

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Young Socialists set course to meet recruitment goal

— PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 60 NO. 37 OCTOBER 21, 1996

26,000 auto workers shut GM in Canada

BY MITRA SHARMA

TORONTO, Ontario — The last of the 26,000 General Motors Corp. unionized workers in Canada walked off their jobs the evening of October 9, hours before a strike deadline expired. With Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) members now walking the picket lines at plants in Woodstock, London, and Windsor, Ontario, all of the carmaker's assembly and parts plants in Canada are at a standstill.

"We didn't leave early, we're one week late," a striker at the transmission plant in Windsor told *Militant* reporters. "They want to get rid of 5,000 people," another picketer said, adding that GM has already cut 12,000 jobs in Canada in the last decade.

Some 5,300 workers at the GM engine plant in St. Catharines, Ontario, walked off the job October 6. They joined 13,500 union members at GM's Oshawa plant in this province and 1,500 at Ste. Therèse, Quebec, who struck the company October 2.

While most of the engines manufactured at St. Catharines are shipped to Oshawa, a GM spokesperson said the company's U.S. operations are affected. The shutdown at the last four facilities could affect GM's production throughout North America.

The CAW had reached an agreement with Chrysler Canada Ltd. in mid-September. General Motors was the union's next target for a settlement.

The key issue at GM is outsourcing — cutting jobs by sending work to outside suppliers that pay lower wages and often are non-union. Of the Big Three auto makers — General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler — GM currently outsources 54 percent of vehicle parts production. Chrysler outsources 71 percent, and Ford 68 percent. GM's aim is to catch up in order to remain

Continued on Page 11



CAW member Rob Nichol (center) walks picket line at GM's Oshawa plant October 3

Wheeling-Pitt strikers fight concession demands

BY DAVE WELTERS

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio — Striking steelworkers at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel are trying to get out the truth about their fight. The 4,500 members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) struck October 1 at eight mills in Ohio, West Vir-

ginia, and Pennsylvania. They walked out in opposition to the company's "final contract offer," which gutted health insurance coverage, eliminated seniority and job protection provisions, and failed to provide an adequate pension plan.

The pension proposal by WHX Corporation, the parent company that owns Wheeling-Pittsburgh, is inferior to all other integrated steelmakers.

More than 2,000 workers attended a pre-strike rally September 22 in a public show of unity in their fight. Strikers have also been asking businesses in communities around steel mills in three states to post signs of

Continued on Page 8

Equal rights for immigrants!

The entire labor movement needs to champion the call for equal rights for immigrants. The October 12 march on Washing-

EDITORIAL

ton is a good place to begin by demanding a halt to the bipartisan assaults on the rights and dignity of this section of the working class.

The unions should take the lead in condemning the latest probes against immigrants' rights, approved overwhelmingly in Congress and immediately signed into law

Continued on Page 14

Tensions still high in West Bank, Gaza

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The explosion of Palestinian resistance to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza that led to three days of street battles has subsided for the moment. But tensions remain high. The fighting, which broke out in late September in response to an attack by Israeli troops on Palestinian protesters, was unprecedented since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

A two-day summit between Yasir Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, and Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu was sponsored by the Clinton administration in Washington, D.C., October 1-2. Subsequent talks between Tel Aviv and representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) began October 7 at the Erez checkpoint on the border between Gaza and Israel. These negotiations have stalemated.

PLO official Hassan Asfour said Palestinian negotiators walked out of the talks after Israeli officials demanded military con-

Continued on Page 12

Hundreds protest acquittal of killer cop in Bronx, N.Y.

BY AL DUNCAN

BRONX, New York — In a verdict that sparked a firestorm of protests, State Supreme Court judge Gerald Sheindlin found police officer Francis Livoti not guilty of the murder of Anthony Baez. "I do not find that the defendant is innocent," Sheindlin ruled October 7. But in the same breath the judge said the prosecution "failed to establish the guilt of the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt."

His ruling was met with cries of outrage from the hundreds who had assembled to hear the verdict. "So a killer is going to walk," shouted a man from the back of the courtroom. "What do we have to do to get justice in this city?" Verónica Morgan, 39, reacted with dismay at the judge's ruling. "How can he say this!" she said. "It's not fair that this cop can get off because they have a badge and a gun."

More than 200 people who had been waiting in line to get into the packed courthouse chanted, "Guilty!" and "No Justice, No Peace!" Protesters marched to the 46th police precinct after the verdict, as a police



Militant/Eric Simpson

Protest outside Bronx court after cop's acquittal

helicopter circled overhead. Scores of cops in riot gear assembled on the streets and blocked an entrance to the courthouse.

"I think the verdict was terrible and unjust. The judge stated the man was guilty but because the prosecution didn't present the case well, he found him not guilty," said Alonzo Malloy, a Bronx resident who stood

Continued on Page 12

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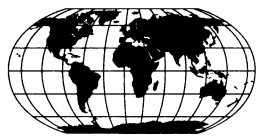
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Clinton is the ticket for U.S. big business — page 8



Coal miners halt strike in Russia

Coal miners in northern Russia's Vorkuta region ended a three-day walkout October 3 after government officials paid back wages for May and part of June. The workers had not been paid since May. Union officials threatened a nationwide stoppage unless all wages are paid. According to London's *Financial Times*, residents in the entire town of Vorkuta declared their intention to support the miners' national walkout.

Workers across the country are demanding payment of back wages. Power workers, who have not been paid since April, walked out in mid-September, shutting off electricity in cities on the Pacific coast to less than 12 hours per day.

Russian army in disarray

Government officials in Moscow announced October 4 that ailing Russian president Boris Yeltsin fired six generals to cut costs of the cash-strapped military and remove commanders who oppose reductions. Declaring a crisis in Russia's 1.5-million-strong military force, Gen. Igor Rodionov said at an October 1 news conference, "The army will stop performing its direct duties" if months of back wages are not paid. "The defense ministry cannot guarantee that no undesirable and uncontrollable processes will develop in the armed forces."

According to an article in the October 2 *New York Times*, talks of strikes and protests in the Russian army are widespread. "Humiliated by a guerrilla army in Chechnya, the armed forces have become a breeding ground for deep disillusionment," the article said.

5,000 U.S. GIs going to Bosnia

U.S. defense department spokesperson Kenneth Bacon announced October 1 that Washington is sending a new contingent of 5,000 troops to Bosnia within a few days. Defense Secretary William Perry and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. John Shalikashvili told a Senate panel on October 4 that the contingent is being deployed for a six-month tour, supposedly to assist in the withdrawal of the 15,000 U.S. troops already there. At the same time, Perry acknowledged that at least 7,500 GIs will remain in Bosnia until



U.S. marines on deck of USS Austin in Black Sea. Ship participated in joint exercises in July with "Partnership for Peace" countries, which include NATO members and regimes of former Soviet bloc. Similar joint air exercises took place in Hungary. At the meeting of NATO defense ministers in Norway September 27, however, U.S. defense secretary William Perry rejected requests of Baltic republic—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—to join NATO. At the same meeting Perry also rejected French demands to replace U.S. military chief of NATO forces in southern Europe, based in Naples, Italy, with a European officer.

mid-March, months beyond the withdrawal scheduled for the end of this year. Perry dismissed charges from Republican leaders that the Clinton administration was delaying a decision to deploy more U.S. soldiers until after the November presidential election. State Department consultant Richard Holbrooke, Washington's former chief Bosnia negotiator, justified maintaining the U.S.-led occupation force. "No responsible person can contemplate going from 60,000 troops down to zero," he said. "Some form of residual security presence is necessary."

Turkey's Erbakan visits Libya

Necmettin Erbakan, Turkey's prime minister, traveled to Libya October 4, ostensibly to collect some \$320 million Tripoli owes Turkish contractors. U.S. officials expressed disapproval of Erbakan's visit. At Washington's urging, the United Nations

Security Council has imposed an air travel ban and other sanctions on Libya since 1992. "Libya is a pariah state and ought to be treated like a pariah state," declared U.S. state department spokesperson Nicholas Burns. "When other countries, especially friends of the United States like Turkey, consider normalizing [ties with] Libya, of course we have some concerns." Erbakan flew to Tunisia to avoid breaking the UN ban, and drove from there. "We've always opposed such unjust embargoes imposed against our brotherly country, Libya," Erbakan said as he arrived in Tripoli.

Thousands protest in Bolivia

The Bolivian Labor Confederation organized a strike October 3 that shut down factories, public schools, and some public hospitals. The same day, cops attacked a protest of thousands of workers and Indian farmers who marched in the country's capital La Paz, demanding land reform and opposing the government's economic policies. Several people were injured in the assault. The police arrested several protesters.

The demonstration supported the demands of more than 20,000 peasants who have marched into La Paz to demand land reform. Workers and peasants have been protesting in La Paz since September 26 against the government's pension law and the sale of the state-owned oil company.

Racist cop pleads no contest

On October 2, Mark Fuhrman, the former Los Angeles police detective, pleaded no contest in court to one count of perjury for

lying at the O.J. Simpson trial about his use of a racial slur. The plea was part of an agreement with the state attorney general's office in which Fuhrman received three years of probation and a \$200 fine.

Fuhrman had lied in the trial when he denied referring to Blacks as "niggers" in the previous 10 years. One witness in the trial, Cynthia McKinney, said she spent hours taping interviews with the cop as research for a script, which revealed that Fuhrman used the racist epithet at least 41 times while bragging of brutalizing and apparently killing Black suspects. Fuhrman said on one tape that he enjoyed lining up "niggers against the wall and shooting them."

Clinton signs child payment law

U.S. president William Clinton signed an executive order September 28 mandating government agencies to deny loans to parents who owe child support payments, regardless of their ability to pay. The president boasted his administration has withheld \$1 billion from tax refunds from people delinquent in the payments. The order also stipulates that federal agencies must deny loans for education, agriculture, housing, and small businesses to those who owe child support.

Child suspended for sex abuse

De'Andre Dearinge, a seven-year-old Black student in Queens, New York, missed three days of school after being suspended for sexual harassment. The school's principal Gerri Perriotti sent the boy home September 27 on a five-day suspension after Dearinge kissed and tore a button from the skirt of a classmate. "Sexual harassment is too harsh a charge for an elementary school child," said Erica White, the boy's mother, who successfully fought to have the decision reversed and removed from his record.

S. African commission to subpoena ex-apartheid minister

Alex Boraine, deputy chairman of South Africa's 17-member Truth Commission, announced October 3 that the panel would issue a subpoena for Adriaan Vlok to testify about the torture and killing of anti-apartheid activists. Vlok was law-and-order minister in the racist regime from 1986 to 1991, until the exposure of secret government payments to the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Former South African president F.W. de Klerk, head of state from 1989 until 1994, when the apartheid government was removed from office, stated opposition to the commission's plans to subpoena Vlok. Eugene de Kock, commander of a police death squad unit, testified September 18 that de Klerk ordered an attack on the Transkei "homeland" in 1993. Five youth were murdered in that assault. During his trial, De Kock revealed how police units routinely killed and tortured opponents of the apartheid regime with the knowledge and complicity of top government officials.

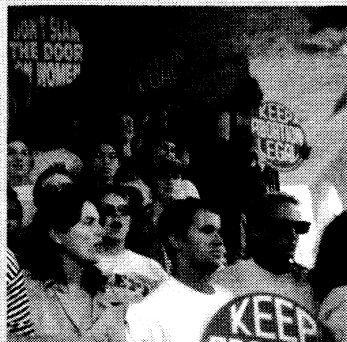
— MAURICE WILLIAMS

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New reactionary regime takes power in Afghanistan

BY MEGAN ARNEY

On September 27, the rightist army of the Taliban entered Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, and proclaimed a new government. Former president Burhanuddin Rabbani along with troops loyal to his regime and hundreds of civilians had fled the day before to Parwan, north of the capital.

Once in power, the Taliban — routinely described in the big-business press as "Islamic fundamentalists" — unleashed a new wave of reactionary measures. The Clinton administration indicated it may consider establishing diplomatic relations sometime in the future.

Rabbani's administration had come to power as a result of the defeat of the Moscow-backed regime of Sayid Mohammed Najibullah, which collapsed in 1992 after a sustained offensive by 16 major guerrilla groups armed and financed by Washington and neighboring capitalist regimes. Following the collapse of Najibullah's government, the reactionary guerrilla armies, based largely on different ethnic groups or regions, fought among themselves for power, forming a succession of coalition governments.

The Taliban emerged in 1994 as a major force among the anticommunist amalgam of competing armies. They have been covertly backed by the capitalist government of Pakistan with arms, ammunition, and money, although Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto routinely denied such reports. The U.S. and Saudi Arabia governments have also given support to the group. Rabbani's regime was backed by Tehran.

The Taliban, based among the historically dominant Pashtun tribes in southern Afghanistan, first established control of rural areas as well as Kandahar and Herat, two of the country's main cities. In the last two years they have gained control of 70 percent of the country.

Reactionary measures

Upon entering the capital, Taliban militiamen removed Najibullah from the United Nations-controlled area where he had taken sanctuary and executed him. The new authorities then publicly hanged Najibullah's bloody body, next to his brother. They later announced they hanged two other aides to Najibullah. Referring to the executed former president, Mullah Mohammed Rabbani said, "He was against Islam. He was a criminal. He was a Communist." Rabbani is the cleric who was named the head of a six-member provisional council to govern the capital.

After capturing Kabul, the Taliban instituted draconian measures, banning women from work outside the home, with very few exceptions. Girls were forbidden from going to school. Death by stoning was set as

punishment for adultery and drug offenses. Movie theaters were closed, the Kabul television station was shut down, and the playing of all music as well as dancing were banned. *Washington Post* reporter Kathy Gannon wrote that two women, apparently accused of showing their ankles through the head-to-toe dress now required for women in Kabul, were whipped publicly with a car radio antenna by two Taliban soldiers.

Alcohol consumption was also banned, with the threat of public lashes for offenders. The Taliban administration said it will execute murderers and drug dealers, and will amputate the hands and feet of thieves.

Support by Washington

According to the *New York Times*, the State Department has indicated that it would like to reestablish a presence in Kabul, "once security there improved." No U.S. embassy or diplomatic ties have been established there since 1979. Washington will send a diplomat to Kabul "in the next couple of days," State Department spokesperson Nicholas Burns said October 2.

A *Washington Post* editorial the same day said, "The diplomatic task the U.S. has in Afghanistan is to apply what residual influence it may have there to the discouragement of further competitive intervention by Pakistan and Iran, which have backed the Taliban and the [former] Kabul regime respectively."

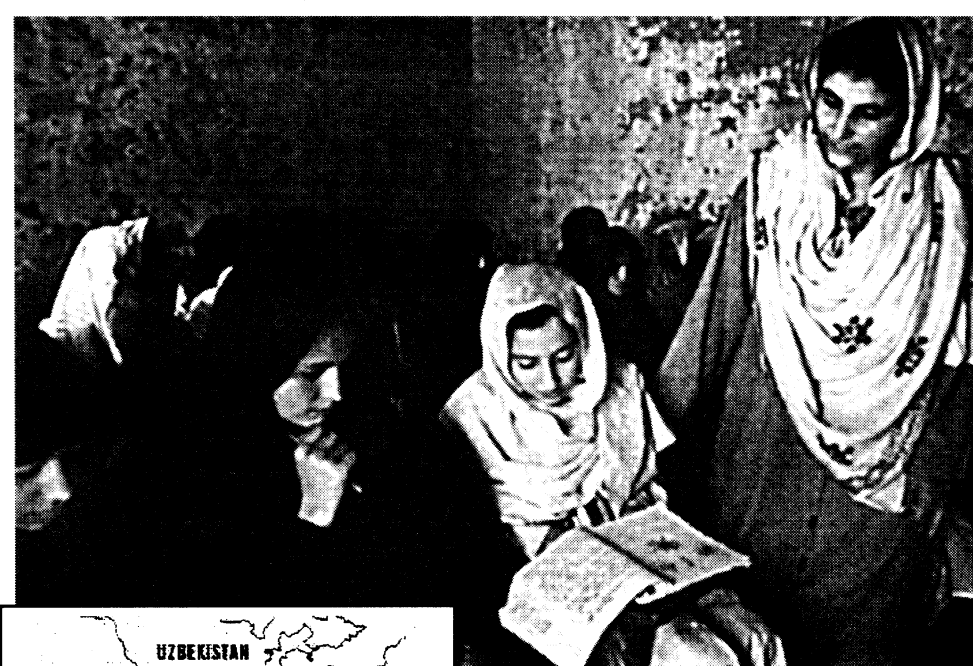
Earlier that day, Mohammed Stanakzai, deputy foreign minister in the provisional government established by the Taliban, said that the rightist regime wanted "friendly and good relations" with Washington, and would welcome U.S. investments in Afghanistan.

Unocal, the U.S. oil company that had plans to build a pipeline from Turkmenistan to Pakistan via Afghanistan, said October 2 that the recent Taliban takeover would give a boost to the project. "If this leads to peace, stability, and international recognition, then this is a positive development," said Unocal vice president Chris Taggart.

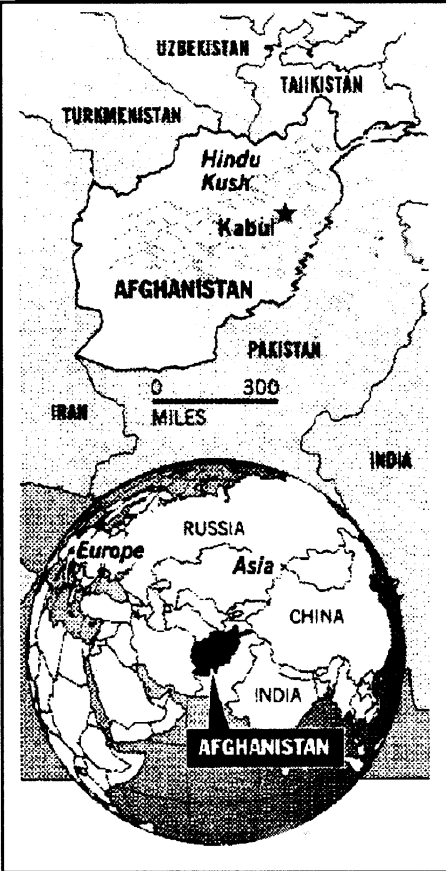
An editorial in the October 8 *New York Times* said the Taliban regime "has brought a measure of stability to the country for the first time in years."

Not all capitalist regimes in the region are happy with the new government, however. Newspapers in Pakistan quoted Iranian officials describing the Taliban as "violent, narrow-minded and reactionaries."

The developments have also been met with grave concern in ruling circles of neighboring republics of the former USSR. "The sweeping military success of the Taliban Islamic movement," said an article in the October 3 *Financial Times* of London, "has upset the strategic balance of forces in the



After the Taliban took power in Kabul, they banned women and girls from school and work. Above, Afghan women study in a refugee camp in Pakistan.



surrounding region and has sent a shockwave through the Commonwealth of Independent States."

