun to meet with growing interest from area student and other youth. One coalition activist, a student at American University, made a presentation to some 40 Latino students at Georgetown University, who decided to go all out to build the march at their campus. Recent meetings have drawn other young people new to the coalition, including several from the Latino youth organization Barrios Unidos.

In New York, Coordinadora '96 is building the march at activities around the city. A contingent marched in the Mexican Independence Day Parade on September 15 and distributed large numbers of flyers. A contingent also participated in a September 17 protest against the attacks on welfare and immigrants.

At the last Coordinadora meeting organizers reported that several labor unions are organizing buses, including Union of Needletrades Industrial and Textile Employees, Hospital Workers Local 1199, and the United Food and Commercial Workers.

The September 8 issue of the Spanish-language newspaper *El Diario* featured a two-page article on the march and the importance of its demands.

The Chicago coalition building the October 12 march has reserved at least six buses for the action, and two of these have already been filled.

Students at area campuses are organizing to get to the demonstration in substantial numbers. Activists from the coalition's outreach committee spoke to a group of 45 students at DePaul University, who are planning a September 21 fund-raiser to cover transportation costs. Meetings on the action are also planned at Du Page and North Park College.

## —CALENDAR—

### CANADA

#### TORONTO

**Canada-Cuba Solidarity Conference (Ontario-Wide).** September 27-29, 1996. Participants include Rolando González Tellez, First Vice President of the Cuban Institute of Friendship of the Peoples; Marta Cabrisas Alfonso, member of the Cuban Parliament and of the National Secretariat of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers; Rita María Pereira, National Executive of the Federation of Cuban Women; Oscar Treto Cárdenas, National Bureau of the Union of Young Communists; Dick Martin, Secretary Treasurer of the Canadian Labour Congress; Joan Grant-Cummings, president of National Action Committee on the Status of Women; Billy Modises, High Commissioner for South Africa to Canada. Educational presentations, questions and discussion, workshops, proposals for united Cuba solidarity actions.

To be held at Toronto Metro Hall and City Hall. Registration: \$5. For further information and to register in advance, call Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association. Tel: (416) 654-5585.

Iowa Coordinating '96, which includes a number of Latino packinghouse workers, has begun building the October 12 demonstration with a series of public events in Des Moines to call attention to the attacks against immigrant workers. They held a September 15 protest picket at a fund-raiser for Democratic senatorial candidate Tom Harkin, which was also attended by President William Clinton. Both Democratic candidates speak in favor of cracking down on "illegal" immigrants, and this is featured prominently in Harkin's TV ads.

A Des Moines-area demonstration to defend immigrant rights is planned for October 5 at 12:30 p.m. on the steps of the state capitol. The Des Moines coalition has so far sold about a dozen tickets and aims to fill a bus to travel to Washington on October 12.

In Miami, 100 people attended a fund-raising dinner August 17 organized by the Committee for Dignity and Justice for Immigrants.

Funds were raised to help pay for bus travel from that city to the national demonstration. Orlando Yañez from the Florida Association of Farmworkers encouraged everyone to join the march. The association has plans to send several buses to Washington from south Florida. The Committee for

Dignity and Justice for Immigrants is also planning to send at least one bus to the demonstration. They sent out a 500-piece mailing to build the action.

## ‘Culture war’ in election campaign

### Continued from Page 8

percent of the vote in the 1992 race, has been hovering around 5 percent in the polls. His main appeal is an electoral alternative to the Democrats and Republicans, running on a capitalist platform. The development of his Reform Party acts as a safety valve for the two-party system, keeping dissent within the framework of bourgeois politics.

In a half-hour paid television ad aired September 10, Perot announced Pat Choate as his running mate. Choate is an economist who co-authored a book with Perot during the 1992 election campaign condemning the North American Free Trade Agreement. He is the author of another protectionist book as well, an anti-Japanese tract called *Agents of Influence*.

Four days after his nomination, Choate was the guest at a CNBC TV talk show co-hosted by Dee Dee Myers, Clinton's former press secretary, and Bay Buchanan, the sister and campaign manager of former Repub-

Mark Curtis in Chicago; Rolande Girard in Miami; Jon Hillson in Los Angeles; Wendy Lyons in New York; and Shirley Peña in Des Moines contributed to this article.

lican presidential contender Patrick Buchanan.

Buchanan went out of her way to ask Choate friendly questions, especially about his chauvinist views on immigration and protectionism. Toward the end of the show, Buchanan presented Choate with one of the big "Go Pat, Go!" signs and offered him 10,000 copies left over from the race of rightist Patrick Buchanan in the Republican presidential primaries. She held up for the TV camera one of those signs with "Buchanan" scratched out but very readable and with "Choate" written in above it. Choate responded he was honored to accept.

This exchange is an indication that the Perot third-party phenomenon has narrowed politically as his broader appeal and electoral prospects shrink. Compared to 1992, the coalition of forces and individuals the billionaire has put together this time to mount a national campaign is more overtly ideological and right wing.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

**The October 12 March and the Fight for Immigrant Rights.** A panel discussion with Humberto Comacho, official, United Electrical Workers, representing Comité por Uno.; Barry Fatland, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. (1 1/2 blocks west of Vermont). Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

### FLORIDA

#### Miami

**Protest U.S. Attacks on Iraq!** Presentation will be followed by a discussion period. Sat., Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m. 137 N.E. 54th St. Donation: \$4. Translation into Spanish and French. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

### MASSACHUSETTS

#### BOSTON

**The Struggle for Self-Determination from**

**Kurdistan to Chechnya.** Fri., Sept. 27, 8 p.m. Reception: 6:30 p.m. 780 Tremont Street. Donation: \$5. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**The Russian Revolution: The Opening of National Liberation for the Peoples of the East.** Historic film coverage of the First Congress of the People's of the East, Baku 1920. Silent film narrated by Ma'mud Shirvani. Fri., Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m.

**Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War 1956-58.** Ernesto Che Guevara's account of the campaign that led the Cuban people to the victorious revolution of 1959. Panel discussion. Sat., Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Both events held at 214-16 Avenue A. (at 13th St.) Donation: \$4. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (212) 328-1501.

## —IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

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

### UNITED STATES

**ALABAMA: Birmingham:** 111 21st St. South. Mailing address: Suite 252, 267 West Valley Avenue Zip 35209. Tel: (205) 323-3079. Compuserve: 73712,3561

**CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles:** 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460, 380-9640. Compuserve: 74642,326 **San Francisco:** 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255, 285-5323. Compuserve: 75604,556

**CONNECTICUT: New Haven:** Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516.

**FLORIDA: Miami:** 137 N.E. 54th St. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020. Compuserve: 103171,1674

**GEORGIA: Atlanta:** 803 Peachtree St. NE. Zip: 30308. Tel: (404) 724-9759. Compuserve: 104226,1245

**ILLINOIS: Chicago:** 1223 N. Milwaukee Ave. Zip: 60622. Tel: (312) 342-1780. Compuserve: 104077,511 **Peoria:** 915 N. Western. Zip: 61650-0302. Mailing address: P.O. Box 302. Tel: (309) 676-2472. Compuserve: 104612,147

**IOWA: Des Moines:** 2724 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 277-4600. Compuserve: 104107,1412

**MASSACHUSETTS: Boston:** 780 Tremont St. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772. Compuserve: 103426,3430

**MICHIGAN: Detroit:** 7414 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Compuserve: 104127,3505 Tel: (313) 875-0100.

**MINNESOTA: Twin Cities:** 2490 Univer-

sity Ave. W., St. Paul. Zip: 55114. Tel: (612) 644-6325. Compuserve: 103014,3261

**NEW JERSEY: Newark:** 87A Halsey. Mailing address: 1188 Raymond Blvd., Suite 222. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341. Compuserve: 104216,2703

**NEW YORK: Albany:** P. O. Box 2357, E.S.P. Zip: 12220. Tel: (518) 465-0585. **Brooklyn:** 59 4th Avenue (corner of Bergen) Zip: 11217. Tel: (718) 399-7257. Compuserve: 102064,2642. **New York:** 214-16 Avenue A. Mailing address: P.O. Box 2652. Zip: 10009. Tel: (212) 328-1501. Compuserve: 104075,35 ; 167 Charles St. Zip: 10014. Tel: (212) 366-1973.

**NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro:** 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Zip 27406. Tel: (910) 272-5996. Compuserve: 103475,672.

**OHIO: Cincinnati:** P.O. Box 19484. Zip: 45219. Tel: (513) 662-1931. **Cleveland:** 1832 Euclid. Zip: 44115. Tel: (216) 861-6150. Compuserve: 103253,1111

**PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia:** 1906 South St. Zip: 19146. Tel: (215) 546-8218. Compuserve: 104502,1757 **Pittsburgh:** 1103 E. Carson St. Zip 15203. Tel: (412) 381-9785. Compuserve: 103122,720

**TEXAS: Houston:** 3260 South Loop West. Zip: 77025. Tel: (713) 349-0090. Compuserve: 102527,2271

**UTAH: Salt Lake City:** 209 E. 300 S. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124. Compuserve: 76714,1545

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** 1930 18th St. N.W. Suite #3 (Entrance on Florida Av.). Zip: 20009. Tel: (202) 387-2185. Compuserve: 75407,3345.

**WASHINGTON: Seattle:** 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Compuserve: 74461,2544.

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

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Pittsburgh

**Video Showing of Struggles in Steel.** Fri., Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m. 1103 E. Carson St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (412) 381-9785.

### UTAH

#### Salt Lake City

**Defend Civil Rights for Gays.** Panel discussion. Fri., Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m. 209 East 300 South. Donation: \$4. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

### NEW ZEALAND

#### Christchurch

**MMP, Political Instability, and the Socialist Alternative.** Speaker: Patrick Brown, Communist League Candidate for Christchurch Central. Fri., Oct. 4, 7 p.m. 199 High St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

70543,1637

### AUSTRALIA

**Sydney:** 19 Terry St., Surry Hills 2010. Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 2000. Tel: 02-281-3297. Compuserve: 102174,1243

### BRITAIN

**London:** 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 0171-928-7993. Compuserve: 101515,2702

**Manchester:** Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 0161-839-1766.

### CANADA

**Montreal:** 4581 Saint-Denis. Postal code: H2J 2L4. Tel: (514) 284-7369. Compuserve: 104614,2606

**Toronto:** 827 Bloor St. West. Postal code: M6G 1M1. Tel: (416) 533-4324. Compuserve: 103474,13

**Vancouver:** 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343. Compuserve: 103430,1552

### FRANCE

**Paris:** MBE 201, 208 rue de la Convention. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (1) 47-26-58-21. Compuserve: 73504,442

### ICELAND

**Reykjavik:** Klapparstíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 5502. INTERNET: gphssg@treknet.is

### NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland:** La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 379-3075. Compuserve: 100035,3205

**Christchurch:** 199 High St. Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055. Compuserve: 100250,1511

### SWEDEN

**Stockholm:** Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. Compuserve: 100416,2362



**When you gotta go, go quick** — Workers at Gainers meat-packing in Edmonton, Canada, have to continue paying for going to the toilet, an arbitration board ruled. Under a



**Harry Ring**

“personal relief” program, the 850 workers must obtain a snooper’s OK to go, and be docked 60 cents a minute for the time spent.

**Bigger headaches ahead** — With continuing budget cuts slated,

the French government is bracing for a new round of major strikes. Meanwhile, it’s coping with public anger over the victimization of immigrants. Returning from summer holiday, President Chirac reportedly found his government “gloomy” and “marked by depression.”

**Testimonial to capitalism** — In Rome, a court awarded 1.17 million lire (about \$750) compensation to a couple whose 12-year-old son was killed in a road accident. The judges said the son of a farm laborer would never have made much money.

**May he fry equally in hell** — In Phoenix, Arizona, county sheriff Joe Arapaho is setting up female chain gangs. “I don’t believe in dis-

crimination in my jail system,” he says. “I feel that women should be treated just like men.”

**Role model** — Harry Singh & Sons, a big-time California tomato grower, won a U.S. Labor Dept. “Agricultural Employer of the Year” award for allegedly improving the conditions of farm workers.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that the company owes about \$1 million in unpaid overtime to workers who have put in as much as 82.5 hours a week at straight time. California requires time and a half for farm workers after 60 hours.

**Another role model** — Three years ago, an overtime complaint was filed against the Singh outfit by

California Rural Legal Assistance. This spring, the state Labor Dept. finally filed suit. Since then, it says, it’s been trying repeatedly to serve the papers on the company, but has been denied entry to its gated offices.

**Mature, senile or snow job?** — The *San Francisco Chronicle* sees irony in “leftist” Democrats lining up behind Clinton despite his reactionary stand on social issues. Explains California liberal Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer, “We are a far more mature party. People realize that not everyone is going to agree on every single issue.”

**Barbarians, old and new** — A Toronto *Globe and Mail* article de-

tails some of the huge profits made by Nike and other companies through the superexploitation of Asian workers. The article says these companies argue they “cannot be held responsible for elements of barbarism that prevailed before they arrived.