The government of Uzbekistan, a former Soviet republic north of Afghanistan, asked the United Nations to impose an arms embargo against Afghanistan, fearing the Taliban may enter its territory. Meanwhile, Afghanistan's new Information Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, issued a warning to Russia and the Central Asian states against "interfering in its internal affairs."

One of world's poorest countries

Afghanistan, with a population of 15 million, is one of the world's poorest countries. Life expectancy averages just 43 years. More children die in infancy there than anywhere else in the world. Some 88 percent of the population is illiterate.

Afghanistan was ruled by a monarchy until 1973, in a system where the ruler was chosen by Pashtun tribal leaders. Based on four dominant nationalities and numerous smaller ones, the country never developed into a modern nation-state. Under monarchical rule, Afghan peasants labored under semi-feudal conditions. Eighty percent of those in the countryside did not own enough land on which to subsist, or did not own land at all. Many of the big landowners enriched themselves through producing and trading in opium.

These oppressive conditions fueled social unrest among the peasantry, students, and the country's small working class, leading to a revolt that toppled the monarchy in 1973. A republic was declared and Mohammed Daud, the king's cousin, became president.

Daud appointed several members of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) to cabinet posts. Formed in 1965 by middle-class radicals, the PDPA initially attracted some young people, workers, and military officers who wanted to change the old order. The PDPA, which developed close ties with the Communist Party of the USSR, had no significant base among the peasants or the small number of wage workers.

Trade unions were legalized for the first time. Freedom of religion was guaranteed. Police files were burned and 13,000 political prisoners set free.

The announced measures threatened the power and privileges of the landlord class, which launched an armed struggle to topple

the new government and restore the old semifeudal order.

Washington rushed to assist these rightist forces, projecting them as "freedom fighters." The U.S. government generously contributed almost \$2 billion in arms and aid to various Afghan mujahedeen rebel groups over the next 13 years. As a result of the war, 2 million Afghans have died, 2.5 million have fled as refugees to Iran, and another 3 million to Pakistan. Scattered throughout the country today are 10 million land mines, according to the United Nations estimates.

Workers and peasants not organized

In response to the landlord-backed counterrevolutionary attacks, the PDPA carried out a political course that weakened its base among the toilers. Instead of organizing and mobilizing workers and peasants to struggle against their oppression to advance the democratic revolution in Afghanistan, the regime attempted to impose sweeping reforms by administrative decrees. When this met resistance, the government tried to implement measures by force. It was encouraged and supported in this path by Moscow.

While tens of thousands of land titles were handed out to peasants and the abolition of usury was proclaimed, for example, small farmers were not organized to defend, extend, or consolidate these measures. No means were provided for obtaining the seed, animals, and credit that the landlords had previously controlled.

The literacy campaign was made compulsory, and physical force rather than persuasion was often used to assemble villagers for classes. Threats posed by counterrevolutionary forces were met by heavy-handed military and repressive measures. Often whole villages were bombed where rightists were thought to have support.

The bureaucratic and arbitrary methods of the PDPA politically and physically disarmed the peasants and drove many to the side of the landlord-backed counterrevolutionary groups who called for a "holy war" against "atheistic communism."

Violent factional struggles within the PDPA itself split the government at the highest levels, resulting in the replacement and execution of successive leaders. In September of 1979, Afghan president Nur Mohammed Taraki was murdered and deposed by Hafzullah Amin.

In a culmination of its disastrous policy toward Afghanistan, Moscow sent tens of thousands of troops to prop up the increasingly unpopular PDPA regime in December 1979. Over the next decade, Soviet troop strength in Afghanistan reached 115,000. In addition, the Afghan government and Soviet forces carried out a widespread bombing campaign in the countryside with the aim of breaking the strength of the rebel militias. By the time the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan in February 1989, they had destroyed some 12,000 villages.

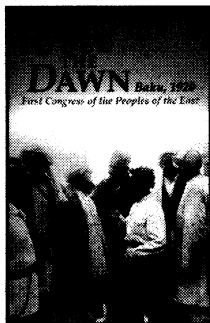
The arrival of the Soviet military to prop up the discredited PDPA regime violated the Afghan people's right to national sovereignty and broadened support for the rightist-led opposition.

In a resolution adopted in November 1980, the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party explained, "The Kremlin's policy in Afghanistan has set back the revolutionary process opened in April 1978, and has had a dampening effect on the class struggle."

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Socialist candidates in Illinois protest Klan

BY DAVID MARSHALL

PEORIA, Illinois — Socialist Workers candidates and their supporters in Chicago and Peoria participated in a day of campaigning across the state of Illinois September 28.

Kristin Meriam, SWP candidate in the fourth congressional district here, and six of her supporters went to an anti-Ku Klux Klan rally in Macomb. Claiming that area residents of this mid-state agricultural region had called on them to combat the influx of immigrants who work in area meatpacking plants, the Klan was scheduled to hold a rally and "cross-lighting" later that day on a secluded farm 20 miles away.

The protest rally in Macomb drew 300 students, workers, and farmers. United Mineworkers member Skip Atwater had come after "men in GI Joe outfits had gone around using little kids to hand out Klan leaflets. The message was very racist," Atwater said. "I don't go for stuff like that. I'm against anything to do with the KKK."

From a campaign table stocked with Pathfinder books, socialists sold 30 copies of the *Militant* and distributed a campaign statement calling for "Equal Rights for Immigrants!"

Meriam was the only candidate to address the rally. "As the economic crisis of capitalism deepens," she said, "politicians from both big-business parties, and groups like the KKK, try to scapegoat immigrants, Blacks, women on welfare and others for problems in society caused by the capitalist billionaires and their system."

"Our campaign points to the common interests all working people have," she said, "and puts forward an action program that will help unite us across race, gender and nationality."

Several students from Western Illinois University (WIU) approached Meriam after her speech to talk. Three of these students signed up for more information on the

Young Socialists.

Following the rally in Macomb, four campaign supporters joined activists from the WIU women's center to protest along the shoulder of a rural highway near the Ku Klux Klan rally site.

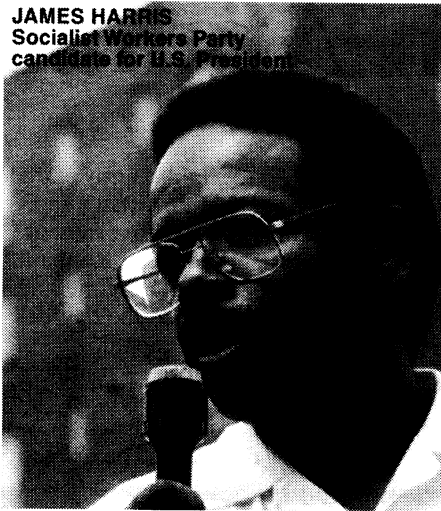
A couple hundred miles to the north, 18th congressional district candidate Angela Lariscy and four supporters attended a rally in Lamont for members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) who have been locked out at the Unovan oil refinery there since April. Lariscy is a member of the OCAW at the Witco plant near Peoria. Two hundred workers attended from area unions, including a contingent from United Automobile Workers Local 974 at Caterpillar in Peoria.

Socialists in Illinois are now looking forward to a full schedule of campaigning during the weeks leading up to the November 5 election. Frank Forrestal, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Illinois, recently won a leave of absence from his job as an auto assembly worker to campaign full-time between October 20 and November 5.

Harris in VIBE magazine

The following appeared in the November issue of *VIBE*, a widely-distributed hip hop music magazine, along with the picture on the right. The article consisted of snippets on "other presidential candidates," including those of the Reform Party, the Green Party and the Libertarian Party.

JAMES HARRIS
Socialist Workers Party
candidate for U.S. President



SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

The Socialists can take heart that someone listened to their pro-worker, anti-corporate stance. Unfortunately, it was Pat Buchanan, whom this party considers "an ultrarightist and incipient fascist." So James Harris, a 48-year-old black factory worker and candidate for president, will have to look for other allies in his working-class struggle. He believes the workers of the world must look past borders and unite against ruling-class oppression. "The socialist campaign demands cradle-to-grave coverage and expansion of Social Security to include free health care and living wages for those out of work," he says. The party

is pro-choice, supports equal rights for immigrants, and wants U.S. troops out of, well, everywhere.

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L.A. socialist candidate condemns CIA

BY JON HILLSON

LOS ANGELES—"What shocks the people I work with," said Thabo Ntweng, "isn't the revelation about the CIA bringing in drugs to the Black community (see article on page 10)."

"A lot of workers had that suspicion to begin with. What shocks them is that their suspicions were right all along and what that means. As one co-worker told me, 'If this was the government that did this, there's nothing to do but get rid of the government.' That's how deeply outraged people are."

Ntweng is the Socialist Workers candi-

date for U.S. Congress in California's 35th District and a baggage handler on the Northwest Airlines ramp at Los Angeles International Airport.

Supporters of Ntweng, who is a member of the International Association of Machinists, and four other local SWP candidates, are participating in the protests and meetings demanding the truth about the CIA-contra-crack connection.

Ntweng's opponent is Democratic incumbent Maxine Waters.

The candidates and their supporters have circulated 2,000 flyers that demand: "Open all the contra-drug files now! Make the CIA,

DEA, FBI, National Security Council Come Clean! Arrest and Prosecute the Government Drug Traffickers!"

The statement describes the kill-for-hire contra mercenaries, why Washington employed them to overthrow the Nicaraguan revolution, and the racist business decision the CIA-drug runners made to target the Los Angeles Black community for massive crack-cocaine sales to fund the U.S. dirty war.

The socialist candidates cite Malcolm X on drug addiction. "When a person is a drug addict," the Black revolutionary stated, "he's not the criminal; he's the victim of the criminal. The criminal is the man downtown who brings drugs into our community."

The statement points to Cuba, the "most drug-free country in the world, because its working people liberated it from the root of the drug business, capitalism."

"What's needed now," Ntweng said, "is the broadest, biggest protest possible to increase pressure on the government. Anger over the revelations is growing in the Black community, among Latinos, other working people, students, and all people with a sense of decency and humanity."

"This sentiment needs to be mobilized," the socialist candidate said, "to get at the truth, find the criminals at the top of the capitalist government who ordered this racist indignity against the Black community, and arrest, prosecute, convict, and jail them."

In an interview broadcast nationally on Public Radio International on October 8, Ntweng blasted U.S. government complicity in the CIA drug-running operation as "a hundred times worse than the racist beating of Rodney King."

Speaking with a reporter at the October 3 vigil, Ntweng held both Democrats and Republicans responsible for the drug running. "It's their White House, their Congress, and their CIA," he said.

Garza campaigns at North Carolina mills

The following article appeared in the September 27 *Daily News*, published in Eden, North Carolina. The September 30 edition of the paper ran the picture on the right with the accompanying caption.

The Daily News

BY DAN THOMAS

Staff Writer

EDEN, North Carolina — Forget Jack Kemp's welfare rhetoric and Al Gore's Internet obsession for a minute. A vice presidential candidate who wants to liberate America's workers will campaign in Eden.

Laura Garza, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice president of the United States, will stop to campaign at the gates of the Karastan Rug plant in downtown Eden. Garza will begin campaigning at the factory at 6:30 a.m. Monday as part of her North Carolina tour. She is running on the socialist ticket with U.S. Presidential candidate James Harris.

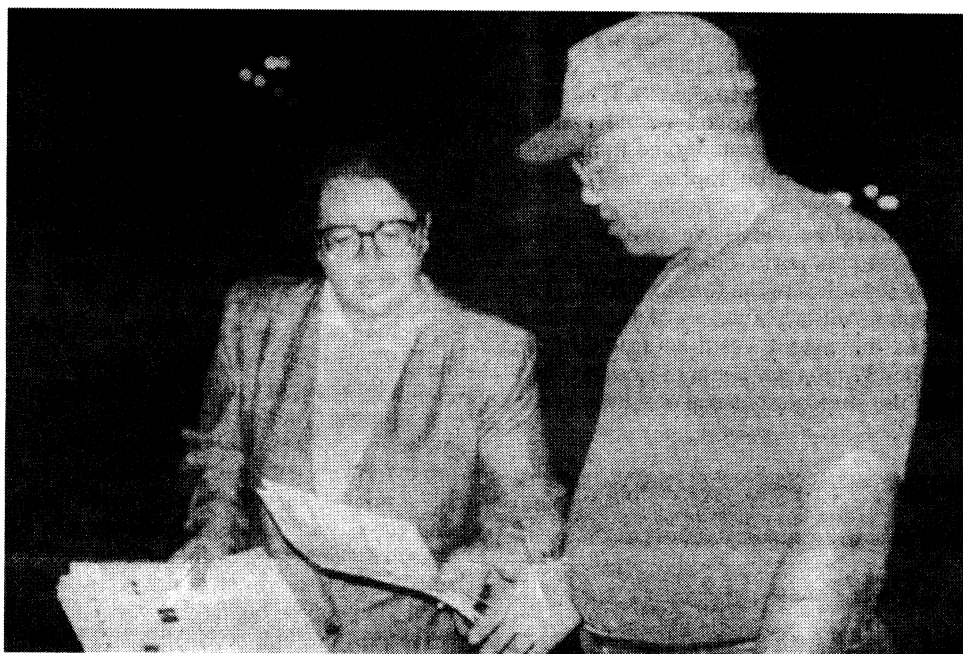
"We go out with our campaign talking to workers," said Martin Boyers, a party spokesman. "Karastan has been a place with a history of struggle."

Boyers said the party's state gubernatorial candidate, Jim Rogers, used to be a carpet worker at the Karastan mill. Repeated efforts to contact mill officials were unsuccessful.

Garza's tour will also take her to the University of North Carolina's Asheville and Greensboro campuses and to the Pathfinder Bookstore in Greensboro.

Eden is the next-to-last stop before Garza concludes the tour at UNCG. She will address the Clinton Administration's attacks on Iraq, bipartisan attacks on the Social Security system, Bob Dole's economic growth proposals, and Cuba's socialist revolution during her tour.

Many workers in industrial towns like Eden listen to the socialist message, Boyers said.



Daily News/Chandler

Laura Garza, left, the Socialist Party's vice-presidential candidate, hands a pamphlet to Raymond Walters as he goes to work this morning at the Karastan Rug Mill. Garza spent about an hour at the mill's gate trying to get the workers' support.

"A lot of people listen to what we have to say," he said. "We're out to get an exchange of ideas, not to hustle votes. (We) also learn something about working people."

Garza, 37, is a staff writer for the *Militant*, a socialist newsletter. She is a former member of the United Steelworkers of America, a member of the National Organization for Women, and, in 1993, ran for mayor of Miami as the SWP candidate. She has also traveled to Cuba, Mexico and Puerto Rico to promote solidarity among workers internationally, and attended the international women's conference in Beijing, China, last September.

"We're a small organization," Boyers said. "We raise important political ideas. If the Democrats, the Republicans or (Ross) Perot's party wins, then the opponents of working people have won."

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 _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Union/School/Organization _____

Mail to: Socialist Workers 1996 Campaign, P.O. Box 2652, New York, NY 10009
Compuserve: 104124,1405 Phone: (212) 328-1504

SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

Sub drive will aid recruitment

BY GREG MCCARTAN

Socialist workers and members of the Young Socialists are joining strike picket lines, protests to defend immigrant rights and affirmative action, and political conferences. Opportunities in the class struggle and interest in socialist ideas are helping to get the *Militant* subscription drive off to a good start, boost sales of Pathfinder books, and widen the response to the Socialist Workers election campaign.

The SWP and Young Socialists have announced plans for regional socialist education conferences at the end of November in the United States (see ad on front page) and are stepping up work to meet the goals of the YS recruitment drive (see article on page 6). The *Militant* has extended its subscription drive for one week, until November 24, so that supporters can best reach out to workers and youth across the country as they build toward these educational conferences.

The aim of the seven-week subscription drive is to win 1,200 new subscribers to the *Militant* and 425 to its sister Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and sell 550 copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*.

The results of September sales of Pathfinder titles from Pathfinder bookstores are



Pathfinder booth draws interest at New York Is Book Country fair

Militant/ Hilda Cuzco

published here this week, along with goals for the subscription drive. Socialists aim to utilize campaigning over the next seven weeks as a way to increase sales of Pathfinder books, while achieving the goals of the subscription drive.

Last month, 11 cities met or surpassed Pathfinder sales goals. September's U.S. total of 76 percent is another step in the upward trend since early summer.

Several industrial union fractions jumped way up in sales in September, including steelworkers in Canada, TGWU members in Britain, and textile and garment workers in the United States.

We are overflowing with examples of how socialists are involving themselves in the class struggle, selling Pathfinder books and socialist periodicals in the process, and organizing recruitment activities. Here are a few:

Socialists in southern California responded quickly to revelations about U.S. Central Intelligence Agency involvement in sales of crack cocaine in Los Angeles in the 1980s, selling 12 introductory subscriptions to the *Militant*, 6 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 8 copies of *New Internationalist* the first few days of the drive. Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. Congress issued a statement on the exposure, distributing 1,000 leaflets at a Town Meeting in the Black community in Los Angeles.

Earlier, at a debate on affirmative action between ultrarightist David Duke and civil rights figure Joe Hicks, socialists sold 22 single copies and a subscription to the *Militant* along with 17 Pathfinder titles.

At two protests against the anti-affirmative action Proposition 209, socialist literature tables "bustled with political discussion, as supporters sold 17 Pathfinder titles and 20 copies of the *Militant*," reports rail worker Craig Honts.

Hitting the streets after a judge ruled New York cop Francis Livoti "not guilty" in the death of Anthony Baez, socialists in Manhattan sold 16 copies of the *Militant* and a subscription.

They issued a statement condemning the verdict and encouraging further protests in this and other police brutality cases. At a march of 500 in the Bronx the next day, one young protester who met the Young Socialists asked for further discussion on how to join the youth organization.

A week earlier, supporters of Pathfinder set up a booth at New York Is Book Country, a major bookfair on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. A total of 57 Pathfinder

titles were purchased by those attending the fair, plus 11 copies of *New Internationalist*. The best seller was *Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War: 1956-58*, by Ernesto Che Guevara, with 11 copies sold.

Given the struggles of the Palestinian people and the turmoil in the Mideast, titles such as *Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation* and *On the Jewish Question* received considerable interest. Four subscriptions to the *Militant* were sold as well.

Supporters of the *Militant* in Canada have been visiting picket lines of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) members on strike against General Motors. They are also encouraging young people interested in joining the Young Socialists to get out to the strike as well, in order to get a taste of union struggles.

"Auto workers are prepared for a long strike," said Heidi Rose, a *Militant* supporter in Toronto who has been out on the picket line in Oshawa, Ontario. "We had a regular plant gate sale at General Motors for a month before the strike, and we've gotten three teams back to the plant since." Each team has sold some copies of the *Militant*.

Laura Garza, Socialist Workers candidate for vice president, visited strikers at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel in Steubenville, Ohio. More than half the 4,500 workers are employed by the company work at the mill there. "We got a good response," reports David Welters, a member of the International Association of Machinists who works at USAir in Pittsburgh. Welters accompanied Garza on the visit to the strike.

"We spoke with about 15 workers out on the line and introduced them to Laura and the *Militant*," Welters said. "Laura explained that she was there to show her support for the strike and get more information so she can let people know as she tours around the country."

Socialists in San Francisco sold three copies of *Socialism on Trial* to participants at a YS class series. The book by James P. Can-

Monthly Sales of Pathfinder Books						
Countries/Cities	September			Previous months		
	Goal	Sold	%Sold	Aug.	July	June
AUSTRALIA	36	46	128%	119%	53%	94%
CANADA						
Toronto	80	86	108%	50%	79%	79%
Montreal	72	67	93%	40%	96%	89%
Vancouver	32	12	38%	100%	9%	69%
Canada Total	184	165	90%	68%	74%	69%
NEW ZEALAND						
Christchurch	32	18	56%	91%	38%	100%
Auckland	56	29	52%	65%	48%	83%
NZ Total	88	47	53%	73%	44%	88%
SWEDEN						
Stockholm	40	42	105%	88%	130%	188%
UNITED KINGDOM						
Manchester	46	84	183%	128%	0%	104%
London	170	149	88%	182%	121%	104%
UK Total	216	233	108%	150%	74%	95%
UNITED STATES						
Chicago	77	119	155%	79%	64%	100%
San Francisco	95	112	118%	106%	52%	71%
Detroit	70	80	114%	103%	69%	78%
Brooklyn	165	184	112%	69%	56%	36%
Los Angeles	120	133	111%	129%	73%	80%
Atlanta	48	50	104%	98%	63%	100%
Boston	65	65	100%	71%	40%	66%
Peoria	27	23	85%	104%	93%	78%
Washington, D.C.	64	48	75%	56%	102%	135%
Miami	55	40	73%	96%	56%	36%
New York	175	122	70%	54%	59%	31%
Seattle	80	55	69%	85%	35%	34%
Newark	171	107	63%	58%	20%	16%
Twin Cities	104	65	63%	62%	106%	50%
Salt Lake City	40	18	45%	46%	72%	40%
Greensboro	77	30	39%	85%	80%	66%
Birmingham	65	25	38%	60%	43%	43%
Houston	45	17	38%	51%	35%	33%
Pittsburgh	63	23	37%	59%	27%	16%
Philadelphia	63	22	35%	38%	48%	32%
Morgantown	32	11	34%	75%	25%	13%
Des Moines	45	15	33%	49%	0%	40%
Cleveland*	50	0	0%	74%	0%	88%
U.S. Total	1796	1364	76%	74%	53%	52%
Goal/Should be	1800	1800	100%	100%	100%	100%
*No new report						

Militant Subscription Drive Goals OCTOBER 5 — NOVEMBER 24			
	Militant	PM	NI
Australia	11	3	7
Canada			
Montreal	25	8	40
Toronto	35	10	25
Vancouver	30	3	20
Canada Total	90	21	85
New Zealand			
Auckland	20	1	9
Christchurch	6	1	4
New Zealand Total	26	2	13
Sweden	12	8	15
United Kingdom			
London	36	8	25
Manchester	26	2	15
U.K. Total	62	10	40
United States			
Atlanta	27	12	12
Birmingham, AL	48	5	18
Boston	30	10	15
Brooklyn	90	45	60
Chicago	60	30	30
Cleveland	25	8	15
Des Moines	25	15	15
Denver	8	4	2
Detroit	50	10	15
Greensboro, NC	25	5	9
Houston	40	15	15
Los Angeles	85	40	40
Miami	30	15	12
Morgantown, WV	21	1	7
New York	100	40	50
Newark, NJ	90	45	45
Peoria, IL	20	3	10
Philadelphia	24	6	6
Pittsburgh	30	3	12
Salt Lake City	32	12	10
San Francisco	70	30	35
Seattle	45	10	20
Twin Cities, MN	70	20	20
Washington, DC	30	12	15
Total U.S.	1075	396	488
International totals	1302	442	661
IN THE UNIONS			
United States			
IAM	0	0	0
OCAW	27	0	15
UAW	0	0	0
UFCW	4	4	3
UMWA	4	0	4
UNITE	15	10	10
USWA	40	10	22
UTU	0	0	0
United States Total	90	24	54
United Kingdom			
AEEU	6	0	4
U.K. total	6	0	4

Books sold to Co-workers

Unions	September			Previous months		
	Goal	Sales	Total	August	July	June
Australia						
AMWU	4	2	50%	250%		
Canada						
USWA	7	10	143%			
IAM	8	5	63%	23%	38%	62%
Total Canada	15	15	100%	23%	38%	62%
United Kingdom						
TGWU	7	7	100%	0%	29%	43%
AEEU	10	5	50%	0%	90%	40%
RMT	10	0	0%	50%	0%	30%
Total U.K.	27	15	56%	19%	56%	26%
United States						
UNITE	26	24	92%	46%	19%	17%
UMWA	5	4	80%	40%	40%	120%
UAW	65	36	55%	42%	0%	25%
IAM	71	33	46%	44%	11%	0%
UFCW	6	2	33%	0%	0%	0%
OCAW	48	16	33%	50%	33%	19%
USWA	58	16	28%	34%	19%	26%
UTU*	94	0	0%	46%	0%	14%
U.S. Total	373	131	35%	45%	10%	18%
Goal/Should be	400	400	100%	100%	100%	100%
* No new report						

IAM—International Association of Machinists; OCAW—Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW—United Auto Workers; UFCW—United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA—United Mine Workers of America; UNITE—Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees; USWA—United Steelworkers of America; UTU—United Transportation Union.

non, a long-time leader of the SWP, explains the basic ideas of socialism. It is the courtroom testimony during the frame-up trial of 18 leaders of the Minneapolis Teamsters union and the SWP charged with sedition during World War II.

The sales took place at a Militant Labor Forum on the Black struggle were 14 other books were sold. "We sold more than our quota last month in San Francisco," said Mary Lou Montauk, "and it looks like we'll go over this month too!"

— YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD —

YS National Committee sets course to meet recruitment drive goals

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, Minnesota — At a meeting here October 5-6 the National Committee of the Young Socialists voted to sponsor four regional educational conferences November 29-December 1. The three-day

events will be held in Atlanta, Georgia; Peoria, Illinois; San Francisco; and Washington, D.C. They are cosponsored by the Socialist Workers Party. These gatherings will culminate an intensive period of campaigning for SWP candidates in the 1996 elections and a drive to increase the size of the YS.

The National Committee reaffirmed the decision made at its July meeting to win 80 new members to the YS. Thirty one young people have joined the ranks of the Young Socialists since July. The recruitment drive will continue through the regional conferences and end on December 1.

"The educational gatherings will bring closer to the YS those considering joining," said Jack Willey, organizer of the YS national steering committee. "They will also provide an opportunity for new YS members to discuss politics for an entire week-end with other fighters from their region." YS chapters throughout the country, Willey said, will reproduce leaflets for these conferences right away and start building them as part of their activities over the next seven weeks.

"We think we can make the goal of recruiting 80 new people to our organization," Willey said. "This effort is connected to the opportunities opened by the Socialist Workers presidential campaign and local election campaigns. The recruitment drive comes in the context of increasing attacks on workers and youth by the capitalist class and the need to build a youth organization that will fight back and offer a way forward."

"We see attacks on the social benefits that workers fought for and won in the labor upsurge of the 1930s and later during the civil rights movement," Willey stated. "Many of these attacks are directed against

immigrants. The ruling class and its government are trying to destroy elemental human and class solidarity."

Participants at the meeting noted the progress the Young Socialists have made since the organization set the recruitment goal. "We have more units of the Young Socialists that work collectively, discuss politics and study the history of the working class," said Willey. YS chapters that meet regularly and plan activities on a week-to-week basis are in a much better position to respond to politics as they unfold, the YS leader said.

The importance of studying the history and lessons of the working-class movement in order to more effectively participate in today's struggles was a focus of the discussion. Several YS chapters have started to hold regular class series attended by YS members and others interested to learn more about communist politics.

National Committee members spoke of the need to read and study the Marxist magazine *New International* no. 7 with the article "Opening Guns of World War III," in order to be better armed to respond to Washington's recent bombings of the Iraqi people, and *New International* no. 10 with articles on defending the Cuban revolution and "Imperialism's March Toward Fascism and War."

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics by SWP national secretary Jack Barnes was another book NC members pointed to as a must to read for young people wanting to build a revolutionary youth organization. Young Socialists in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada see this book as so important that they are currently involved in translating it into French.

The National Committee also voted to extend the YS national fund drive through December 1. The Twin Cities YS chapter got off to a good start by raising \$200 toward the \$6,000 national goal at a dinner that took place at the Pathfinder bookstore here before a Militant Labor Forum October 5. The forum was on the 1996 U.S. elections and the capitalist two-party system.

Socialist election campaign

"Every city where the SWP presidential candidates go to, we see the response from youth," said National Committee member Diana Newberry from New York. "We've had several meetings where the socialist candidates have spoken, where 15-20 young people attend." Newberry was speaking about the tours of Socialist Workers candidate for president James Harris and his running mate Laura Garza. Newberry is one of the YS members who have been touring with the socialist candidates and helping build YS chapters across the country. "We need to emulate those tours locally, with the local socialist candidates," she added. Many YS members are candidates for statewide and other offices.

YS members discussed the possibilities that exist on campus to set up debates with other youth organizations that support the capitalist parties. Speaking publicly on behalf of the Young Socialists about developments in the elections such as Clinton taking the lead on the culture war, or what the addition of Jack Kemp to the Republican ticket meant, will be on the agenda of every YS chapter. YS members will speak on cam-

31 new members in the YS!

From July 10 to October 11

City	# of new members
Athens, GA	1
Atlanta	4
Boston	1
Chicago	2
Cleveland	2
Denver	2
Houston	1
Los Angeles	3
Morgantown	1
Newark	1
New York	3
Salt Lake City	1
San Diego	1
San Francisco	3
Seattle	1
St. Paul, MN	1
Washington, D.C.	2
TOTAL	31

pus on behalf of the Socialist Workers campaign and on other topics such as the fight for Palestinian self-determination and the struggle of the people of Northern Ireland against British occupation.

Young Socialists will also be part of the campaign to sell 1,200 subscriptions to the *Militant*. Young fighters can get a subscription to the socialist newspaper and the YS principles pamphlet for \$12. Through the campaign to win new subscribers and sell Pathfinder books, YS members will go to plant gates, street corners, and high school and college campuses where they will be able to meet other youth looking for a revolutionary organization.

Attacks on democratic rights

YS National Committee members discussed the increasing government probes against activists involved in defending the Cuban revolution against Washington's attacks, including individuals who have participated in fact-finding trips to Cuba.

Two weeks before the NC meeting, Willey received a call at his house in Minneapolis from a person stating he was from the Treasury Department. This person wanted to know more details about the recent US-Cuba Youth Exchange. This trip was sponsored by the National Network on Cuba and more than 140 young people from the United States took part. The youth exchange was fully hosted by the Federation of University Students of Cuba, which covered accommodations and all expenses on the island. Fully hosted trips are not a violation of U.S. law.

The caller asked for information about the trip. Willey responded to the first question about the sponsorship of the exchange. But then he realized the implications of what the caller was raising and immediately hung up. Willey noted that he had "made a mistake in even answering one question from the government agent." Calls like these are probes by the government in an attempt to legitimize their attacks on democratic rights, Willey said.

Mary Alice Waters, representing the SWP Political Committee at the meeting, explained that under the Bill of Rights all U.S. residents have the right not to answer any questions by any federal agents without a lawyer present.

Waters explained that such calls and other probes by federal agents are aimed at intimidating political activists. They are part of the attempt of the capitalist class to limit the political space workers have won through struggle, she said. They are part of the attacks on immigrants, the gutting of social security under the so-called welfare reform, the culture war and its ramifications, the denial of rights and benefits to same-sex couples, "antiterrorist" legislation, and attempts to draw school teachers into being an extension of the police apparatus.

This is the first time in more than 20 years — that is since the successful lawsuit filed by the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance against the FBI and other government agencies for harassment — that a leader of the party or the Young Socialists received a call of this nature, Waters said.

The YS leaders decided to return to their chapters and organize classes on the articles in the October 14 *Militant* on the history of police agencies harassing political organizations, trade unionists, and others who fight for social justice.

Now available: YS pamphlet!

Political Principles, Campaigns and Rules of Organization

SPECIAL OFFER TILL DEC. 1:
\$12 with 12-week
subscription to 'Militant'



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.

Pledges up, collection needed

BY JANE HARRIS

NEWARK, New Jersey — From Athens, Greece, we received the following E-mail message from Pathfinder fund supporter Georges Mehrabian: "This is to inform you that we have adopted a goal of \$200 for the international fund here in Athens. We are

also raising funds for the publication of the Greek edition of the manifesto of the Cuban revolution, *The Second Declaration of Havana*, which is due out this fall."

Garment worker Arlene Rubinstein from Atlanta, Georgia, reports that in that city pledges now total \$2,750. Socialist workers there are discussing raising their goal. Checks totaling \$400 arrived this week from Atlanta.

A special weekend in support of the 1996 Pathfinder Fund will be taking place in Seattle, Washington, and Vancouver, British Columbia, later this month. The main presentation will be on "The 1996 U.S. Elections and the Capitalist Two-Party System." There will also be a class on "The October 1917 Russian Revolution and Its Importance for Revolutionary Fighters Today." Fund supporters in the area have put out an attractive two-color flyer to promote the events.

Meetings like these are one of the most effective ways in the international effort to raise \$125,000 to keep in print, and gradually upgrade, some 300 titles Pathfinder distributes. These books are needed by working-class fighters, from those protesting the court acquittal of a killer cop in New York to GM workers on the picket lines in Canada and Palestinian patriots.

Pathfinder is now preparing a new edition of the *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis* with a new cover similar to the recently issued French-language edition. In addition, an expanded edition of the *Education for Socialists* bulletin *The Chinese Revolution and Its Development* is in the works.

As we go to press, supporters have sent in \$26,000, when the fund should be at \$62,500 to be on track. While contributions are arriving daily, the pace is not yet up to speed to put the fund on target. Supporters in every city that is behind should discuss what measures are needed to step up weekly collection of payments and win more pledges.

Pathfinder Fund

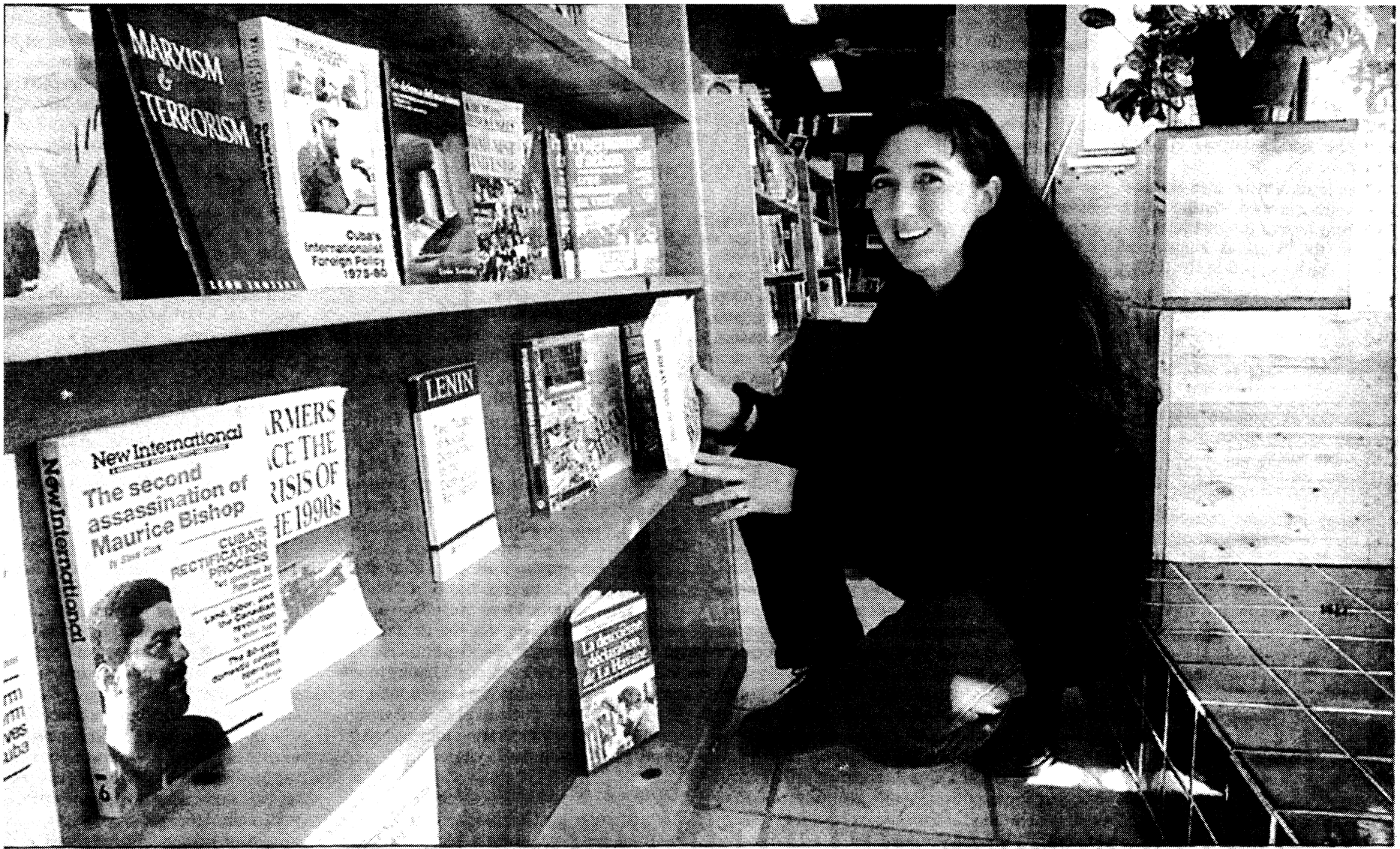
CITY/COUNTRY	GOAL	PAID	% of GOAL
UNITED STATES			
Miami	\$2,800	\$1,635	58%
Washington DC	\$3,500	\$1,250	36%
San Francisco	\$10,000	\$3,427	34%
Detroit	\$6,000	\$1,965	33%
Salt Lake City	\$3,600	\$1,150	32%
Pittsburgh	\$6,000	\$1,600	27%
Brooklyn	\$6,500	\$1,720	26%
Atlanta	\$2,700	\$675	25%
Chicago	\$7,500	\$1,850	25%
Greensboro	\$2,400	\$545	23%
Seattle*	\$9,000	\$1,970	22%
Manhattan	\$8,000	\$1,473	18%
Cleveland	\$3,100	\$490	16%
Peoria	\$2,750	\$390	14%
Morgantown	\$1,500	\$200	13%
Des Moines	\$2,350	\$230	10%
Newark	\$8,500	\$815	10%
Los Angeles	\$12,000	\$1,013	8%
Twin Cities	\$7,000	\$465	7%
Birmingham	\$4,500	\$200	4%
Boston	\$6,000	\$250	4%
Philadelphia	\$5,000	\$125	3%
Houston	\$3,000	\$0	0%
U.S. TOTAL	\$123,700	\$23,438	19%
AUSTRALIA			
CANADA	\$750	\$30	
Montreal	\$465		
Vancouver	\$100		
Toronto	\$265		
FRANCE		\$511	
GREECE	\$200		
ICELAND			
NEW ZEALAND	\$4,220	\$2,054	49%
SWEDEN	\$400		
UNITED KINGDOM			
INT'L TOTAL	\$130,100	\$26,033	21%
SHOULD BE	\$125,000	\$62,500	50%

*Raised goal

YS FUND DRIVE \$6,000 BY DECEMBER 1

CITY	LOCAL GOAL
Boston	\$600
Chicago	\$400
Cleveland	\$150
Los Angeles	\$500
Miami	\$100
Peoria	\$100
Salt Lake City	\$50
San Francisco	\$700
Twin Cities	\$800
TOTAL	\$3,400

The photo and article below are reprinted from the Oct. 3, 1996, *Star Ledger*, the main daily in Newark, New Jersey.