**Funniest source of the week** — Reporting that early this year Clinton had secretly authorized funding for a CIA operation to overthrow Iraq’s Saddam Hussein, the *Los Angeles Times* cited “sources” who confided that it was “the most far-reaching intelligence operation ordered by Clinton, whose legal background has given him an aversion to covert operations.”

# The Russian revolution and its lessons for India

The following is a book review of *Lenin’s Final Fight*, which appeared in the April-June, 1996, issue of *U.S.I. Journal*. The publication is the quarterly magazine of the United Service Institution of India, whose editors describe it as “India’s oldest journal of defence affairs.” The review’s author, S.S. Malhotra, is a retired Air Vice Marshal of India’s armed forces.

**Lenin’s Final Fight: Speeches and Writings, 1922-23.** By V.I. Lenin, *New York, Pathfinder, 1995, p. 320, \$19.95, ISBN 0-87348-807-5.*

BY S.S. MALHOTRA

The book covers in detail the last 400 days of Lenin’s fight in establishing the ‘new order’ of Russian Union & Peasants power since the advent of October 1917 revolution. The contents revive the memories of 1950 when the publicity material of Russian ori-

gin started flooding the Indian book stalls. However, this ‘condensed’ version of tumultuous occurrences is very well chronicled and authenticated; the cross references provide the desired background for important events leading up to this last year of Lenin’s activism in

## BOOK OF THE WEEK

post Czarist period and emergence of the erstwhile U.S.S.R.

The events described generate greater interest for the Indian reader as the events in India also followed more or less the same pattern barely 25 years later, e.g. the voluntary merger of princely states into the Indian Republic and the subsequent economic devel-

opmental models/socialistic pattern of society, role of national leaders, the struggle and hardships of the masses, the rural and urban divide, disparities between the elite and the poor, the hunger (near famine) conditions to food surplus, etc.

The harsh realities of leadership struggle among the hierarchy and self proclaimed rival successors have been brought out in sharp focus and without any bias or concealment. The interpretations of various statements have been logically deduced and the English translation is free from any ambiguities; in fact wherever there is a possibility of such ambiguity either due to Lenin’s physical disability or the quirks of English grammar, explanatory notes provide the required classifications.

The appendices and the introductory notes act as the gap fillers to complete the history of 1917 revolution, internal conflicts and

their resolution.

Some of the facts which were clandestinely concealed for a long time, more so pertaining to the ‘murderous regime’ of Stalin and the clever bureaucracy, have been brought out for the first time in any language.

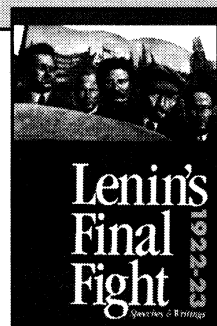
### from pathfinder

#### Lenin’s Final Fight

Speeches and Writings, 1922-23  
V.I. Lenin

The record of Lenin’s last effort to win the leadership of the Communist Party of the USSR in the early 1920s to maintain the political course that had enabled the workers and peasants to overthrow the old tsarist empire, carry out the first successful socialist revolution, and begin building a world communist movement. The issues posed in that political battle remain at the heart of world politics today. Includes several items appearing in English for the first time. \$19.95

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



## Nationalists take the initiative

continued from Page 7  
end British domination.

Unorganized protests that would have allowed the army and RUC to continue their assaults were kept to a minimum. Disciplined mass protests that increased the organization and self-confidence of those involved were led mainly by Sinn Fein. One young woman on a march in Strabane explained that her family had never before been involved in the struggle. But after Drumcree she went to a demonstration and she is now becoming an activist.

A spontaneous boycott of the businesses of those who were identified with the Drumcree violence has spread in the six counties. The owner of Kells in Enniskillen, who is a Grand Master of the Orange Lodge in Fermanagh and was prominent in the siege of Garvaghy Road, is claiming that no one who supports the national struggle will buy school uniforms for children from his shop.

In Nimoy the local grocer is appealing to those who no longer spend their money in his shop by claiming he was not involved with the Orangemen at Drumcree; he only sent them sandwiches. But his pleas are met with contempt.

The Social Democratic and Labour Party, which has been the main party Catholics supported in the past, has lost some of its appeal. The SDLP leadership acted as middlemen in negotiations between Catholic residents and loyalist groups over the rerouting of Orange marches, adopting a neutral stance between the two groups.

Sinn Fein emerged from the summer stronger. The republicans displayed cool headed leadership throughout the confrontations, which minimized the impact of British army and RUC provocations and traps. Now, explaining that the peace process is deadlocked for lack of London’s willingness to seriously engage Sinn Fein in the talks, the group is calling for parties in the south of Ireland and the SDLP to join in demanding negotiations without preconditions.

The effect of the events on Garvaghy Road has had a tremendous impact in the South. Meetings and rallies have been organized to support the residents’ movement in the North and members of the Dail Eirean, the Irish parliament, felt obliged to show up at several confrontations. Brenda Power made a comment in the *Sunday Tribune* in

the Republic of Ireland that reflected the views of many. She said that in the wake of Drumcree she hoped the remark by Gerry Adams that the IRA “had not gone away” was true. Irish prime minister John Bruton publicly attacked Major’s actions as giving in to pressure and failing to act impartially.

The one member of the Irish government to speak out in defence of the Unionists was minister for social welfare Proinsias De Rossa of the Democratic Left, the former pro-Moscow Workers Party.

The blows the Unionist forces suffered have accelerated their fragmentation, a process that’s been at work for several years. Trimble is not leading a great new revival of the fortunes of the OUP. Several Unionists are distancing themselves from William Wright of the UVF. The Combined Loyalist Military Command, an umbrella of the paramilitary loyalist groups, has issued a death threat against Wright if he doesn’t get out of northern Ireland. UVF spokespeople now claim he is an MI5 agent and has been for six years. Meanwhile, a support group for Wright has just been formed in Glasgow, Scotland. And a leading member of Ian Paisley’s Democratic Unionist Party, William McCrae, spoke alongside Wright at a rally of 3,000 in Tyrone.

Her Majesty’s loyal opposition — the British Labour Party — has been mildly critical of the precise tactics of the Major government over Drumcree. But its leadership has stuck rigidly to its complete opposition to Irish freedom, an issue so close to the jugular vein of the British ruling class.

In an attempt to erase the image of naked imperial violence, London has appointed a new head of the RUC, Ronald Flanagan. The British media has tried its best to present Flanagan as the man to clean up the RUC. But it is hard to hide what thousands of nationalists know well: that he came up through the British Special Branch and was closely associated with London’s shoot-to-kill policy.