New owner Ruth Nebbia in the Pathfinder bookstore on Halsey Street.

Photo by Samir Id-Deen

Bookstore blazes a trail for the unconventional

By BARBARA KUKLA

There's a communal feeling about the Pathfinder bookstore at 87½ Halsey St.

Lots of discussions about politics and the plight of working people.

Readings by militant authors.

And Friday night meetings of the Militant Labor Forum.

With the exception of the Newark Book Center, which has been in business since 1941, and New Jersey Books, started in the early 1970s, Pathfinder is the city's longest running bookstore. And it's got new digs, thanks to the members and supporters of the Socialist Workers' Party, who've jazzed up the joint.

For 20 years, the store was located upstairs at 141 Halsey. A recent move to 87½ Halsey, a few steps down from street-level, has provided the place "better visibility," according to Ruth Nebbia, the new owner.

"Being close to the Rutgers campus is important because the campus plays a big role in this area," said Nebbia. "Since there are lots of small businesses, we also get a lot of traffic along Halsey Street late in the day."

Nebbia bought the place in June from the previous owner who moved out-of-state. And to her and the friends who help run it, it's far more than a store. It's a place to gather, share philosophies and discuss ideas.

"We're encouraging people to read different views and to consider things from a different perspective than the ones they are fed daily by politicians," she said.

"We want them to read all perspectives and come to their own conclusions about things that affect their lives."

A lot of what's said has to do with working people and the pap Nebbia and other party members believe government officials spew.

"What Malcolm X had to say about politicians warrants reading his actual words rather than reading what politicians have to say about him," Nebbia said.

Ditto Fidel Castro's speeches, which Nebbia said are expressly "directed to the needs of working people."

Nebbia knows about working people because she's one of them. Her most recent job was as a brakeman for ConRail.

While she's technically an entrepreneur, she's turned bookstore owner more for the message than for the potential profits.

"Profit is not the major aim," she explained. "The major aim is to reach out to the broadest number of people whose ideas are not mainstream."

Pathfinder has stayed in business so long because of the strong commitment of members of committee who distribute the books and keep them circulating, she noted.

All the labor for the store, for example, was donated by volunteers who laid the tile floors, painted the ceiling and installed attractive lighting.

Pathfinder is part of an independently owned, but philosophically connected, chain of stores which includes three others in New York.

Books come mainly from the Pathfinder Press, which allows the stores to use its name but is not otherwise affiliated with them, Nebbia said.

The store also sells militant newspapers like *Grandma*, the voice of the Cuban Communist Party, and speeches in Spanish by Castro.

At 36, Nebbia herself now only has specific views about politics American-style. She's dabbled in it, running for mayor of Newark in 1984.

"I'm one of the few persons to carry the distinction of being ruled off the ballot," said the daughter of sociology professor who spent her youth living in various South American countries.

It was in South America where she witnessed first-hand "lots of protests against U.S. intervention. I've traveled a lot, so I've seen a lot of misery and lots of protests against U.S. intervention."

After returning to the United States, she began working with Pathfinder and became active in the Young Socialist Alliance.

As for this year's presidential election, neither Bill Clinton nor Bob Dole is Nebbia's cup of tea. Her vote, as might be expected, will go to James Harris, the Socialist Workers' Party candidate for president and his running mate, Laura Garza.

Until then, she's part of the effort budding for the Oct. 12 rally on immigrant rights in Washington, D.C..

Alabama forced to end use of chain gangs

BY DEREK BRACEY

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — One-and-a-half years after Alabama became the first state to bring back chain gangs, the practice has been banned here. Lawyers suing the state announced September 6 that U.S. magistrate Vanzetta Penn McPherson would approve a settlement that ends chaining inmates together for work details.

The state of Alabama stopped forming chain gangs May 21, and now it is blocked from bringing them back. Currently, prisoners are shackled individually.

Chain gangs were started in May 1995 by then corrections commissioner Ron Jones. Their use has been debated nationally, with other state and county administrations initiating plans for chaining prisoners together. The practice had formerly been common, particularly in the southern part of the United States. As awareness grew about the horrors meted out to the prisoners, opposition to chain gangs grew and they faded by the 1960s.

The return of the gangs never attained the popularity that government officials had hoped. The hype about striking a blow in the "war on crime" gave way to memory of the racist nature of chain gangs under the Jim Crow system of segregation. The fact that most of the 2,700 inmates forced on to chain gangs were Black, aided the misgivings many working people maintained about re-instituting the practice. A class action suit was soon filed by lawyers with the Southern Poverty Law Center for several prisoners opposed to the gangs.

Killing prompted end of chain gangs

In the spring of this year, the government's confidence in maintaining the practice disintegrated. In April, Jones announced that women prisoners would be put on chain gangs. In response, Alabama governor Fob James demoted Jones to prison warden. He vowed that there would never be female gangs in Alabama.

On May 15 a prisoner was shot to death

by a corrections officer when he attacked a fellow chain gang member with a bush ax. As part of the class action lawsuit, prisoners expressed concern that killings such as this will be repeated since it is not uncommon for disputes to break out between people forcibly shackled together.

Six days after the May 15 killing, chain-gang use was suspended for review of the activity. Then in June, state officials agreed to make the suspension permanent in order to settle the lawsuit.

"They can never bring chain gangs back," said Rhonda Brownstein from the Southern Poverty Law Center. "They can call what they have now a chain gang, but it is not. They can never bring the chain gang configuration back again."

A trial for other issues in the lawsuit is set for October 7.

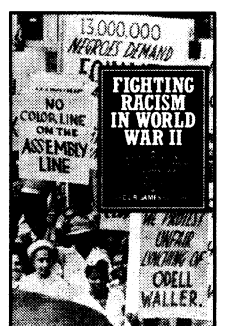
Among the policies still contended is the use of hitching posts, where prisoners who resist the authorities are chained up to 12 hours in the sun.

Fighting Racism in World War II

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

A week-by-week account of the struggle against racism and racial discrimination in the United States from 1939 to 1945, taken from the pages of the *Militant*. \$20.95

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Clinton is the ticket for U.S. big business

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Democrat William Jefferson Clinton ran on his record in his first presidential election debate against Republican candidate Robert Dole. The U.S. president bragged that in his four years in office he has done a good job at what the U.S. rulers are pushing to carry out — from cutting welfare entitlements and restricting the rights of immigrants to tightening Washington's squeeze on the Cuban revolution. Dole failed to boost his electoral prospects through the October 6 debate. Ross Perot, who is running as the Reform Party candidate, was iced out of the debate and remains in single digits in the polls.

From his opening statement to closing remarks, Clinton pointed several times to his support for measures expanding the death penalty and putting more cops on the street. The Clinton White House has "reduced more regulations, eliminated more programs than my two Republican predecessors," he declared.

In answer to Dole's characterization of Clinton as a liberal, the former Arkansas governor replied, "We've got 10 and a half million new jobs. We've got record numbers of those new small business. We made everyone of them eligible for a tax cut. We've got declining crime rates, two million fewer people on welfare rolls before the welfare reform passed, and a 50 percent increase in child support, and a crime bill with 60 death penalties, 100,000 police and the assault weapons ban.... Liberal, conservative, you put whatever label you want on it." He promised to keep pushing along this course in a second term.

As the candidates debated in Hartford, Connecticut, the bipartisan Welfare Reform Law signed by Clinton in August had just gone into effect. The law ends the 60-year-old federal Aid for Families with Dependent Children program, one of the social gains of the labor battles of the 1930s and the civil rights movement of the '50s and '60s. Instead, the new law allows states to set their own policies on what type of assistance unemployed workers can receive. These benefits must be limited to no more than five years, and states are mandated to cut their welfare rolls in half by the year 2002, supposedly by getting recipients to work — usually for minimum wage. This accelerates a process already well advanced

under the Clinton administration of state governments getting waivers to implement various schemes to reduce workers' entitlements.

In the debate, Dole said, "The sooner the better off we'll be if you put tougher sanctions on [Cuban president Fidel] Castro, not try to make it easier for him."

Clinton touts anti-Castro credentials

Clinton responded by rattling off his credentials as the standard bearer of Washington's cold war against the Cuban revolution. "For the last four years we have worked hard to put more and more pressure on the Castro government," Clinton said. "In 1992, before I became president, Congress passed the Cuban Democracy Act and I enforced it vigorously." This year he signed the equally misnamed Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, or Helms-Burton bill, which further tightens Washington's economic noose on the Caribbean country.

When Dole said that Clinton "deployed more troops than any president in history around the world" and accused his Democratic opponent of undermining U.S. superiority by placing some of these troops under United Nations command, the president repeated his record confidently.

Clinton touted his many foreign policy "accomplishments" — the invasions of Haiti and Somalia, the 20,000 U.S. troops occupying Bosnia, Washington's role in attempting to quell national liberation struggles through the Mideast and Irish peace talks, and the recent bombing of Iraq. The president pointed out that U.S. forces in Somalia and elsewhere were under an "American commander." Dole gave a weak rebuttal, including the acknowledgment, "I've supported the president on Bosnia."

The day after the debate, at a meeting with business executives in Stamford, Connecticut, Clinton released a list of more than 2,500 prominent businessmen who have endorsed his campaign nationwide.

In fact, Clinton has been leading a bipartisan government that has presided over an agenda on which there is broad agreement among the capitalist rulers — both in pushing the interests of U.S. big business abroad and at home. The latest piece of this assault on working people was the "omnibus spending bill" negotiated right before Congress

adjourned and signed by Clinton Sept. 30.

The 1997 budget, which passed 370 to 37 in the House of Representatives and 84 to 15 in the Senate, includes major inroads against immigrants. It provides for doubling the Border Patrol over the next five years and adding 1,200 Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) investigators. The legislation makes it easier to deport undocumented immigrants without legal recourse, and allots \$12 million for a new fence along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Attacks on immigrants

A couple of the most blatant provisions in an earlier version of the bill were removed, such as denying public health care to legal immigrants with AIDS. But the new law includes stiffer requirements for U.S. residents sponsoring a relative's immigration. Sponsors will now be required to earn at least 125 percent of the poverty level and sign a legally binding affidavit of support for 10 years, or until the new immigrant becomes a U.S. citizen.

Under the spending bill, more money will go to the cops in the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Funding for the Pentagon is increased. And nearly \$400 million is allotted for prison construction, including building a new high-security prison in the mid-Atlantic region. The budget also expands funding for undemocratic "antiterrorism" measures Clinton has been pushing.

Demise of 'Republican revolution'

"Spending pact marks major retreat by GOP leaders," was how the *Wall Street Journal* headlined its September 30 article on the budget pact. (GOP stands for Grand Old Party, a common reference to the Republican Party.) "104th Congress falls short of revolution," read the *New York Times* the same day. These news items reflected a common assessment in the big-business press that the so-called Republican revolution, led by House speaker Newton Gingrich, has fallen flat.

The budget "will secure the Republicans who ran the 104th Congress a place in history as one of the most frugal majorities ever to rule Capitol Hill, but leave them well short of the goal they set when they marched into Washington behind Speaker Newt Gingrich and his revolution," the *Times* article said.

"Despite its cost-cutting zeal, the 104th Congress could not even dent the greatest redoubts of Federal spending — the huge entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security."

Besides the new spending bill, major legislation signed by Clinton over the last two years include the welfare act, which for the first time ended a piece of the 1935 Social Security Act; various packages curtailing rights of immigrants, including the "antiterrorism" bill; and the Defense of Marriage Act, which bars federal recognition of homosexual marriages and denies equal benefits to gay spouses. These measures have gone further in attacking labor's social gains than Clinton's Republican predecessors had even tried to achieve. But deeper cuts in social programs, such as education, that were part of the Republican "Contract with America," were not approved.

Clinton's "aids now say they expect to face a centrist Congress no matter which party prevails in November," said one article in the September 23 *New York Times*. The same article noted that Clinton has called for bipartisan commissions to make recommendations on Medicare and Social Security, and has "suggested that he is open to ideas like raising the retirement age or lowering the automatic cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security."

Days before the budget vote, the House ethics committee leveled new charges against Gingrich in a unanimous decision by the five Democrats and five Republicans on that body. The champion of the "Contract with America" was accused September 26 of misleading the panel's months-long investigation that he improperly used tax-exempt funds for political purposes.

At this point, Clinton appears poised to win the presidency by a sizable margin. But it is not clear that he is eager to see Democrats win a majority in Congress.

"The loss of Congress [in 1994] liberated Clinton to govern across party lines, claiming the common ground that unites a majority of America," wrote Susan Estrich in a syndicated column printed in the September 29 *Washington Post*. She pointed that the Clinton campaign is weighing carefully how much money to spend campaigning to pick votes for the national ticket compared to using funds in areas where it could help elect Democrats to Congress.

Open House for Oct. 12 March participants sponsored by Socialist Workers Campaign and the Young Socialists

Meet:

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 - Leaders of the Young Socialists
- Discussion • Food • Refreshments

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Quigley's Restaurant
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Hear Cuban leader Fernando Ramirez

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Sat. Oct. 12, 4:00-7:00p.m.
New York Ave.
Presbyterian Church
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13th St. & N.Y. Ave. Washington, D.C.
Sponsored by National Network on Cuba
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Steel strikers get out truth about fight

Continued from front page

support for their struggle. The walls at the union hall list the hundreds of businesses that agreed, as well as a few that didn't.

Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice president Laura Garza visited the picket line in Steubenville October 7 to learn about the strike.

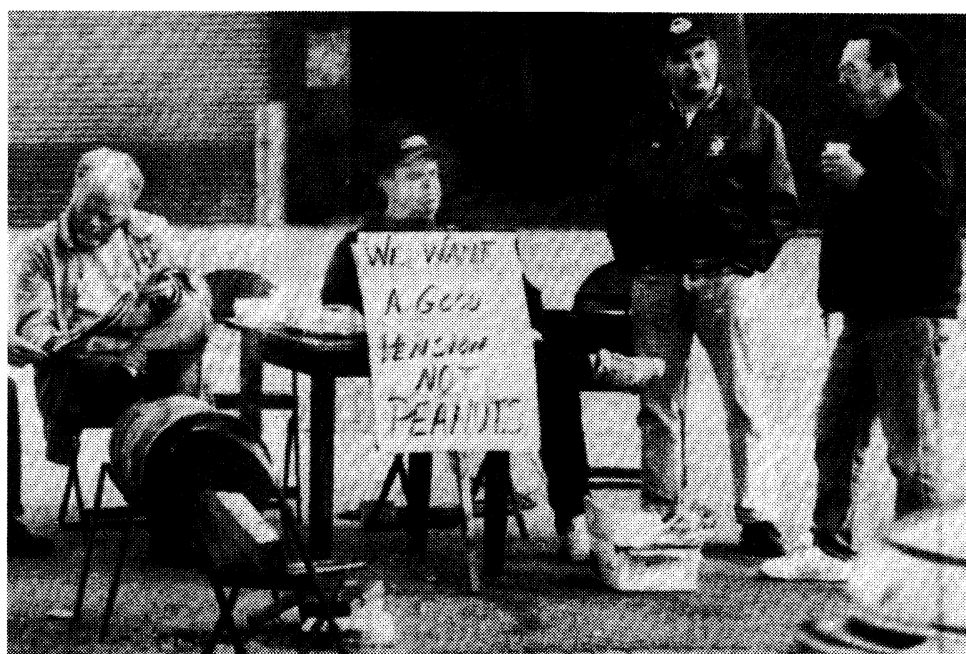
One of the 15 pickets, Kenny Poole, told Garza the company is trying to portray the strikers as greedy and overpaid. "They want people to think we turned down a \$1,600 per month pension," he said. Poole said that all too often the media repeat company statements without checking the facts.

Strikers agree that a decent pension is the most important issue. The current plan has been in effect since 1985 when Wheeling-Pittsburgh went into bankruptcy and locked out workers for over three months. The company's pension obligations were assumed by the government's Pension Benefit Guarantee Corp.

"In December, I want to get out of here," striker Don Carson, told the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. "We've had enough. The company didn't want to give us anything. All we ask is for a better retirement," said the 61-year-old crane operator who has worked in the mill since 1953.

"We saved the company in the '80s. We made big sacrifices," picketer Bill Morris pointed out. "Now the money's there. This is our only shot at a reasonable retirement."

Morris is a committeeman for USWA Local 1190, one of the eight locals bargaining together in the



Striking members of the United Steelworkers take a shift on the picket lines in Yorkville, Ohio. Eight plants in three states went out against Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp.

strike. He said under the current pension plan a worker retires with \$640 per month after 40 years in the mill. The union wants a plan that guarantees workers \$40 per year for each year of service, which is comparable to other steel agreements.

Many of the union members we talked to explained that the company's offer of \$1,200 to \$1,600 per month was misleading. That plan would apply only to those who reached the age of 62 during the life of the contract, and then be subject to renegotiation. The union wants a permanent plan with protections in the event of a plant shutdown.

Strikers have differing views on how long the walkout will last. "It'll be a long one,"

said Carson, echoing the remarks of many workers. "I think it's going to get nasty later on."

One picket said the company worked them overtime in preparation for the strike, and has built up a three- to six-month stock.

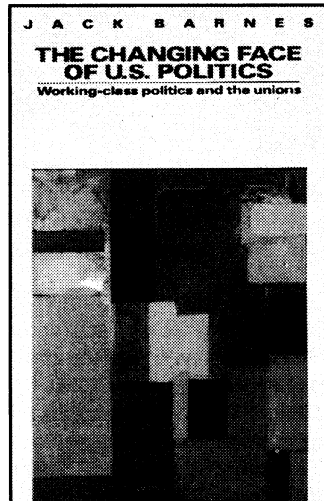
Others were more optimistic for an earlier settlement.

Morris and Dorothy Swearingen, editor of the union local's newsletter, encouraged others to join them on the picket lines. "One thing we want people to know," Morris said, "is we're in this for the long haul."

Dave Welters is a member of the International Association of Machinists Local 1976 at USAir in Pittsburgh.

Charting a fighting, independent working-class road forward

Books and pamphlets on the battle to break from the capitalist two-party system and organize a revolutionary struggle for power by the oppressed and exploited. They explain why support for the Democrats and Republicans—or other “third” parties that support capitalism—is a deadly threat to the struggles of working people.

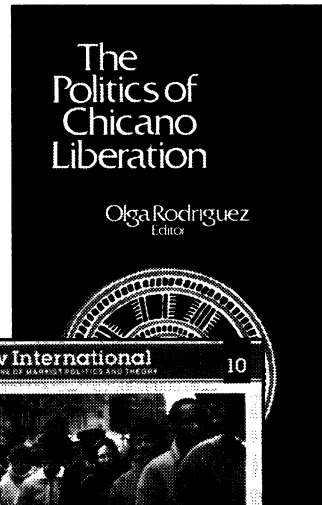


The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

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



The Politics of Chicano Liberation

BY OLGA RODRIGUEZ & OTHERS

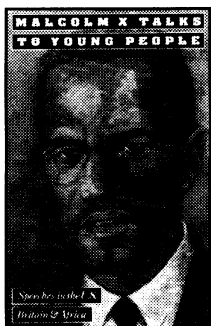
Lessons from the rise of the Chicano movement in the United States in the 1960s and 1970s, which dealt a lasting blow against the oppression of the Chicano people. Presents a fighting program for those determined to combat divisions within the working class based on language and national origin and build a revolutionary movement capable of leading humanity out of the wars, racist assaults, and social crisis of capitalism in its decline. \$15.95

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Documents and articles on how the communist movement approaches electoral work other than running its own candidates, including the tactic of critical support, independent political action by labor and oppressed nationalities, and united socialist tickets, as well as forms that socialists do not support. Includes James P. Cannon's reports on the Socialist Workers Party campaign advocating a labor party in the early 1940s, and on the 1948 campaign of Henry Wallace, a former vice president who ran on the Progressive Party ticket. Cannon explains the nature of the capitalist two-party system, and why socialists do not support capitalist third parties, such as the Progressives. \$10.00

Malcolm X Talks to Young People

"I for one will join in with anyone, I don't care what color you are, as long as you want to change this miserable condition that exists on this earth"—Malcolm X, Britain, December 1964. Also includes his 1965 interview with the *Young Socialist* magazine. \$10.95



Lenin as Election Campaign Manager

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Independent Black Political Action 1954-1958

The Struggle to Break with the Democratic and Republican Parties

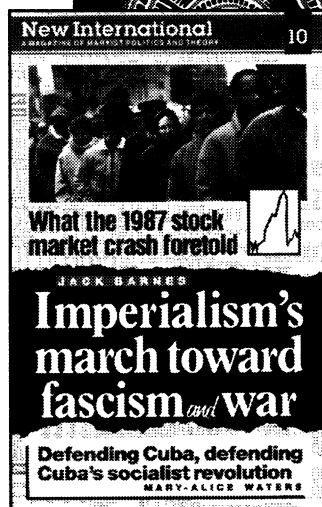
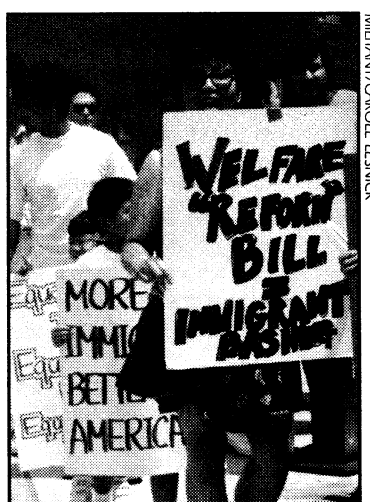
From the 1954 municipal elections in Newark, New Jersey, to the fight for Black liberation in the 1970s, this bulletin contain articles, resolutions, and documents on the struggle for Black political action independent of the capitalist two party system. Explains the battle between those advocating a working-class approach to break from the Democrats and Republicans and those who sought to channel the Black struggle back into confines of the two-party setup. Edited by Mac Warren. \$8.00

The National Black Independent Political Party: An Important Step Forward for Working People

NAN BAILEY AND OTHERS

Articles and resolutions on the National Black Independent Political Party, founded in 1980. Its charter, reprinted in this bulletin, states the party "aims to attain power to radically transform the present socio-economic order, that is, to achieve self-determination and social and political freedom for the masses of Black people. Therefore, our party will actively oppose racism, imperialism, sexual oppression and capitalist exploitation. Both major parties (the Democratic and Republican parties) have betrayed us because their interests essentially conflict with ours." \$6.00

August 1996 protest against Welfare Reform Act in Los Angeles



New International no. 10

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- *What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold*
- *Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution* by Mary-Alice Waters
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Coal miners reject Roosevelt's "no strike" demand during World War II



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National Black Independent Political Party contingent at 1985 demonstration in Washington, D.C.



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Curtis files given to Wisconsin library

BY NAOMI CRAINE

MADISON, Wisconsin — Two large boxes containing the record of the eight-year fight to free framed-up meatpacker Mark Curtis were turned over to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin here October 5. The files of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee (MCDC) give an extensive view of the defense fight and of the political events that surrounded it. At the Historical Society, located on the University of Wisconsin campus, they will be accessible to anyone who wants to study them, along with the archives of the defense cases of many other working-class fighters.

Curtis and John Studer, the former director of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, drove here from Chicago to deliver the files to Richard Pifer, the head of collections development for the historical society's archives division. Curtis, on parole since his release from prison in June, requested and was granted permission to leave Cook County to make the trip.

Supporters of the defense fight "must have spent at least a hundred hours organizing the files so they will be as useful as possible," said Studer. The material spans the period from March 1988, when Curtis was framed by the Des Moines, Iowa, police on false charges of rape and burglary, to the dissolution of the MCDC in August 1996.

Defense committee literature and mailings, letters of support from around the world, photographs, key legal documents, and a financial summary of the defense committee's work are part of the collection. Minutes of the weekly meetings of the MCDC are there, along with copies of the video *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis* in both English and Spanish. Some of the files document Curtis's victorious lawsuit against the Des Moines cops who beat him the night of his arrest. Others describe fights to defend his rights behind bars during the seven years he was imprisoned.

All of the files are neatly labeled and organized by year. An introductory note, indices of both the political and legal files, and a timeline of the defense fight are included at the beginning, making it easy to find all the documents.

Working-class rebels attracted to case

The collection tells the story of more than just the struggle to free Mark Curtis. The letters of support and defense committee minutes give a picture of the other working-class fighters who looked to the defense committee.

At one MCDC meeting in 1989, a young airport worker who is Black came to tell his experience. According to the minutes, he "reported on being arrested and beaten by the Des Moines police.... He was struck in the face with a shotgun butt, and also had his thumb forced backwards.... He and his father were held overnight in jail and were released the next day after paying a fine." Curtis later met the young man when they were in prison together in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Under the outreach point on a defense

committee meeting in 1990, the minutes report, "Support is burgeoning around the world in organized ways. Example, tour of the [coal mining] pits by Sheffield support group [in the United Kingdom].... U.S. women miners are touring mines in support of Mark Curtis. Textile workers in Venezuela sent letter." The same report also mentioned defense work in Kansas City, Pittsburgh, and France. Letters of support from revolutionaries in Cuba, South Africa, Ireland, and many other countries appear throughout the files.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin is a good place for the Curtis archive to be preserved. Pifer offered a tour of the facility and an explanation of its work. The historical society has a substantial collection on labor history, particularly on the meatpacking industry, he said. It houses materials on different tendencies in the workers' movement as well. These include the Socialist Party, Socialist Labor Party, and Curtis's own party, the Socialist Workers Party.

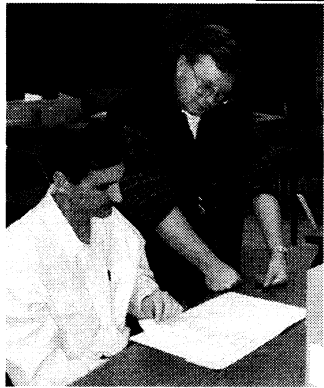
The records of various social protest movements, such as the civil rights struggle of the 1950s and '60s, the movement against the U.S. war in Vietnam, the fight for abortion rights, and opposition to U.S. policy in Central America are available there.

Archives of other defense cases

Among these materials are the records of many previous defense cases. The files of the Civil Rights Defense Committee are available at the Wisconsin library, for instance. This organization was formed in 1941 to defend leaders of the SWP and the Teamsters union in Minneapolis, who were framed-up under the Smith Act for the class-struggle example they were setting in the labor movement. Eighteen of these defendants, including SWP national secretary James P. Cannon, were jailed during World War II for campaigning in the unions to oppose Washington's entry into the inter-imperialist slaughter.

The files on James Kutcher's fight are in the Madison archive as well. The story of Kutcher's eight-year fight to win back his government job from the witch-hunters in the 1950s is told in the Pathfinder book *The Case of the Legless Veteran*.

The work of the Committee to Aid the



Mark Curtis (above, right) and John Studer (center) deliver MCDC files to Richard Pifer (left) at historical society in Madison. Materials will be available for use in library's reading room (inset).

Bloomington Students, which defended three members of the Young Socialist Alliance charged with sedition against the state of Indiana in the 1960s, is another piece of the collection.

The entire record of the successful lawsuit of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against the FBI, CIA, and other government agencies for spying and harassment is also in the Madison archives. That collection was donated by the Political Rights Defense Fund, which also backed Curtis's case and is committed to help if any legal challenges come up during his parole.

Pifer helped Curtis look up a number of these cases in the State Historical Society's on-line catalog. Anyone with Internet access can use this catalog to find listings of most of the material archived there. To actually use the material requires a visit to the reading room; the documents are not allowed off-site.

Curtis took some time to look through the archives of another defense fight, that of Joe Johnson. In the mid-1960s, U.S. authorities attempted to deport Johnson, who was born in the United States, claiming he forfeited his U.S. citizenship when he lived in Canada in the 1950s. He had gone to Canada during the McCarthyite witch-hunt, before joining the communist movement. Johnson had al-

ready been railroaded to prison for two years on charges of avoiding the draft, after returning to the United States in 1958. He joined the SWP in Minneapolis when he was released from prison.

The Committee to Oppose the Deportation of Joseph Johnson was built as opposition to Washington's war against the Vietnamese people began to take off. Johnson won broad support, particularly among youth. Ultimately, the state dropped its case against him.

"I found those files especially interesting because of what you can learn about the party from them," Curtis said. Johnson was the organizer of the SWP branch in Minneapolis when the anti-deportation fight began. Among the documents in the files are letters from Johnson to the party's national office describing work in the branch as well as the defense effort. Later correspondence documents a national tour Johnson made where he spoke on his case and broader politics, and raised money for the defense committee. The files also include a scrapbook of news clippings, defense committee mailings, and drafts of a pamphlet by Johnson telling his story, *They Have Declared Me a Man Without a Country*.

After processing at the State Historical Society, the Curtis files will be available in the same way.

L.A. protests demand truth in CIA drug case

BY JON HILLSON

LOS ANGELES — A cross-section of the Black community here lit candles on a lawn in front of the Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center, near Watts in South Central, where victims of crack and addicted infants are treated. The October 3 vigil was the most recent in a series of protests demanding the truth about CIA connections to drug running in the Black community.

More than 1,200 people turned out for the two-hour event, called by the Brotherhood Crusade. It was endorsed by a wide array of more than 75 prominent people in the Black community, including two members of Congress, state and local elected officials, and religious figures.

The vigil came on the heels of an angry protest of 2,500 people here September 28, in the wake of revelations by reporter Gary Webb published in the *San Jose Mercury News*.

The series details how CIA-employed *contras* (counter-revolutionaries) in Nicaragua targeted the Los Angeles Black community for cocaine sales in the 1980s to raise money for the U.S.-organized mercenary war against the Nicaraguan revolution.

Public outrage here has resulted in the first steps of a congressional investigation of charges contained in the Webb series. A community hearing on the scandal is set for October 19 at Compton College.

The main known CIA-*contra* pusher in the 100-kilo-a-week cocaine trafficking venture, Danilo Blandón, is currently employed by the Drug Enforcement Agency, and lives in San Diego and Managua, Nicaragua.

"We are here tonight to start the march," said Democratic Rep. Juanita McDonald, one of many Black elected officials to speak. "This march will not end until we see justice is done."

Many in the gathering wore buttons opposing Proposition 209, a ballot initiative that seeks to overturn affirmative action in state hiring and public education.

Democratic congresswoman Maxine Waters spoke about the status of "our own investigation of the CIA." Waters represents the South Central neighborhoods, which were the focus of CIA-*contra* organized drug trade. She is one of the main capitalist politicians who have placed themselves at the center of the outcry against the once-secret operation.

"We now have information that the federal government knew for years who [these dealers] were," Waters said. "We are getting calls from former FBI agents, calls from inside prisons. And we are passing this information on to the Inspector General and congressional committees." Waters and other politicians have been urging protesters to vote for Democrats in the November elections, saying this is the way to keep the pressure on the investigation.

"I wasn't surprised at all," a man in his 30s told a reporter as the crowd drifted away. "I was into all this [dealing]. There was hardly anything on the street. We didn't have any money. Then, all of a sudden there were ounces and half kilos [kilos of cocaine; 1 kilo = 2.2lbs]. You could get as much as you wanted. We knew the feds were involved. How else did all this stuff get in?" he added,

referring to the cheap cocaine the CIA-employed *contras* brought into Los Angeles.

The CIA-linked operators hooked up with Richard Ross, an aspiring major dealer here. He and his team then turned cocaine into crack, and distributed it to gang members and small time pushers on consignment.

This was the beginning of the mass influx of crack into the Black community. "I did time, nine years. I'm clean, don't do this any more," the young man said at the October 3 vigil. "But I know how it got here."

"This is not a racial thing," a Compton hospital worker said. "It's not just Blacks on crack. It's anybody who's desperate and preyed on by people who want to make money."

Curt, a McDonnell Douglas aerospace worker and a member of the United Auto Workers (UAW), was one of several from that plant who attended the vigil. The scandal, he said, is "traumatizing. The thought that your own so-called government is responsible for illegal activity in your community that you would go to jail for is traumatizing."

"I would like to see justice done," he stated. "But look at Oliver North, is he in jail? What about Mark Fuhrman?" North worked for the Ronald Reagan administration and secretly organized aid for the *contras* when the activity had been banned by Congress. Fuhrman is the racist Los Angeles cop who recently plea bargained a \$200 fine and three years probation for felony charges of perjury in the O.J. Simpson trial.

"The damage [of crack] is so devastating," the UAW member said, shaking his head. "Have you ever seen anybody on crack? Any justice we do get can only be measured by the punishment. And there must be very severe punishment."

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Ford pact is no 'breakthrough' for labor

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

CHICAGO — Although the final tally has not been reported, officials of the United Automobile Workers (UAW) announced September 30 that union members voted 90 percent in favor of a three-year contract with Ford Motor Co. The previous contract had expired September 14.

The agreement covers 105,000 UAW members employed at Ford's 49 parts and assembly plants in the United States. In the months leading up to the contract expiration date, the union officials did not prepare the UAW membership for a strike and no strike deadline was set. The union tops capitulated completely to the bosses' demands, without even a pretense of putting up a fight.

The new contract institutes for the first time permanent two-tier wages for some UAW parts workers. And, despite claims by the union officialdom that the accord provides job security for the current UAW membership, it allows Ford to lay off workers during a downturn in the economy or if labor productivity goes up.

Chrysler and the UAW also agreed to a tentative contract, based on the Ford-UAW agreement. That ratification vote should be finalized by October 13.

Days before voting on the Ford agreement, workers were given a 28-page booklet, complete with graphics, photos, and charts of "contract highlights" of the 1,200-page accord.

"All I've seen are the highlights," said Rosbene Shields, a UAW worker from the Ford assembly plant in Atlanta, Georgia. "It's the things you don't see that worry me." Shields said the main "selling point of the contract was money."

The settlement includes an up-front \$2,000 lump-sum payment, and 3 percent general wage increases in the second and third year.

Many workers at the Ford assembly plant in Chicago said they were against some of the provisions but decided to vote for the contract. Out of the 2,800 workers employed there, 874 voted in favor and 87 against, representing only one-third of the workforce.

No gains from 'historic breakthrough'

"For nearly twenty years now," the contract summary says, "our country and our union have been in a day-in and day-out fight to keep good jobs in America, not just for the present generation of members but for the young workers of the future as well."

The so-called "historic breakthrough on job security," which claims to guarantee 95 percent of the current 105,000 jobs, means "Ford workers now enjoy job security protections surpassing any previously available to U.S. autoworkers," the summary says.

In reality, the auto bosses are the big winners from this "breakthrough." UAW mem-



Auto worker at Ford assembly plant in Atlanta, January 1996. "The union is weaker with this contract," said one UAW member who works at this factory.

bers are being fed illusions of job guarantees by the labor bureaucracy, which has tried its best to diffuse any rank-and-file resistance to the demands of the auto barons. As in previous agreements, there are loopholes in the contract that allow Ford to eliminate jobs and lay off thousands of workers. These are not mentioned in the contract summary. Workers are just learning about them.

"The guarantee of keeping 95 percent of workers is kind of a big thing to swallow," one brake-line worker told Salm Kolis, who works at the Ford plant in Atlanta. "It's just some words to make people happy."

The contract contains language saying that Ford does not guarantee jobs if there is a downturn in the economy.

The accord also has a 400-page appendix that includes a "productivity escape clause." According to the *Wall Street Journal*, this clause allows the Big Three "to avoid job guarantees in some situations, including when worker cutbacks stem from productivity gains," and lets the auto bosses "eliminate jobs if their manufacturing operations become more efficient and as a result they need fewer workers to make vehicles." In addition, the job guarantee applies only to "competitive operations." According to the *Journal*, General Motors considers 14 of its parts plants to be "troubled" or "uncompetitive."

Model for bosses, not workers

The escape clauses, in effect, mean the auto bosses have free reign to continue cutting the workforce, something they have been doing for more than 15 years. The UAW has 443,000 members now, down from 702,000 in 1979.