London has a harder time now to justify its stance in the talks. How can Major explain that Trimble and Paisley and the political representatives of the UVF all adhere to the Mitchell principles of non-violence? How can the British government explain it should allow itself in the talks, but exclude Sinn Fein, after what London’s army did in Derry?

That’s what thousands of nationalists ask here and are better prepared to act on.

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

### THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

October 1, 1971

Price 10¢

Sept. 21 — Thousands of people all over the U.S. have joined in demonstrations and meetings organized in response to the brutal murders committed at Attica by the government. More actions are planned in many areas.

Over 4,000 persons took part in two separate actions in New York city Sept. 18 — a march and rally in Harlem of over 3,000 and a march from Union Square in Lower Manhattan to Rockefeller Plaza of over 1,000.

Actions occurred on many campuses in Upstate New York, including Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo and Syracuse. The largest actions were in Buffalo where up to 4,000 demonstrated on the University of Buffalo campus.

In San Francisco, 200 persons demonstrated in protest of George Jackson’s murder and the Attica Massacre Sept. 17. Among the speakers at the protest were Philip Ryan, an attorney for the Soledad Brothers; Inez Williams, Fleeta Drumgo’s mother; “Popeye” Jackson of the United Prisoners Union (UPU); and Jeff Berchenko, SWP candidate for Board of Supervisors.

In Los Angeles, an Ad Hoc Committee on Prisons and Political Prisoners, including the Angela Davis Defense Committee and the Harriet Tubman bookstore, held a demonstration of 300 at the L.A. federal court building Sept. 14.

About 50 students from Florida State

University picketed the Federal Correctional Institute in Tallahassee Sept. 19 supporting the Attica prisoners’ demands.

Four hundred people demonstrated outside the JFK Building in Boston on Sept. 15 at a rally called by PCPJ [People’s Coalition for Peace and Justice].

### THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

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

September 28, 1946

The victory of the striking Japanese seamen over the puppet government last week was a triumph for the entire Japanese labor movement. The 10-day-old strike, involving more than 100,000 workers, was settled on Sept. 20, only after the seamen won all of their major demands.

According to an AP dispatch, the Civilian Merchant Marine Committee conceded: “No discharges until after a joint council settles the question: union participation in personnel questions; wage increases averaging 35 per cent for all earning less than 550 yen (\$33) a month, plus living allowance, insurance and fund for ‘cultural activities.’”

Three days before the strike was settled, according to a Tokyo dispatch in the Sept. 17 *Christian Science Monitor*, “American crews aboard Liberty ships in Yokohama, where some 70 Japanese vessels are strike-bound, are sympathizing with Japanese strikers and in some cases have shown a willingness to join in the strike.”

The seamen’s strike, which began on Sept. 10, spread rapidly to include almost 1,000,000 workers, a third of the organized labor force, and included the major affiliates of the Japanese CIO and the organized farmhands.

# ‘Marriage Act’ is antilabor

The cynically-named “Defense of Marriage Act” advances the reactionary, antilabor goals of the U.S. rulers. The law bars federal recognition of marriages among gays and lesbians, and allows state governments to refuse to recognize marriages performed legally in another state other than those between a man and a woman. In permitting this abrogation of the so-called “full faith and credit” provision of the U.S. Constitution, Congress and the White House reinforce the reactionary notion of states’ rights.

What’s more, the bill is part and parcel of the employers assault on the social wage of working people. It makes use of reactionary and divisive prejudices against gays and lesbians to single out a layer of working people and others and deny them federal entitlements. These include the right of a surviving spouse to continue receiving a portion of Social Security, veterans, or other benefits of a deceased partner.

It is hard to think of legislation more gratuitously cruel and demeaning than a measure permitting the state to treat certain sections of the population—in this case gays and lesbians—differently from others with regard to elementary civil equality and access to government benefits. Such legislation—like the earlier miscegenation laws that barred matrimony between a Black person and a white per-

son—targets certain individuals as less than fully equal before the law, as less than fully human.

Both parties of big business are using this reactionary, anti-working-class measure to further weaken and divide the labor movement and prospects for effective resistance to capitalist austerity.

The Welfare Reform Act Clinton recently signed signaled a more direct opening salvo against the gains registered in the Social Security Act of 1935 and its extensions wrested by Blacks and other working people in the 1960s and 1970s from the 60 families that rule the United States.

But from the point of view of the bosses’ broader ideological preparation for their assault on the working class—what ultrarightist Patrick Buchanan called the “culture war”—the overwhelming bipartisan vote for the Defense of Marriage Act undoubtedly gave a boost to Buchanan and his ilk.

Many people, especially youth, are rightfully outraged today at this blatant attempt by the state to invade privacy, to interfere in the personal lives of millions.

All working people have a stake in joining those already opposed to this reactionary legislation and in taking the moral high ground by explaining its far-reaching antilabor implications and demanding civil rights for gays and lesbians now!

# U.S. troops out the Mideast!

The recent events in the Persian Gulf highlight the fact that the U.S. military “victory” proclaimed by former president George Bush against the Iraqi regime and an imperialist-imposed “peace” is further from Washington’s grasp than ever. The U.S. rulers’ goal to set up a reliable regime in Baghdad subservient to U.S. imperialism to advance their interests in the Mideast against their rivals in Paris, London, Tokyo, and Bonn has been dealt another blow. The so-called “coalition” the U.S. government has tried to cobble together to support its bloody slaughter against the Iraqi workers and peasants is in shambles.

At the same time, Washington is using its only card: employing its military might in the Middle East in an attempt to minimize damage to the U.S. rulers’ control of oil reserves in the region and to prevent the shifting of the relationship of forces further to the detriment of Wall Street.

Some capitalist politicians berated Clinton for allowing the “coalition” to fall apart. But this is the natural course of intensifying interimperialist conflicts that flow from the depression conditions the world capitalist system is mired in. London was the only capitalist government to fully back Clinton’s air strikes against Baghdad.

Meanwhile, Saddam Hussein’s regime keeps going and going and going, like the Eveready bunny—outlasting the Bush administration, former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, and now possibly Russian president Boris Yeltsin and Clinton as well. Baghdad has been able to consolidate more ground control over northern Iraq since the air strikes were launched. Its increasing influence in the north can be seen in the recent lifting of Baghdad’s trade embargo against the Kurdish areas.

The U.S. military assaults were conducted out of weakness. Clinton had to ask the Kuwaiti government—one of the most servile regimes on this planet—for permission to send troops there and had to tolerate a humiliating waiting period for a few days before he got the green light for the deployment.

The governments of Jordan and Turkey denied

Washington permission to enter their airspace to transport cruise missiles. The Saudi government allows U.S. aircraft to operate out of an air base in Dhahran, but the regime would not let Washington’s warplanes fly over its territory in order to strike Iraq.

Washington’s CIA operation in northern Iraq to destabilize Baghdad has also collapsed. What has been revealed is the Clinton administration’s cynical and hypocritical attempt to manipulate the Kurdish peoples’ just struggle for self-determination. Hundreds of thousands of Kurds are facing potential famine with scarcely a whisper from any big-business politician calling for opening the borders or demanding food aid for the Kurdish people.

While the missile strikes have stopped, the Clinton administration is on a war drive in Iraq. Thousands of troops were just dispatched from Fort Hood, Texas, to Kuwait. Washington’s military hardware in the region is now augmented with Stealth bombers, a new aircraft carrier group, and dozens of additional fighter jets. The enforcement of the “no-fly” zones covering the majority of Iraqi airspace—a clear violation of the country’s sovereignty—continues to serve as a ready-made provocation for renewed bombings. And the criminal economic sanctions, enforced by the U.S. armed forces, continue to cause disease and death for hundreds of thousands of Iraqis.

That’s why fighters against imperialist war should read, discuss, and distribute the *New International* magazines that feature the articles “The Opening Guns of World War III: Washington’s assault on Iraq” and “Imperialism’s March toward Fascism and War.” *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast* is a valuable complement to these political weapons, which are essential to understanding the instability in the Persian Gulf and necessity of the capitalist rulers’ attempts to assert their domination in the region.

Forums, classes, and other public meetings can attract new layers of workers and young rebels who will be eager to get an explanation of what lies behind unfolding events and thus be better equipped to join in protests demanding U.S. and other imperialist troops out the Mideast now!

# Is Clinton a slightly lesser evil?

Wouldn’t a Democratic administration—even though the current one under William Clinton is surely no friend of labor—be preferable to a victory by Robert Dole and Jack Kemp, “who have outright fascists entrenched deeply in their party”? asks reader Nicholas Burns in a letter on the opposing page. From the standpoint of someone who considers himself a socialist, isn’t Clinton a “lesser evil”?

This is an important question that has been debated among supporters of parties that function in the U.S. working-class movement for decades.

The Democrats and Republicans comprise the bourgeois two-party

system in the United States, which monopolizes politics and attempts to force dissent into channels acceptable to the ruling rich.

## DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

For at least half a century, the Democratic Party has been identified with the “labor-liberal” coalition that was first put together under the Democratic administration of Franklin Roosevelt in the 1930s and expanded to a “labor-liberal-civil rights” coalition in the 1960s and 70s. Through mighty class battles the working class formed the industrial unions and the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) in the 1930s and wrested gains like Social Security from the employers. The leaders of the CIO, backed up by the Stalinist Communist Party and many in the Socialist Party at the time, derailed the real possibilities of this social movement leading to the independent organization of the working class in its own political party. In 1936, these forces urged support for the Democratic Party, establishing this coalition. Ever since, workers are told by the union officialdom to pull the Democratic lever every four years to defeat the “greater evil.”

Throughout this period, the two bourgeois parties that have alternated in running the White House and Congress have carried out a close to identical foreign policy—using the U.S. military and economic superiority coming out of World War II to advance the imperialist interests of America’s sixty ruling families by attempting to crush rebellions by the exploited and oppressed from Korea to Vietnam and Nicaragua. Tactical differences on domestic policy between the two parties were held up by the labor bureaucracy and the petty bourgeois leaderships of Black rights organizations to identify the Democrats as “friends of labor” and the oppressed.

But ever since the onset of the first post-war worldwide capitalist recession in the early 1970s, which signaled the latest downward segment in the curve of capitalist development, the bipartisan foreign policy has been mirrored by an increasingly bipartisan domestic policy. The bourgeois politics of both parties have shifted to the right, as the U.S. rulers have tried to shore up declining profit rates. And the labor-liberal-civil rights coalition of the Democratic Party has begun to come apart.

This has become crystal clear under the Clinton administration. Clinton’s record is unambiguous as having taken the lead in the rulers’ assault on the social conquests of the working class. As a series of recent *Militant* articles have outlined, the Democratic president opened the employers’ onslaught against the Social Security Act of 1935 by signing the welfare bill, has led the recent probes against democratic rights, and is on the forefront of the ideological assault on labor as shown around the passage of recent antigay measures. Clinton is also among the most warmongering presidents of modern times.

In fact, there is a realignment among the political poles of the two bourgeois parties as registered at the Republican and Democratic conventions this summer. Dole and Kemp now push their “economic growth” theme as an alternative to Clinton’s status quo that defends current employment levels and the slow decline in real wages for working people as the best capitalism has to offer. And Kemp is leading Republican efforts to make inroads in his party’s appeal to Blacks and other oppressed nationalities. In doing so, the Republican leadership, and the entire U.S. ruling class, has pushed to the margins ultrarightists like Patrick Buchanan, whose forces have had to retreat since last spring. Until new explosions of labor resistance occur, the rulers do not quite need the Buchanan alternative.

It is true Buchanan and other rightists function within the Republican party. But their perspective of building an incipient fascist movement is aided as much, if not more, by votes from liberals for antilabor measures like the “Defense of Marriage Act.”

The fact of the matter is that with either a Democratic or Republican administration, the working class goes to the wall. The only way working people can defend ourselves, or achieve any reforms under capitalism, is through the class struggle and organization independent from the parties whose program serves the bourgeoisie.

Malcolm X made some very useful points in this regard commenting on the 1964 presidential race between Democrat Lyndon Johnson and Republican Barry Goldwater. “The shrewd imperialists knew that the only way that you will voluntarily run to the fox is to show you a wolf. So they created a ghastly alternative and had the whole world... hoping Johnson would beat Goldwater.... Those who would claim to be enemies of the system were on their hands and knees waiting for Johnson to get elected because he’s suppose to be a man of peace; and he has troops invading the Congo right now and invading Saigon.”

Those who try to convince working people today to vote Democrat once again aim to make us accept responsibility—and thus being demoralized tomorrow—for the real policies Clinton will implement once he is elected, which will be consistent with his record of the last four years.

That’s why a vote for the Socialist Workers ticket is not a “wasted vote.” And an even more important step is joining the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialists to build a movement capable of leading workers and farmers to take power when objective conditions permit and put an end to the threat of fascism and war once and for all.