The big-business press has smiled on the

contract. A recent article in the *Wall Street Journal*, headlined "Some Companies Try to Rebuild Loyalty," points out that "leaders of blue-collar unions are calling the Ford-UAW deal a model." The article ends with a quote from William Johnson, president of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) district in Seattle, saying, "Everyone is going to go into negotiations and say... 'We'd like the language that Ford has.'"

The union tops' claims notwithstanding, the Ford-UAW agreement is a model for the bosses, not the workers.

All of the Big Three plants have been outsourcing jobs for years. Nearly all of the seat departments have been shut down, for instance, with companies going to outside suppliers.

Last year Ford outsourced the seat department at the assembly plant here, cutting 150 jobs. The seats are now built at Lear Seating, in nearby Indiana. The plant opened last year. Although the workers there are members of the UAW, their starting wage is approximately half the pay at Big Three plants.

In the past few years workers have also experienced job combinations and a qualitative increase in line speeds.

Two-tier wage divides workers

The agreement contains provisions allowing a permanent two-tier wage structure for auto parts workers. For more than a decade the Big Three companies have been on a deunionization drive against parts workers. Between 1985 and 1995, employment at independent parts suppliers grew by 100,000. Most of these new jobs are done by workers who get lower pay and are without a union.

Today, only 20 percent of the 450,000

workers in the independent auto parts industry are unionized. According to one union report, "the overall picture is of deunionization on a massive scale." More and more, the UAW is becoming a union of auto workers in the Big Three plants, not of workers throughout the auto industry.

Ford was not successful in extending the two-tier new hire provisions from three to six years. But the previous set-up of hiring new employees at 70 percent of the base rate, reaching the top rate in six increments of 5 percent over three years, was maintained. The contract also encourages "insourcing" of parts jobs, allowing Ford to set up new parts operations organized by the UAW but not bound to the same wage scale.

The two-tier is especially unpopular with the thousands of new hires who have joined the union in recent years, particularly at Ford and Chrysler, which have done most of the hiring. "I feel like a second-class member of the union," a young worker, recently hired at the Ford plant in Atlanta, told UAW member Kolis. Another worker from the body shop of that plant said, "I don't like the contract. I don't like the two-tier wages. If you are doing the work you should get the same pay."

In Detroit, some workers at one of the ratification meetings said they saw the two-tier wage for new parts workers as the worst point in the agreement. One new hire who is still on probation told UAW member John Sarge, "We could have done better because you never take the company's first offer."

"We could have done better," said Tony Jackson, a UAW assembly line worker at Ford in Atlanta. "This contract takes from people coming in. The union is weaker with this contract."

GM workers in Canada sidetrack deal

Meanwhile, the perspective of UAW officials in the United States to capitulate to General Motors in a similar way they did with Ford and Chrysler was sidetracked by the strike of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) against GM.

An article in the business section of the *New York Times* reported, "Leaders of the United Automobile Workers had been close to reaching their own deal with G.M. this week, and were disappointed by the Canadian strike. Stephen P. Yokich, the U.A.W. president, said at a news conference today [October 3] in Detroit that while the union supported the strike, 'we were hoping that out brothers and sisters in Canada could settle.'"

Many auto workers are now following closely the CAW strike in Canada. "They're doing it right up there. They had a strike deadline," said Jimmy, a production worker at the Chicago Ford plant. "At least somebody is doing something. We haven't had a strike here in 20 years."

Frank Forrestal is a member of UAW Local 551 at Ford Motor Co. in Chicago.

Workers strike GM in Canada

Continued from front page competitive and boost sagging profit rates.

The auto giant sent a letter directly to its employees appealing for understanding of the "sorry plight of a company which is being forced to outsource its labor in order to stay alive." However, sympathy for the company is scarce among workers. GM made record profits last year.

"The issue is corporate greed," said Charles Gregorcic who has worked at the Oshawa plant for 23 years. "This contracting out means lower wages for auto workers. It has to be stopped." Meanwhile, on the picket lines workers are wearing buttons reading, "Stop Outsourcing. For Job Security." In addition to outsourcing, GM also has plans to sell or shut down a number of plants, which would result in cutting an additional 5,500 jobs.

In the recent CAW contract with Chrysler, ratified September 17 by a vote of 85 percent in favor, workers won 10 more paid days off. One GM picketer said CAW members had won the same provision in their contract negotiations three years ago. Instead of resulting in the creation of a single new job as many CAW members hoped for, he said, the company made up the added holiday time by having workers doing double shifts. GM Oshawa has not hired off the street since 1985. The last hiring was in

1990 from a van plant in Scarborough that GM shut down.

"They put a midnight shift on but we're still working overtime during the week and Saturdays," said Dianne, another picketer. "They need to hire more people."

"They have to hire young people," another worker said, discussing speed-up. "I'm in my 40s and I just can't do what I could do when I was 20 years old."

Describing the situation on the plant floor, a third picketer explained, "You don't have time to scratch your nose. We do 68-70 cars an hour. I have to do a job in 45 seconds. They're working us to the ground. I've been here 17 and a half years. I don't think I'm going to last 25."

Most picketers agreed that the strike may be long. "It maybe one of the longest in GM's history," one said. The last time the CAW struck GM was in 1984, lasting 14 days. Many workers sense that the company is ready for a major confrontation. GM will also have the aid of the Ontario government, which has repealed anti-scab legislation.

The company turned a 17-day strike by parts plant workers in Dayton, Ohio, last March into a de-facto lockout that idled assembly plants throughout North America. Well prepared for that battle in the United States, GM did not back off from making further inroads on outsourcing.

Many CAW members on the picket lines here are getting ready for a fight as well. "GM wouldn't dare use scabs," said one worker. "They wouldn't dare because if they did, they know they'd have an all out war on their hands."

Many drivers honked their horns as they went by the Ste. Catherine's plant showing solidarity with the strikers. One show of support came from a school bus passing by. As the bus driver honked the horn all the kids on the bus cheered. A statement by Charlie Gregorcic summed up the sentiment on the picket line. "This strike is not just for us," he said, "it's for our kids and the next generation."

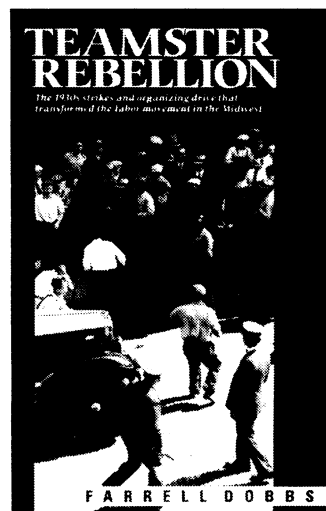
Mitra Sharma is a member of CAW Local 262 at United Auto Parts in the Toronto area.

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Cop acquitted

Continued from front page

outside the courthouse during the rally. "The message to the cops is that you can beat and kill Blacks and Latinos and you'll be acquitted."

During the trial, the judge indicated he had no doubt Livoti applied an illegal chokehold on Báez. He implied that fellow cops lied on the witness stand to protect Livoti. "There is a nest of perjury somewhere around here," he stated.

The chief medical examiner of New York, Dr. Charles Hirsch, "left no room for doubt about what killed Anthony Báez," wrote Jim Dywer in the New York *Daily News*.

"The compression of his neck, in my opinion, is the dominant cause of his death," Hirsch testified.

Anthony Báez was playing football with his three brothers in front of the family's home in the Bronx at 1:30 in the morning on Dec. 22, 1994, when their football bounced off one of the two cop cars parked on the deserted street. Livoti ordered the brothers to stop playing and then put David Báez under arrest. When Anthony protested and demanded to know what the charges were, Livoti arrested him. In the course of the arrest, the cop choked Anthony Báez to death.

Livoti has a long history of brutality complaints, with 14 prior charges, including a 1989 incident where he choked a young Black man and beat him with a flashlight. In 1990 he punched Manuel Bordoy several times breaking his jaw. Assault charges were filed against Livoti in 1993, after he choked Steven Resto, a 16-year-old youth who had been arrested for driving his go-cart on the street.

After the march on the day of the verdict, Báez's family returned home and encountered a circling helicopter and several dozen police in the front of their home. "I thought they were here to finish the rest of my family," said Ramón Báez, the dead man's father. "Police officers with helmets and sticks and helicopters flying all over.... This was a peaceful demonstration and they're ready for war."

Another protest of some 300 people was organized October 8 denouncing the police department, Judge Sheindlin, and New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani. "The evidence is there to indict Livoti, to bring him to trial, and to put him in jail," Richard Pérez of the National Council for Puerto Rican Rights said at the rally.

The Báez family has filed a \$48 million negligence lawsuit against the New York Police Department and the city. U.S. District Attorney Mary Jo White announced October 7 her office was launching an investigation to determine whether to file federal charges against Livoti.

Livoti is scheduled to appear in criminal court November 12 to face the brutality charge filed by Resto.

Susan Karten, the Báez family attorney who filed the lawsuit, denounced Sheindlin's verdict as "disgraceful." She said, "This is junk justice.... There will never be a conviction of a New York City police officer under this system."

"We learned that for Latinos and Blacks, justice is not equal. The case is clear. The judge knew. He knew my son was choked," said Ramón Báez. "I won't stop fighting until we have justice."

Al Duncan is a member of the United Transportation Union (UTU). UTU member Amy Husk and Militant staff writer Brian Taylor contributed to this article.

—CALENDAR—

COLORADO

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The Alternative for '96: Hear James Harris, Socialist Workers Candidate for President. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. *Ralph Waldo Emerson Center, 1420 Ogden St. Sponsored by Socialist Workers Campaign '96 Support Committee. For more information, call: (303) 333-7936 or (303) 455-8178.*

IOWA

Des Moines

Capitalism in Decline: The Socialist Alternative in the '96 Elections. Hear: Laura Garza, Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president. Sponsored by the 1996 Iowa Socialist Workers Campaign. Sat., Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. *2724 Douglas Ave. Reception: 6 p.m. Dinner: 6:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. Dinner: \$5. Tel: (515) 277-4600.*

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

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Fight Police Brutality! Jail the Guilty Cops! Panel discussion with activists demanding justice against cops who killed Anthony Báez and in other cases of police brutality. Fri., Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. *214-16 Avenue. (Between 13 and 14 Sts.). Donation: \$4. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (212) 328-1501.*

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Pathfinder Press book *The Politics of Chicano Liberation*. Fri., Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. *1930 18th St., N.W. (entrance of Florida). Donation: \$5. Tel: (202) 387-2185.*

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Tensions remain high in West Bank, Gaza

Continued from front page

trol throughout the West Bank city of Hebron. They were convinced to return by Dennis Ross, the Clinton administration's Middle East coordinator. "They [Israeli officials] want to totally change the agreement, and we told them that on principal we won't discuss it," Asfour said. Under a 1993 agreement reached in Oslo, Norway, Israeli troops were to have left Hebron six months ago.

"Until now, the talks are not as positive as we expected," said Arafat. In a meeting at the home of Israeli president Ezer Weizman in Caeasarea, he pledged that Palestinian police will not open fire on Israeli soldiers again. "This is my permanent orders for our policemen, because what is important is to strengthen more and more the relations and coordination between both of us," said Arafat.

Netanyahu, with backing from Washington, demanded "adjustments" as negotiators for the Zionist regime continue to balk at the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Hebron. According to the *New York Times*, Netanyahu's proposals would delay withdrawals or transfers of land until at least 1999.

Yitzhak Mordechai, Tel Aviv's defense minister, stated a "new situation" was created by the armed response of the Palestinian police to the Israeli assault on peaceful demonstrators. "We don't ask to change the agreement. We just ask to have a different understanding of the agreement," he told the *Washington Post*.

Mordechai said Tel Aviv demands the accords be "understood" to:

1) Allow Israeli troops in Hebron to storm into Palestinian-controlled areas of the town whenever the Zionist occupation forces deem necessary. Palestinian negotiator Asfour stated the Israeli military wants to reserve the right to pursue Palestinians anywhere in the West Bank and Gaza.

2) Bar Palestinian police from carrying their AK-47 assault rifles in some Palestinian-controlled areas, which would mean that Israeli soldiers and armed settlers would not have to confront equally armed Palestinian forces. Tel Aviv is seeking to restrict the Palestinian police weapons to sidearms.

3) Permit Israeli officials veto rights over construction plans of Palestinians near Israeli buildings in order to prevent Palestinians from erecting high buildings or military positions overlooking Israeli settlements and neighborhoods. The Zionist occupiers are also pressing to set up look-out posts over Arab neighborhoods and buffer zones separating Israeli soldiers and settlers from Palestinian police.

According to the *Financial Times* of London, Israeli infrastructure minister Ariel Sharon and interior minister Eli Suissa "have spelt out their intention to complete a wall of Jewish settlements to cut east Jerusalem off from the West Bank."

Tel Aviv has also demanded that the Palestinian Authority dismiss and prosecute the Palestinian policemen involved in the gun battles and disarm Palestinians who have

unregistered weapons. Israeli Radio reported that the Israeli military has set up a checkpoint near the West Bank town of Nablus and is checking identification papers in search for Palestinian policemen who were involved in the gun battles.

Meanwhile, some 2 million Palestinians are still living under a state of siege within their local "autonomous areas" with "Israeli tanks ringing the main cities and helicopter gunships at the ready," the *Economist* reported. The armored vehicles have severed links between 450 towns and communities in the West Bank and Gaza, while the Israeli military has blocked off dozens of roads leading into Israel with concrete barricades.

The Palestinian Authority has limited control over most of Gaza and six of the seven major towns in the West Bank. An Israeli blockade of the West Bank town of Ramallah was lifted and Tel Aviv announced it would allow 10,000 workers to enter Israel from Gaza October 9.

The September clash, which left 60 Palestinians dead, most of them civilians, along with 15 Israeli soldiers, has shaken some capitalist investors. An article in the *Wall Street Journal* reported the foreign minister of Qatar announced economic ties with Tel Aviv were suspended and plans to send industrialists to discuss joint business deals were canceled until negotiations get back on track. Claridge Israel Inc., the largest international investor in Israel, is limiting its holdings there in the face of increasing political instability in the region.

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Literal immigrant-bashing — New rules in England provide that immigrants who enter the country for work as servants can stay only if they remain with their original



Harry Ring

employer. Not surprisingly, gross abuses are reported.

Weird — "I'm very distressed that some people seem willing to believe the worst about the military and the Pentagon." — Defense Sec-

retary William Perry denying revelations that Desert Storm commanders sealed themselves in safety shelters while telling troops to ignore reports of battlefield nerve gas.

Family values — The Italian supreme court ordered reconsideration of an eight-month sentence for a man who beat and kicked his wife. The court ruled wife-beating was a crime only if it was "planned and systematic" and there was "a grave intention to humiliate and oppress" the victim.

Loony Toons do their number — Morris Rosen told a London meeting of the Uranium Institute that radiation safety levels are too stringent. An adviser to the Int'l

Atomic Energy Agency, he opined that the Chernobyl evacuation was an overreaction. John Graham of British Nuclear Fuel's U.S. subsidiary told the parley that daily doses of radiation are good for you and one day would be a health requirement. His company hastily issued a disclaimer.

The 'big but' system — The World Health Organization predicts that within 15 years vaccines will be developed for malaria, acute respiratory infections, diarrhea-related diseases and other scourges that kill millions of children, especially in the Third World. "But," the report adds, "there's a catch.... Vaccines are likely to cost not cents, but dollars a dose from now on."

Next she'll be doing aspirins — In Fairborn, Ohio, Erica Taylor, 13, was suspended from school for 10 days and ordered to undergo a drug evaluation. She borrowed Midol from a friend (but didn't use it). An over-the-counter pill, Midol is used to relieve headaches, cramps and other menstrual period symptoms.

Why pay rent? — Check out the Neiman-Marcus "neoclassical pet mansion." \$9,400.

The sane society — Homeless folks who think they have problems should consider the plight of the Szymanski family, home owners in South Barrington, Illinois, a top-dollar gated community. The Szymanskis are suing a developer,

charging he built a nearby house that looks like theirs. Earlier they tried to get the offending home torn down, but the Home Owners Association balked.

The Coffin-Nail Express — Philip Morris is building a luxury train. As a perk, deserving employees will get free rides, along with prize-winning customers. Will there be designated smoking cars? Nope. All cars will be smoking cars.

Thought for the week — "Having a driver's license is a privilege," not a right. — Gordy Wright, spokesman for Georgia state cops on new law requiring that applicants for new or renewed licenses submit to fingerprinting.

Chinese revolution: a momentous world event

BY MIKE TABER

The Chinese revolution was one of the 20th century's momentous events. One quarter of the human race tore itself free of the grip of the capitalists and landlords. This fact remains of decisive importance in world politics today.

To help readers gain a better understanding of this revolution, Pathfinder is reissuing this month two books that have been

BOOK OF THE WEEK

unavailable for several years: *Leon Trotsky on China* and *The Chinese Communist Party in Power* by P'eng Shu-tse. As these books explain, there have actually been three revolutions in China this century.

In 1911, a democratic revolution led by Sun Yat-sen overthrew the Manchu Dynasty, which had ruled China since 1644. A second revolution occurred in 1925-27, but was crushed at the hands of Chiang Kai-shek representing China's capitalists and landlords. The third Chinese revolution culminated when the Chinese Red Army led by Mao Zedong overthrew the U.S.-backed Chiang regime in 1949.

Leon Trotsky on China is primarily devoted to the 1925-27 revolution and its aftermath. That event was sparked by an incident in Shanghai on May 30, 1925, when a demonstration of thousands of workers and students protesting imperialist domination was fired upon by British police, killing seven. Workers throughout China responded with a general strike and mass demonstrations. Millions of peasants were soon drawn into the struggle, seeking to free themselves from the iron grip of the landlords and local warlords. A central force of the movement was the young Chinese Communist Party.

Chinese CP shackled by Stalin

But the Chinese CP was shackled with a political line imposed on it by Joseph Stalin, who headed the rising petty-bourgeois caste that had usurped power in the Soviet Union. Under the banner of a "bloc of four classes," Stalin had called for supporting the bourgeois nationalist Kuomintang party led by Chiang Kai-shek, and insisted that the Chinese CP subordinate itself to Chiang's command.

In carrying out this policy, the CP was ordered to put the brakes on peasant struggles for land and workers' fights and for better living and working conditions. But this wasn't enough for the landlords and capitalists, who saw their privileges and class rule mortally threatened. In the end, working people were left disarmed, politically and militarily, when Chiang carried out a blood-bath against the workers movement in April 1927.

Leon Trotsky was a leader of the communist forces in the Soviet Union who fought to reverse Stalin's political line on the Chinese revolution. Defending the perspective of V.I. Lenin and the first four congresses of the Communist International, Trotsky and other communists maintained that only an alliance of workers and peasants could lead the democratic revolution in China to victory. They called for the creation of soviets (councils) of workers and peasants throughout China, for political in-

dependence of the Communist Party, and for working-class leadership of the fight against imperialism and the local capitalists and landlords.