—MEGAN ARNEY



# 'I'd rather fight a battle and lose than not fight'

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

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

On August 30 the workers, who had already been notified by Tosco if they were going to be offered jobs or not, came to the union hall to cast their ballots on the contract. It was approved by 93 percent of those voting.

"They stripped our contract

go to the rallies," at the Tosco gate.

"Some people thought they did the wrong thing," voting down Tosco's contract proposal in January, said McGurk. "I think they did the right thing, 100 percent. I'd rather fight a battle and lose it than not fight and lose it — and they fought."

## ON THE PICKET LINE

around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

LINWOOD, Pennsylvania—"Business got us again," said one member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 8-234 summing up his view of the concession proposal demanded by Tosco in exchange for rehiring 216 of 320 laid-off union refinery workers here.

Tosco Corp. bought the refinery from British Petroleum Oil Co. in November of last year. OCAW members voted January 4 by a four-to-one margin to reject a contract proposal by Tosco that included ignoring seniority in deciding which union members to rehire. BP agreed to turn the refinery over to Tosco in an idled state, and Tosco has left it "moth-balled" since February 1. After months of refusing to talk, Tosco proposed the recent concession contract just as union members' unemployment benefits ran out.

"It's been bad for everybody. Jobs are very hard to get around here," said Ed Creely, a 52-year-old maintenance worker with 18 years at the refinery.

apart," said Diane Heller, Recording Secretary of Local 8-234 and a lab worker with 22 years seniority in the refinery. Concessions in the new 5-1/2 year contract include cuts in overtime pay, job combinations, and other language giving the company more flexibility in work rules.

Those who are offered jobs will be paid \$500 a month until they are actually called back to work to get the refinery ready for an expected start-up next July. "Those not called back to work will be given \$500 a month for 10 months but they must sign a 'disclaimer' relieving Tosco of any responsibility," said Heller.

"No one knows how they did the evaluation to call people back," she said. "Some people got called back with 3 years seniority and some didn't with 22 years. Out of 34 women, 12 are being called back."

Beginning in February, OCAW Local 8-234 maintained activities to protest the lockout by Tosco. Union member kept up picket lines until August 23 and sent regular mailings to unions and other organizations. The workers won support and financial assistance from other OCAW locals and many other unions.

Robert McGurk, a worker at the Sun refinery in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania, said his sister, Kathy Brady, was one of the BP workers not called back by Tosco. He added, "I got some people in my shop to

### Meat workers fight concessions

PAEROA, New Zealand—"This thing has been a real wake-up call," a worker on the picket line at Lowe Walker's Paeroa plant told the *Militant*. (The workers can't be named because of a "secrecy" clause in their existing contract which forbids them to talk publicly about "company business.") "We were in the union, but never considered ourselves a staunch shed [plant]. We just concentrated on getting the job done. Then they hit us with this."

The workers, members of Aotearoa Meatworkers Union, have a contract to process beef that runs to the year 2000. But this year, during the off-season for beef, the company wanted them to kill bobby calves under a new contract that did away with seniority rights and other conditions. The workers were given five days to sign or be locked-out. Forty of the 102 at the plant did sign, nearly all recent hires who were told by the company they were still "on trial," the pickets explain.

In addition the company has hired up to 80 new workers, mostly from



Young Latino workers march in support of farmworkers' organizing drive for strawberry pickers in Watsonville, California.

outside the district where the plant is located. The company has been able to nearly complete the bobby calf season, but early every morning for the past seven weeks the scab workers have had to cross a spirited picket line maintained by the locked-out unionists. "We won't give this company the satisfaction of going back," said one picket.

A number of the workers at the plant are or have been farmers. Lowe Walker, which owns the Paeroa plant, and 11 other North Island meat companies have been accused by the Commerce Commission of fixing prices offered to farm-

ers for stock.

Supporters of the *Militant* who visited the picket line included Eugen Lepou, who works at the Auckland Abattoirs, also organized by the Aotearoa Meatworkers Union. He is the Communist League's candidate for Auckland Central in the forthcoming general election in New Zealand.

Deborah Liatos, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-1 in Philadelphia, and Terry Coggan, member of the Meat Workers Union in Auckland, contributed to this week's column.

## LETTERS

### Attacks on the disabled

I obtained an August 19, 1996 copy of the *Militant* during a Labor Day parade, here in Des Moines, Iowa.

I did not notice any articles about disabled persons having their children removed and put up for adoption because the government feels that the parents are too disabled to take care of their own children.

I have found myself for the past 16 months caught up in this system because I am disabled and poor. I have no other alternative than to watch this legalized kidnapping take place while the taxpayers pay the ransom.

Alan Schuetz

Des Moines, Iowa

### Is Clinton a 'lesser evil'?

I read with great interest your Sept. 2 front page article which gave a very in-depth analysis of the presidential campaign and capitalism's world disorder.

In the article you make the case that Clinton is certainly no option for working class people over the Republican party.

Recently Clinton signed the vicious anti-labor welfare reform bill, but he also signed the minimum wage raise bill. Of course he did this to win labor's support in November, and as you point out, the raise won't amount to much anyway.

But suppose that Dole and Kemp were to defeat Clinton? Their party is the party of the fascist Christian Coalition with its agenda, the party of Buchanan, a dyed-in-the-wool Nazi, the party of fascist Militia people and Klansmen such as David Duke. This very party would control the White House and the Congress. Where would this leave working people?

Certainly Clinton is no friend of

labor, and certainly only a workers' government can even begin to solve the problems of this criminal capitalist system. But socialism is not on the agenda this year! As an independent socialist, and a very dedicated socialist, I believe, knowing that Clinton is not to be trusted as an ally of the oppressed, that he would be preferable to Dole-Kemp, who have outright fascists entrenched deeply in their party and who carry a lot of clout.

Personally I agree with the program of the Socialist Workers Party, but I feel that my vote would be wasted. Also, it would only benefit the ultraright. Of course, I am desperate to know the truth and do the right thing for my class. Could you clarify this for me?