This perspective is presented clearly in Trotsky's articles "Class Relations in the Chinese Revolution" and "The Chinese Revolution and the Theses of Comrade Stalin," written in March and April 1927 and available in *Leon Trotsky on China*. It is also presented in "The Platform of the Opposition," which can be found in *The Challenge of the Left Opposition 1926-27*, also published by Pathfinder.

'Their Trotsky and ours'

By 1928, however, Trotsky made a shift. While continuing to attack the Stalinist betrayal of Leninism, he extended his criticism to the slogan originally formulated by Lenin himself of a "democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry," which Trotsky had defended in his earlier articles. That slogan had been grossly distorted by Stalin to justify support to the Kuomintang and Chiang. Trotsky now believed that the slogan itself, not just Stalin's distortion of it, was wrong.

A useful piece to read in conjunction with *Leon Trotsky on China* is "Their Trotsky and Ours," by SWP national secretary Jack Barnes, published in issue no. 1 of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*. In this article, which takes up the key issues of the Chinese revolution, Barnes discusses Trotsky's role as the central communist leader who fought to continue the program and strategy of Lenin following the degeneration of the Russian revolution and the Communist International under Stalin. Barnes reviews Trotsky's shift of position on China and its implications.

"Trotsky accurately demonstrated the danger of the Stalin-Bukharin leadership's accelerating flight from the revolutionary course charted by the Comintern while Lenin was alive," Barnes writes. "In doing so, however, Trotsky introduced an erroneous leftist bias into the alternative course he projected for the Communist International."

Of considerable interest in *Leon Trotsky on China* are the Bolshevik leader's writings on the Sino-Japanese war that began in the 1930s. Arguing against ultraleftists who maintained that workers should take a neutral stance, Trotsky wrote, "The duty of all the workers' organizations of China was to participate actively and in the front lines of the present war against Japan, without abandoning, for a single moment, their own program and independent activity."

Another important contribution is Trotsky's 1932 article "Peasant War in China and the Proletariat." In it he discusses the class nature of Mao's Red Army, which had been set up in the countryside following the defeat of the 1925-27 revolution, and the working-class stance toward it.

Third Chinese revolution

The third Chinese revolution is the theme of *The Chinese Communist Party in Power* by P'eng Shu-tse. The author was a central leader of the Chinese CP throughout the period of the second Chinese revolution. He was expelled from the party in 1929 for supporting Trotsky's defense of Lenin's perspective. From then until his death in 1983, P'eng devoted his efforts to rebuilding a communist movement in China and internationally.

In several contributions in this collection, P'eng reviews the revolutionary victory of the toilers over Chiang in 1949 and the estab-

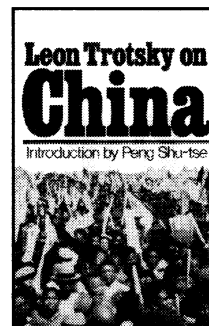
lishment of a workers state in the early 1950s. He examines the deformations of the revolution under the Stalinist bureaucracy headed by Mao.

Leon Trotsky on China and *The Chinese Communist Party in Power* provide a historical framework for assessing the Chinese revolution and its lessons for today.

FROM PATHFINDER

Leon Trotsky on China

Articles and letters on the Chinese revolution of the 1920s, recording the fight to reverse Stalin's disastrous course of subordinating the Communist Party there to an alliance with the capitalist Chinese Nationalist Party (Kuomintang). \$33.95



The Chinese Communist Party in Power

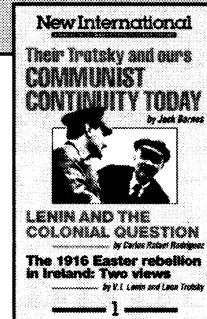
P'eng Shu-tse Essays by a founding leader of China's Communist Party and opponent of the anti-Marxist course of Mao Zedong. \$28.95

Their Trotsky and Ours: Communist Continuity Today

Jack Barnes

Leon Trotsky fought to build a movement to advance the revolutionary political course defended by V.I. Lenin against the counterrevolution eventually headed by Joseph Stalin. How do Trotsky's ideas and actions fit into the continuity of the movement for communism, from Marx and Engels's time to our own? In *New Internationalist* no. 1. \$8.00

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—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

October 22, 1971

Price 10¢

The military realities of the Vietnam war are being concealed from the American public to a greater extent than at any time since President Nixon's invasion of Cambodia in 1970.

Press, radio and TV report that the war is "winding down." Even critics of Nixon's "Vietnamization" policies like the *New York Times* relegate battlefield news to a few summary paragraphs in back-page articles.

Yet there is significant evidence that far from having wound down the war, the Nixon administration has escalated it. But now the main battlegrounds are in Laos, Cambodia and the border regions between North and South Vietnam.

The importance Washington attaches to the war in these areas was underlined in debates in the U.S. Senate Oct. 4 and Oct. 5 concerning amendments to the military appropriations bill for fiscal year 1972.

On Oct. 4, Senator Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) attempted to put a \$200-million limit on U.S. financing of the war in Laos, not including money spent bombing the so-called Ho Chi Minh trail.

Symington revealed the continuous escalation of U.S. war spending in Laos, figures that were kept secret until this year.

"Prior to this year the only figure the public knew was the annual economic assistance program, which has been running at about \$52-million a year since the fiscal year 1969.... Actually, we have spent over

\$1.5 billion in Laos, if we count the bombings of the Ho Chi Minh Trails" (Congressional Record, pp. S15763-65.)

This is nearly 20 times more than when the aid program began nine years ago.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

October 19, 1946

Climaxing the greatest series of labor struggles in Japanese history, involving seamen, railwaymen, miners, newspaper and radio workers and others, the Japanese CIO has scheduled a general strike for Oct. 15.

The strike is a protest against the conspiracy by the Japanese employers and the Yoshida puppet regime, backed up by the American occupation authorities, to crush the resurgent labor movement.

Their demands include a halt to mass firings initiated by the government; workers' participation in the restoration of industry; protection of the right to strike and collective bargaining; and the abolition of recent antilabor laws.

The call for a general strike was precipitated by government attempts to break the press and radio strikes. Newspaper workers began their walkout when *Yomiuri Shimbun*, one of Tokyo's leading dailies, and its Hokkaido affiliate fired a group of workers for union activities. The Hokkaido affiliate refused to abide by a recommendation of the central Labor Relations Bureau, government arbitration board, to rehire the 53 discharged workers.

It is now revealed that the workers were originally fired upon orders of Major D.C. Imboden, head of the Press and Publications Division of the Supreme Commander, Allied Powers (SCAP).

Support striking GM workers

The entire labor movement throughout North America and beyond should throw its active solidarity behind the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) strike against General Motors, the largest industrial corporation in the world. All 26,000 CAW members at GM assembly and parts plants are on strike, which is already having a ripple effect. Auto parts plants are starting to close or cut back production in Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

The CAW is fighting to stop GM's drive to cut jobs, close plants, and continue to outsource work to plants where workers are paid lower wages. This strike puts GM workers in Canada in the forefront of the fight against government and employer demands to make working people pay for the capitalists' profits crisis.

GM, the company with the highest production costs among the Big Three, is losing market share to its competitors and is pushing to drastically cut its workforce in order to maintain profits. Unlike its competitors, GM is prepared to force a battle now with the union. In fact, the capitulation of the top officials of the United Auto Workers in the United States to the demands of the bosses at Ford and Chrysler, has given GM more confidence that the auto workers will not put up a serious fight to its cost-cutting demands.

The auto giant, which raked in a record \$1.4 billion last year in Canada, has staked its ground. As one GM executive put it, the CAW's demands "are completely unacceptable. I think we made it very clear in the Dayton strike that there was only so far the company could be pushed." GM responded to the strike at two of its brake parts plants in Dayton, Ohio, last March by organizing a well-prepared, de-facto lockout and a vicious economic assault on workers. The lockout idled 176,000 assembly

and parts workers throughout North America. Just as it did in the Dayton strike, GM is once again threatening to cut state unemployment benefits to laid-off workers in the United States idled by the Canadian strike.

The resistance by the CAW membership stands in sharp contrast to the recently negotiated contract between officials of the UAW and Ford Motor Co. Heralded as a "landmark" and "model" contract for UAW members, the pact is in fact a sweet deal for the auto bosses and a blow to auto workers. It puts the union in a weaker position, allowing deeper wage inequality between auto assembly and auto part workers. It accepts Ford's insistence that auto workers must live with a trade off of permanent two-tier wages in auto parts and a so-called "grow in" wage structure for new hires in exchange for a will-o-the-wisp promise of job security. Escape clauses abound in the contract, allowing Ford to do as it wants regarding layoffs.

The UAW tops have clarified through this deal that they are only concerned about securing their dues base. They are acting more transparently as the bosses' lieutenants in the working class, allowing the steady erosion of wages and working conditions for hundreds of thousands of auto workers — especially in parts manufacturing — which is codified in the Ford deal.

The CAW strike has slowed down the ongoing negotiations between the UAW and GM in the United States, causing a kink in the plans of the top officials of the UAW to achieve a quick deal. If the strike continues, workers throughout North America will have an opportunity to build solidarity across borders and demonstrate the power of the labor movement. Auto workers and others should take advantage of that opening to push back the bosses assault on our rights, working conditions, and wages.

Equal rights for immigrants

Continued from front page

by President William Clinton as part of the 1997 budget. The provisions in it, while initially directed against workers born in other countries, will be used by Clinton and other capitalist politicians to gain acceptance for narrowing the democratic rights of all working people.

Doubling the Border Patrol will mean twice as many cops carrying out terrorist acts like the brutal police beating of Mexican workers that sparked protests in Riverside, California, last April. The measures allowing the summary deportation of immigrants seeking asylum will be used to erode workers' expectation of their right to legal protections and appeals.

The anti-immigrant measures in the spending bill build on those included in other anti-working-class legislation enacted by Congress and signed by Clinton, such as the welfare and "antiterrorism" laws. At the same time *la migrá*, the immigration cops, have been stepping up raids at factories in the Midwest and throughout the country.

These attacks are aimed at dividing the working class — at terrifying one section of the class and convincing other workers to view them as less than equal human beings. The capitalist rulers hold up immigrants, particularly the undocumented, as a scapegoat. They want U.S.-born workers to believe that toilers born in other countries are the real cause of unemployment, crime, and the other social and economic crises capitalism breeds.

Clinton tried to portray a kinder image around the new immigration regulations, threatening to veto an earlier version that included barring public health funds for legal immigrants with the AIDS virus. But that probe was just a smoke screen for the real assault on immigrants' rights, on which there is broad bipartisan consensus within the ruling class. The debate among the rulers ranges from Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy's call for clamping down on undocumented workers to "save American jobs," to ultrarightist Patrick Buchanan's anti-immigrant demagoguery that he uses to build an incipient fascist movement.

The working class should welcome greater immigration to the United States and other imperialist countries, from France to Australia. It broadens the experience and composition of the working class, bringing together workers from all over the world inside the major capitalist centers. It increases the possibilities to build the international working-class solidarity needed to lead the fight to overturn capitalism, form a government of workers and farmers, and begin constructing a new, socialist society.

Defenders of immigrant rights need to act independently of the capitalist two-party system. We need to be out in the streets, like the *sans papiers* (undocumented workers) in Paris, who marched along with French-born workers — 20,000 strong on September 28.

No human being is illegal! End the deportations now! Equal rights for all immigrants!

Jail the guilty cop now!

The following statement was released October 7 by Brock Satter and Abby Tilsner, Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. Congress in New York.

The Socialist Workers campaign supports protests against the "not guilty" verdict in the trial of Francis Livoti, the cop who killed Anthony Báez by illegal choke hold in December 1994. We encourage all working people and youth to join these actions and condemn the injustice in this case.

We extend our solidarity to the family of Anthony Báez, and others whose family members have been victims of racist and anti-working-class violence by police. The Báez family stood up and fought the police cover-up, spoke widely to get out the truth about the case, and kept pressure on the city government to bring the killer cop to justice. It was because of their efforts and the support they won that Livoti was finally brought to trial and a measure of the truth brought to the light of day.

Across the country the courts, district attorneys' offices, and police work together to insure that no cop gets convicted and jailed. They organize to turn the victims into the criminals, and seek to justify the violence meted out by police on a daily basis. Protests and efforts by the Báez family in this case—plus the well-known history of police violence in the Bronx against workers, Latinos, immigrants, and Blacks—forced the city to bring Livoti to trial. The fact that Báez was killed by an illegal choke hold is now well known in the city.

The prosecution did not vigorously pursue the Báez

case. They ignored key pieces of evidence and major contradictory testimony by the cops themselves. They left a giant door open for the judge to use as an excuse for acquittal. Except for one cop's contradictory testimony, the police maintained their "blue wall" of silence in defense of Livoti. The judge ruled for the killer cop, in spite of the eyewitnesses testimony by Anthony's father and others that showed the officer was guilty.

Democrats and Republicans, led by William Clinton in Washington and Rudolph Giuliani in New York, are mounting an "anticrime" campaign to put more cops on the street, increase use of the death penalty, and whittle away at democratic rights. They blame working people for the problems caused by the crisis-ridden system of capitalism. The police are more and more used to intimidate and attack working people as this crisis cuts more deeply into the lives of all of us. Cops more and more become judge, jury, and executioner.

The mobilizations by working people can make a difference; they are in fact decisive. Courtrooms can at best only reflect the pressure brought to bear by our solidarity and public protest actions. Standing up as the Báez family has, and calling and joining demonstrations such as the Wednesday, October 9, protest at City Hall at 9:00 a.m. against police brutality, helps point in the right direction. Building the biggest participation possible in the October 12 national march to defend immigrant rights in Washington, D.C., is also a way to protest the government attacks today. All fighters against police brutality and supporters of democratic rights should be there.

What did UK Abortion Act register?

MANCHESTER, England — Pamela Holmes sent a letter to the editor that appeared in last week's *Militant*. This week Ann Fiander writes raising similar points. Holmes and Fiander pointed to an inaccurate statement in the article "Britain: abortion foes make little headway in 'twins case,'" which appeared in the September 23 *Militant*. It is incorrect to say that the 1967 Abortion Act in Britain "legalized the right to choose." Under capitalism there are no guarantees of a woman's right to choose —

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

that is have access to free, safe, and legal abortion on demand up to term.

The 1967 Abortion Act, however, was an historic gain for women and the working class in Britain. It was adopted on the heels of the incorporation of millions of women into the workforce and the confidence women gained from being part of social production. The law was also a product of a struggle by tens of thousands. This gain affects the lives of women not only in Britain but also in Ireland and several other European countries, who travel to Britain to gain access to safe and legal abortion. Hundreds of thousands of women have been able to receive free abortions covered under the National Health Service.

As the British capitalists attempt to drive down the value of labor of the entire working class, the employers are once again making a concerted political effort to roll back, or at least slow down, some of the positive changes in consciousness about women's place in society.

But the British rulers are bumping up against the majority view that abortion should remain available free of charge as part of the health service — a reality that several generations have grown up with and which they are not prepared to give up without a fight.

Holmes argued, "The 1967 Act is subject to interpretation and enactment by the medical profession." But in practice abortions are widely carried out, regardless of the opinions or personal beliefs of individual doctors. Holmes has a point in stating that abortion provisions can be implemented bureaucratically and are subject to cuts in the health budget. But that doesn't detract from the fact that the 1967 law registered a major step forward in the fight for women's equality.

Fiander, in her letter, claims that statements by Secretary of State for Health Stephen Dorrell "are a gain for women's rights and the working class in Britain." According to the *Independent*, Dorrell "was resisting demands from the pro-life group for an inquiry [into the twins case]." That controversy was sparked by revelations made by Dr. Philip Bennett that he aborted one of the twin fetuses of a 28-year-old unmarried woman. Rightist anti-abortion groups tried to stop the procedure before they knew Bennett had already done the deed, and later called for a government inquiry for possible violation of the law and challenged the Abortion Act itself.

Fiander also states, "We should recognize the working class made a gain in this instance." That is misleading. The statements by government officials reflected the balance of class forces on this issue. Working people make gains only through struggle. Statements by bourgeois politicians simply register what has already been conquered. London would like to advance attacks on abortion rights, but is not too confident of doing so at this time. They fear the response they would meet, particularly through new generations coming into political action.

Fiander says that Bennett "effectively offered himself for prosecution" by carrying out the selective abortion and that the government pronouncement that the 1967 Act had not been breached means the case "extends the liberal interpretation of the present law." This outcome reflects already existing gains. As the government was forced to admit, the procedure was within the 1967 Act, which shows the latitude already there. To my knowledge, since 1967, no woman or doctor has yet been prosecuted in Britain for carrying out or having an abortion. Furthermore, the High Court injunction sought by the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC) had no intention of bringing about a prosecution. The rightists had to take a more indirect form of intervention. The injunction was aimed at halting the operation in order to inform the woman of a cash offer of £60,000 (\$90,000) by anti-abortion forces if she carried the pregnancy to term. This action by the High Court allowed a third party to intervene in a decision of a woman to terminate a pregnancy. It therefore did set a dangerous precedent for the future. But reaction to the court ruling showed the rightists made little headway.

Probes against women's rights will continue. There is no basis for being complacent, but neither is there reason to expect working people and youth will not wage a fight to defend abortion rights.

— JULIE CRAWFORD

Julie Crawford is a member of the Rail, Maritime and Transport workers union in Manchester, England.

Puerto Rico: hurricane was social disaster

BY SHOGHI FRET
AND SETH GALINSKY

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates that more than 11,000 homes were heavily damaged by flooding due to the Hurricane Hortense that swept through the island here at the beginning of September.

Residents and Puerto Rico independence activists both charge that government policies made the effects worse.

Two weeks after the hurricane, 1,300 residents in Mayagüez and parts of Aguada and Añasco were still without electricity. José Valentín, president of the power authority

workers union, known as UTIER, its Spanish-language acronym, stated that repair efforts were hampered by inadequate resources.

In Puerto Nuevo, a hard-hit area of San Juan, residents said that repair funds had arrived relatively rapidly, but they were inadequate.