Nicholas Brand

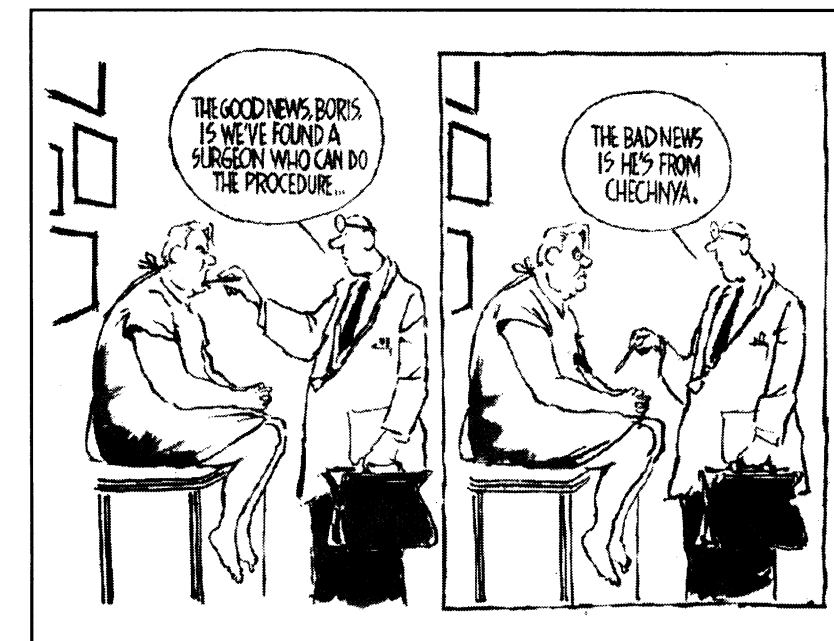
Loretto, Pennsylvania

### Crime and workers' rights

I think *Militant* readers Corin's and Joya Lonsdale's fear, that any special legal measures against the ultraright militia might be used against socialists, is well founded. I would go further, and say that any restriction of democratic rights will inevitably be used against the workers and the socialist movement.

Let's think about what happened after the Oklahoma City bombing. Before the dust had even settled, the president and the mainstream media had taken advantage of the tragedy to launch a hysterical witch hunt against Arabic people and members of the Islamic religion. Even after the alleged perpetrators were rounded up, and they turned out to be native born, English-speaking, white-skinned all-American nuts, the anti-Arab and anti-immigrant propaganda continued.

If you look at the measures contained in the so called "anti-terror-



ist" legislation, very little of it has to do with combating "terrorism". The actual thrust of these laws, is to undermine the right to privacy, to abolish the right to a jury trial and the right to appeal — and generally to undermine the right of free speech and association. The ruling class politicians have taken advantage of the mass revulsion against the Oklahoma bombers, to move against democratic rights. Those first targeted, will be political refugees, like the Palestinian or Irish freedom fighters, and immigrant workers; but if the capitalists get away with this, it will be everyone's turn, soon enough.

It's worth considering whether or not any special "anti-terrorist" legislation is needed anyway. As far as I know, murder is illegal, bombing buildings is illegal, arson is illegal and blowing up airliners is illegal. Every violent act that a "terrorist" might want to commit, is in fact illegal. What the various new laws

seek to prevent, is the advocacy of political positions.

Roy Inglee

Elsmere, Delaware

### Devastation in Guatemala

This summer I had the opportunity to travel to Guatemala as a part of a human rights effort. If anyone wanted to see the devastating effects of capitalism run rampant, Guatemala is the place to go.

Unfortunately, if tourists visit this beautiful country, and they don't know or ask questions about the history, they would think Guatemala was a quaint little country blending the old with the new. They would see Mayan women walking in traditional dress with babies strapped to their backs, McDonalds, Taco Bell, and Toys-R-Us. The only visible indication of the struggle when I was there was the graffiti on the walls stating "Che Vive" or "URNG Vive." There was also a very obvi-

ous military presence. In fact, there is one soldier for every 200 people, while doctors are rare; about one for every 2,000.

The brutal effects of the 36-year-long war started by the United Fruit Company and the CIA is unimaginable, particularly to the indigenous population, which makes up 65 percent of the population. Approximately 800 massacres have occurred, and over 150,000 people, mostly civilians, have lost their lives. Many more have been permanently disabled by torture and lost homes and crops through the military scorch and burn practice.

Where are all the revolutionary thinkers, workers and groups of the world in speaking out against the atrocities committed against the indigenous people of the world, especially in Central America? A similar struggle is occurring in Chiapas, Mexico. Shouldn't we be asking them and ourselves what we can do to support the EZLN in their struggle?

As an indigenous person, I feel we are often ignored and caught in the middle with no real understanding of the situation. Sometimes because of our isolation and ignorance we are even manipulated to the side of the oppressor only to end up in a worse situation.

Roxanne Gould  
Sioux City

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.

## Ontario unionists protest austerity

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO—Unionists in Ontario are preparing for the Metro Days of Action at the end of October to protest the austerity drive by the Ontario government of Premier Michael Harris. The preparation included some 30,000 union members and their families who turned out for the annual Labor Day march here September 2.

The parade was one of the largest in years, involving 39 unions. It was led by the Metro Days of Action Coordinating Committee. The group is made up of local union officials and representatives of the Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto and York Region, the Metro Network for Social Justice, and nearly 100 community organizations from the Toronto area. The theme of the parade and the Metro Days of Action was emblazoned on T-shirts and buttons; "Organize, Educate, Resist" — the slogan of the first Labor Day march here 125 years ago.

Autoworkers, steelworkers, machinists, government, hotel, and garment workers and other unionists, as well as political activists carried banners and chanted slogans against the Conservative government of this province.

Since it was elected in June 1995, the Harris regime has led a drive it dubbed a "Common Sense Revolution" to slash social programs like welfare, education, and health care. It has also adopted antilabor legislation that legalizes the use of strike-breakers during walkouts and makes it harder for workers to unionize.

"There's nothing to celebrate right now," said Cynthia Thompson, who marched on Labor Day sporting an Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) T-shirt with the inscription "I walked the line." This was in reference to the two-month strike last spring by thousands of OPSEU members against the provincial government's austerity policies. "You can't be festive when food banks are overflowing with people," Thompson stated.

The contingent of the Union of Injured Workers, protesting pending cuts to workers compensation, was led by someone dressed as a riot squad provincial cop guarding a huge likeness of Premier Harris. During the OPSEU strike, Harris ordered a police riot squad to attack a picket line of strikers at the government buildings, injuring several unionists.

"Labor Day... used to be we celebrated what we'd gained," said Chrysler auto worker Vinay Sharma. "Now we're just fighting for what we have."

The demonstration reflected growing labor resistance to capitalist austerity. Striking steelworkers at S.A. Armstrong marched and appealed for picket line help against scabs.

Members of the Power Workers Union who work for Toronto Hydro, and other provincial hydro workers, carried signs opposing planned privatization of Ontario Hydro. The Toronto local of the Power Workers Union also carried signs calling for "Free



In Toronto, 30,000 union activists took part in the Labor Day march September 2. Militant/Gary Watson

Trade with Cuba" and "End the U.S. Blockade Against Cuba." Toronto civic workers whose union signed a wage-freeze contract with city management September 1 chanted, "Hey, Hey, Ho, Ho, Mike Harris has got to go."

For the first time there was a contingent from the Catholic Teachers' Federation. Recently this group and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation voted to join the 800,000-strong Ontario Federation of Labour.

Former Westin Hotel strikers, who successfully defended their union against the use of scabs by management recently, were

also there.

Some of the T-shirts and placards reflected discussions and divisions among union officials and working people over the New Democratic Party — the social democratic party that most of the unions are affiliated with. During the last election here, many unions refused to campaign for the NDP because the former NDP government in the province initiated the austerity drive by tearing up contracts with public employees and imposing layoffs and wage cuts. Since then, the NDP head in Ontario has not been invited — as was customary — to address Labor Day parades.

Many of those present at the Labor Day march were actively building the Metro Days of Action.

The October 22-27 Days of Action are the next in a series of anti-austerity protests. These mobilizations have been organized since last December by the Ontario Federation of Labour, local labor councils, and community groups. They have usually involved one-day protest strikes at factories, schools, and government offices followed by mass demonstrations. Tens of thousands of workers and high school, college, and university students have participated in these protests in London, Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Peterborough.

The Days of Action Coordinating Committee is now planning a week of protests in the Toronto area that will culminate in a work stoppage on Friday, October 25, and a mass demonstration next day.

Activity is picking up at the Metro Days of Action offices in North York, near Toronto. Union staffers and volunteers are organizing publicity and other logistical tasks, as well as filling orders for Metro Days of Action materials.

The Secondary School Federation of teachers in the province has ordered 10,000 T-shirts. The Canadian Auto Workers has contributed \$50,000 towards the overall mobilization budget of about half a million.

Gerry Logan, a CAW organizer now on staff for the Days of Action, said in an interview that participation of workers in "cross-picketing" on October 25 is among the most important tasks people can get involved in. During previous mobilizations workers, students, and others were organized to set up picket lines at different work sites to make it easier for workers at each location to refuse to work that day since the bosses claim such stoppages are "illegal."

Those interested to help can contact organizers at (416) 512-8890; Metro Days of Action, 90 Sheppard Avenue East, North York, Ontario, M2N 3A1.

## Alarcón defends Cuba in hostile debate

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

MIAMI — In early September CBS Telenoticias aired what they called a debate between Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba's National Assembly, and Jorge Mas Canosa, chairman of the Cuban American National Foundation, the most prominent of the Miami rightist organizations opposing the Cuban revolution.

As Alarcón later explained on the Miami radio show "Ayer en Miami" (Yesterday in Miami), he was originally asked to be part of a broad range of individuals who would comment on a Dan Rather interview of Fidel Castro. However, when the hook up with the TV network came on, Alarcón found himself answering questions along with Mas Canosa as the only other participant.

Like Mas Canosa, the two TV correspon-

dents who asked questions of the two speakers repeated many slanders against the Cuban revolution.

At one point Ricardo Brown, one of the correspondents, asked Alarcón, "Are there not 'repudiation meetings' in Cuba ... where crowds protected by the police show up at [dissidents'] homes to harass them?"

Alarcón responded, "The most recent repudiation meetings in my mind are those against Gonzalo Rubalcaba and against Rosita Fornés right in Miami." He was referring to two Cuban performers who Miami rightists targeted for violent attacks. At pianist Rubalcaba's concert in May, those attending were spit on and pushed by rightist demonstrators. Cops watched and made no arrests. A concert by Fornés, a well-known singer who lives in Cuba, was canceled twice after threats by right-wing Cubans, a firebombing, and \$106,000 in financial demands that Miami Beach city officials put on the promoter.

Mas Canosa said there was no intolerance in the Miami Cuban community. He said that Francisco Aruca's radio program "Ayer en Miami" supported the Cuban government "and nothing happens to them." Mas Canosa failed to mention that the Marazul travel agency, owned by Aruca, was firebombed twice in August.

When Brown criticized the elections in Cuba, Alarcón explained, "What's wrong is that nobody should try to dictate to others how to organize their political society. What you have described is a political model that prevails in some western countries but is by no means universal. The United States has excellent relations with countries that don't hold any elections, that never did, that don't recognize the existence of political parties, don't even recognize the existence of women's rights. But they have a lot of crude oil, so nobody even thinks of block-

ading them. On the contrary, you sustain them, support them, you even go to war just so those countries may remain as they are."

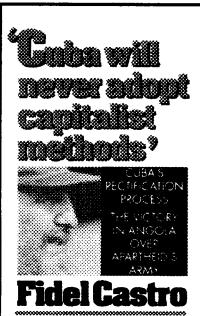
Mas Canosa spent much of his time talking about human rights in Cuba, citing things such as the supposed Aug. 30, 1962, execution by firing squad of 492 people.

Alarcón pointed out that this was a lie. A few days after the debate, during his interview in "Ayer en Miami," Alarcón quoted from an Aug. 31, 1962, Associated Press dispatch that stated six people had died before firing squads on the 30th. The article also described their crimes, including the murders of militia members.

Alarcón's ending remarks in the Telenoticias debate included, "We may have austerity, we may have shortages, but we share something that other places don't have and that's called human solidarity. There are no closed hospitals here, no closed schools. Our indexes of infant mortality and life expectancy are comparable not with Latin American countries but with the most developed countries in Europe. All this, despite the brutal pressure exerted against our country, against this people, because it's the people who suffer the pressure from an American blockade that is illegal and criminal, that lacks every moral basis and is rejected by the entire world."

There was a lively discussion among Cuban-Americans in Miami after the Telenoticias show. Many of the callers to the next day's radio show "Ayer en Miami" stated that Mas Canosa dished up more of the same lies while Alarcón spoke honestly. Others, including Cuban-American co-workers of this reporter, didn't comment favorably on either speaker. One worker, however, referred to Mas Canosa as a Batistiano, a supporter of the dictator overthrown by the Cuban revolution. "Alarcón was correct in what he said," she stated.

More books and pamphlets on Cuban Revolution from PATHFINDER



**Cuba Will Never Adopt Capitalist Methods**  
Fidel Castro  
\$3.00

**In Defense of Socialism**



**Fidel Castro**  
Four speeches on the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.  
Not only is economic and social progress possible without the dog-eat-dog competition of capitalism, Castro argues, but socialism remains the only way

forward for humanity. Also discusses Cuba's role in the struggle against the apartheid regime in southern Africa.  
\$13.95

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