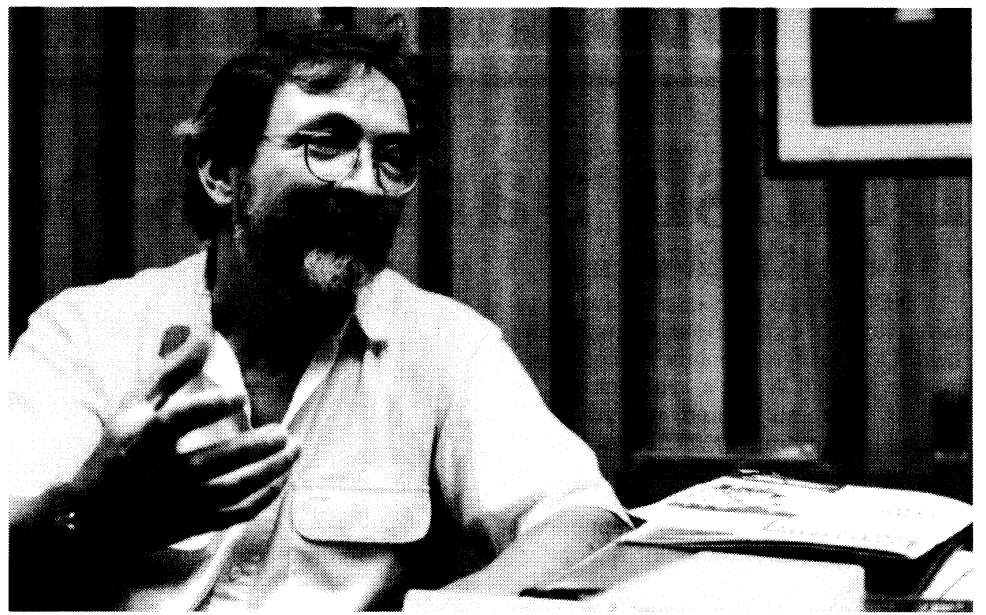
Leticia Díaz, 72, showed *Militant* reporters how high water had risen in her home, close to two feet. Mattresses, her refrigerator, and most of her furniture were damaged beyond repair. "I had to wait more than five hours to get the aid," Díaz stated. "They didn't offer us even a glass of water while they were drinking Coca-Cola on ice. These people have no humanity."

"I've already spent the money they gave me," she said, "and it won't cover nearly enough."

Díaz is a retired Selective Service worker. A painting of Luis Muñoz Marín, opponent of independence for Puerto Rico and one of the architects of the current commonwealth status, was hanging on her wall. She said the biggest problem was there was "no plan. They should have things organized when something like this happens."

Other residents said that they completed the forms for government assistance in less than two hours. But most said the flooding damage was severe and the aid not enough.

Julio Muriente, president of the New Puerto Rican Independence Movement (formerly Puerto Rican Socialist Party), wrote in the September 26 edition of the weekly that the electrical energy and aqueduct sys-



Militant/Kristin Meriam

Julio Muriente of New Independence Movement: "Hortense was social catastrophe."

tem has fallen down and the country paralyzed.

"The passing of Hurricane Hortense," he noted, "shows once again the extraordinary fragility of the infrastructure, the absence of urban planning and the impact of deforestation in the mountainous regions of the country. 'More than a natural disaster,' Muriente said, 'Hortense was a social disaster.'"

The hurricane, the independence leader noted, "is not responsible for the flooding of whole neighborhoods built in zones that

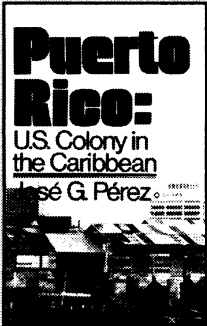
were known before hand were flood-prone. Hortense is not responsible for the many landslides that occurred in areas of higher altitude that were stripped of forests indiscriminately, eliminating their natural protection."

Muriente, like other independentistas, pointed out that the colonial system in Puerto Rico is responsible for the miserable social conditions and deteriorating infrastructure, which multiplied the effects of hurricane Hortense many times over.

from Pathfinder

Puerto Rico: U.S. Colony in the Caribbean
JOSE G. PEREZ

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. **\$2.50**



LETTERS

The 'twins case' in Britain

I was interested in reading your article in the September 23 issue "Britain: abortion foes make little headway in 'twins case'." In my opinion this is an incorrect reading of the class struggle on the abortion question.

The 1967 Abortion (amendment) Act specifies the conditions under which a doctor can perform a legal abortion if a second doctor gives written agreement. There are four grounds for legal abortion. Two of these are that continuing the pregnancy involves a greater risk of injury to the physical or mental health of the woman or the existing children in the family. This is the "social clause."

The law was defended by mass mobilizations in the streets of Britain in the 1970s, including a demonstration called by the Trade Union Congress. Since then doctors, health authorities, and the state have adopted the most liberal interpretation of this law. It would be a mistake though for class-struggle fighters to believe that women in Britain have a legal right to abortion on demand, that there is the right to choose or that no third party is involved. In every legal abortion that is currently performed in Britain, a second doctor acts for the state by certifying that the abortion is legal under the Act.

When Dr. Bennett, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Queen Charlotte's hospital and a leading figure in his field, revealed that he intended to use state of the art medical technology to selectively abort for the first time one of two fetuses legally under the social clause of the Abortion Act, on the grounds that the woman was in "straightened circumstance," he effectively offered himself for prosecution.

The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child obtained an injunction against Dr. Bennett performing the abortion. When it was made known that the abortion had already been performed, Stephen Dorrell (Secretary of State for Health) made it clear that Dr. Bennett had not breached the 1967 act in aborting one twin, nor was there to be a review of the act with the aim of denying women access to the most advanced medical techniques. The penalties for illegal abortion can be life in prison for the doctor and the woman. Dorrell also

confirmed his personal view that abortion should be restricted but made it clear he was speaking as Secretary of State in the Bennett case. (Radio 4 interview August 7.)

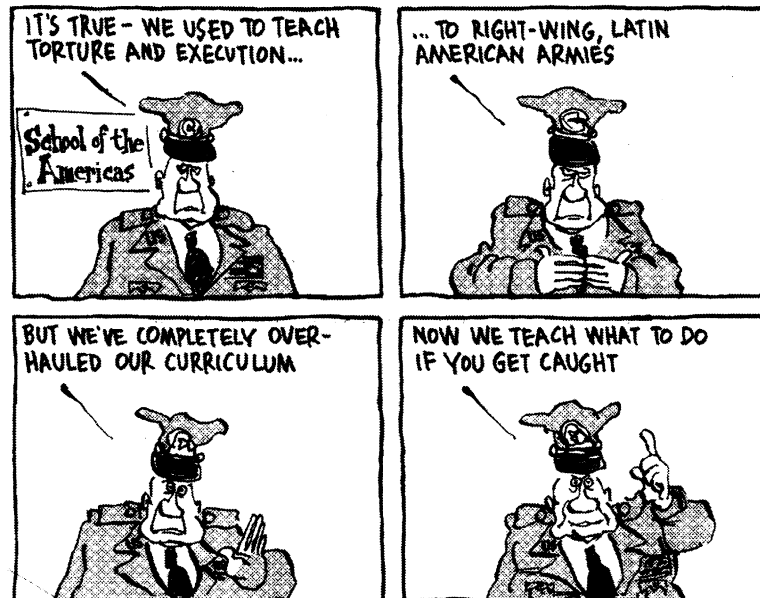
This was a clear warning to the rightists that the state would not support an attempt to prosecute Bennett for conducting an illegal abortion. In my opinion the official statements from Dorrell are a gain for woman's rights and the working class in Britain. Doctors can now be confident to conduct selective abortions under the "social clause" of the act without fear of prosecution. It will not stop the rightist probes which should always be answered but it extends the liberal interpretation of the present law.

As the *Militant* correctly points out this underlines the weakness of the British state and the continuing resistance of the working class on the issue of abortion. In my opinion, though, the rightists did not "make little headway." The anti-abortionists are politically weak in Britain to the extent they have been unable to mobilize pickets of abortion clinics or win weighty forces for an attack on the law. In my view we should recognize the working class made a gain in this instant, further exposing the weakness of the capitalist class.

Ann Fiander
Manchester, England

Cuban unionist in Toronto

The article, "Ontario Unions Protest Austerity" in the *Militant* dated September 30, reported that the Power Workers Union carried signs in the Toronto Labor Day parade calling for "Free trade with Cuba; free aid to Cuba; and down with the Helms-Burton Act." The union local which did this was my local, Local 1 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees at Toronto Hy-



dro. The Power Workers Union organizes hydro workers at the provincial level.

I want to add that the decision to carry these signs was part of a process of introducing Cuba at our workplace. Work on solidarity with Cuba has continued and reached a high point September 24 when Martha Carbrisa Alfonso, the general secretary of the Cuban Science Workers Union, and member of Cuba's National Assembly toured our workplace. Martha spoke with over 100 union members and effectively answered a range of questions on religious freedom in Cuba, free speech, the right to travel, the impact of world trade competition on Cuban workers, why Cuban engineers are members of her union and see themselves as workers, and what will happen to Cuba after Fidel Castro dies.

Martha reported that it was an excellent opportunity for her to meet ordinary workers and answer their questions. After Martha explained the important role unions play in running Cuba, one of our members said: "You may need our help, but I think we need your help more." Some workers were surprised there are even unions in Cuba, or assumed if they existed they were weak.

Martha later addressed the union meeting and stayed for the entire two and a half hours, including for a discussion on our participation in the upcoming October 22-27 Metro Days of Protest against the Ontario government's attacks on workers'

rights and social services.

My local is now going to explore the possibility of twinning itself with a Cuban electrical workers' union. As the continuing discussions on Cuba and other questions on the job indicates, Martha's tour has helped to raise interest in Cuba and will help make these and other solidarity projects a success.

David Johnson

Toronto, Ontario

Athens forum on Cyprus

"The Crisis in Cyprus and The Greek Elections, The Capitalist Drive Towards Austerity and War" was the title of a forum, held in Athens, Greece, September 14 and organized by the Committee of the Friends of the *Militant*. "The September 22 elections are aimed at reinforcing the Panhellenic Socialist Party Movement [PASOK] mandate," said airline worker Natasha Terlexis, "to deepen attacks on working people and beef up the Greek military to the tune of \$12 billion in arms procurements to be used against the toilers of the region."

The forum was built by a series of teams tabling at plant gates and in the neighborhood around the newly opened International Forum book shop, which features Pathfinder titles. The forum was held at the book shop.

At a table near the International Forum offices, the team was confronted by four young supporters of the fascist group Golden Dawn, whose main campaign slogan is "foreigners out of Greece!" There was no trouble, although there have been recent instances where they beat up people tabling around "leftist" causes. Shortly after a woman stopped by and bought a book by Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara.

Two Albanian immigrant youth attended the forum and participated in the discussion until late into the

night. "What if there is war?" asked one of them "What do we do then, what are our tasks then?" Terlexis explained, "We follow the example of the Greek communists who were sent to Asia Minor in the 1920s. We educate and organize against the war wherever our class may be, including in the front. However, before that stage is reached there are battles our class has to fight here at home against the bosses' offensive. If we are defeated then the prospect for war increases." One of the youth left with a copy of the *Communist Manifesto* and the other with *Imperialism's March Towards Fascism and War*.

In attendance was also a young Zairian worker and two South African immigrant workers. One school teacher showed up with his brother who said, "We live in the neighborhood and walk by here every day. We saw the announcement for the discussion today and decided to come and welcome you into the area," stated one of them. "I must say we are happy to see people like you moving in and the fascists moving out. This is a working class area and they do not belong here." One of the extreme right-wing organizations has its headquarters a few blocks away.

Another neighbor, an older woman, came two hours early and stayed there checking the books out. "While I was here two 15-year-old youth came in and asked about Che Guevara. I was surprised that there is interest in communist ideas among youth," she explained. She too bought a copy of *Imperialism's March Towards Fascism and War* and donated 10,000 drachmas (US\$40) towards the store's expenses.

At the end of the forum the two Albanian youth and the Zairian agreed to participate in weekly discussions on the *Communist Manifesto*.

In all, 12 people attended the forum and purchased 5 books.

Georges Mehrabian
Athens, Greece

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.

British barracks bombed in N. Ireland

BY MARCELLA FITZGERALD

LONDON — As the Conservative Party conference opened in Bournemouth, England, October 7 two bombs exploded inside the British Army's headquarters in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, wounding 31 people — including 21 British soldiers. There was no warning before the blasts. The next day someone called RTE, the Irish state broadcaster, saying the Irish Republican Army (IRA) took responsibility for the bombing.

"The target was personnel connected with the Thiepval barracks," that is, directed against London's occupying army, the caller reportedly said. "We regret any injuries caused to civilians. The resolution of the conflict demands an inclusive negotiated settlement."

This was the first operation in Northern Ireland the IRA has taken responsibility for since it called a cease-fire in September 1994. The IRA ended the 18-month cease-fire last February as London continued to refuse including Sinn Fein — the main Irish nationalist party — in talks over the future of Northern Ireland. Since then, IRA attacks have been confined in Britain.

Leaders of pro-British paramilitary groups announced they are contemplating assaults of their own. "Anything can happen," said David Ervine of the Progressive Unionist Party, which has ties to the rightist paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force.

Sinn Fein has continued to press its political campaign for inclusion in peace talks



Sinn Fein organized a protest in Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh, N. Ireland, against London's shoot-to-kill policy and the police killing of Diarmuid O'Neill in London.

without preconditions. British government figures at the annual conference of the Conservative Party admitted that the process of peace talks going on in Belfast since June without Sinn Fein is "fast becoming untenable," according to London's *Financial Times*. London claims that Sinn Fein may join the talks only if the IRA renews its cease-fire, despite refusing inclusion of Sinn Fein over the 18 months of actual cease-fire.

Prior to the Lisburn bombing, a number of protests took place in Britain and Northern Ireland over the September 23 killing of Diarmuid O'Neill by British police in London.

Chanting "Diarmuid's murderers: Try them now!" 80 people joined a picket here October 6 at John Major's residence in London. They were demanding a public inquiry into O'Neill's killing. Initial media reports

had claimed there was a gunfight between O'Neill and the police as they sought to arrest him in a raid — allegedly aimed to prevent an IRA bombing in London. Two days later the police admitted O'Neill was unarmed.

The police claim of busting an IRA unit was dealt a further blow when they released Diarmuid's brother, Shane O'Neill, after four days detention under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Shane was arrested along with four others the morning of his brother's killing. His parents issued a statement about the events saying, "Diarmuid was never arrested; he can never be tried, nor can he be acquitted or convicted other than by the press, who have not waited to have a full and proper picture before judging him. Instead those who accused him took the law into their own hands and killed him."

The police now claim that O'Neill was shot because when he partly opened his door, they could not see his hands. Their nervousness about the killing is reflected by the decision to place the cop responsible on leave, and withdraw his firearms certificate. In addition, a police inquiry has been established. Amnesty International condemned the decision for an internal investigation. "The police investigation is being carried out by a senior officer of the Metropolitan police, the same police force that was involved in the incident," a statement by the group said. Amnesty called for a "truly independent and impartial investigation."

As the story of the killing has unfolded, the big-business media has pointed to organizations opposed to the British occupation of Northern Ireland as possible recruiting grounds for the IRA. A feature on the main morning BBC radio news program "Today" also targeted the Militant Labor Forum, saying that a leaflet issued for its Friday night meeting on O'Neill's killing referred to the police in "defamatory terms."

Pete Clifford, the speaker at the forum, responded to the BBC news program accusation that the holding of the forum and distribution of literature supporting the Irish freedom struggle from the Pathfinder Bookshop here was "irresponsible." Organizing the forum "was the most responsible way to act," Clifford said. "The real problem in this country is that there isn't enough discussion and debate about what's happening in Ireland." Speaking at the forum, Clifford added, "This summary execution takes place in the context of nationalists taking the high ground during the summer months. Telling the truth about Ireland is something the rulers here deeply fear."

Abortion battle heats up in Australia

BY JOANNE KUNIANSKY

SYDNEY, Australia — Over 100 people attended a meeting organized by the Women's Abortion Action Campaign (WAAC) September 26 here. They gathered in response to the September 13 High Court decision allowing the Catholic Church to submit a friend-of-the-court brief challenging a woman's right to choose abortion. The case involves a woman known as "Ms. CES" who sued doctors at her clinic for medical negligence. In 1986, after five visits in two months, they failed to diagnose her pregnancy in time to have an abortion.

Abortion is penalized under the Crimes Act of every state in Australia. But common law decisions in Victoria in 1969, New South Wales (NSW) in 1971, and Queensland in 1986 provide significant exceptions. Abortion is available if, in the opinion of the doctors, the continued pregnancy would cause mental or physical harm to the woman. In Australia there is no age of consent for having an abortion. The practice in every state, except for South Australia and the Northern Territory, is for the woman to make the decision with her doctor. Medicare funds subsidize abortion.

The Catholic Church aims to restrict access to abortion through its intervention into this case. Bishop Pat Power, secretary of the Catholic Bishops Committee for the Family and for Life, stated in reference to the current case, "Certainly we hope that the current practice of abortion in Australia would be scrutinized and tightened up."

The High Court also granted the Abortion Providers Federation of Australia friend-of-the-court status to submit arguments. Catherine Henry, solicitor for the Abortion Providers Federation in this matter, along with Dr. Geoff Brodie, president of the federation, spoke to the WAAC meeting. Other speakers included Helen Pringle, Senior Lecturer at the University of New South Wales, and Margaret Kirkby from the Women's Abortion Action Campaign.

Pringle said that in Australia there have been no successful criminal prosecutions against doctors for performing abortions. She said that contrary to press reports, this is not the first case on abortion to be heard by the High Court. In 1983 a case seeking an injunction to stop a Queensland woman from having an abortion was heard. Chief Justice Gibbs, ruling in favor of the woman

in that case, said, "There are limits to the extent to which the law should intrude upon personal liberty and personal privacy in the pursuit of moral and religious aims. Those limits would be overstepped if an injunction were to be granted in the present case."

The recent court ruling was announced as Senator Brian Harradine from Tasmania raised in the Senate proposals to cut funding for family planning services and for Medicare-funded abortions.

Reviewing the history of the current case, *Ms. CES vs. Superclinics*, Catherine Henry told the WAAC gathering that in 1994 the case was dismissed in the NSW Supreme Court by Justice Newman who agreed that the doctors had been negligent, but ruled that since abortion was illegal under NSW criminal law it was inappropriate to claim

damages. Then in 1995, Justice Kirby in the NSW Court of Appeal ruled in favor of the woman's right to claim damages. Superclinics has appealed to the High Court.

The meeting resolved to call on the High Court to uphold the common law decisions that have made abortion accessible in Australia, and to call on the NSW parliament to repeal the sections of the NSW Crimes Act that criminalize abortion.

The High Court resumes hearings on the case November 11. Margaret Kirkby said that pro-choice groups are currently planning a protest in the Australian capital of Canberra on that date, outside the court.

Joanne Kuniansky is a member of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union at F. Muller in Sydney.

Seoul, Washington threaten north Korea

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Seoul stepped up its war threats against north Korea on October 7. South Korean president Kim Young-Sam warned that day of a full-scale military confrontation if the north Korean government in Pyongyang continues its "armed provocation." The threats were leveled after a north Korean submarine ran aground off south Korea's east coast September 18. South Korean troops pursued and killed most of the crew. Seoul is now pressing for a resolution at the United Nations Security Council to condemn the landing.

The Kim Young-Sam administration is waging a campaign to isolate the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), claiming the incident was an attempt by Pyongyang to land "guerrillas" for a sabotage or assassination mission. According to the *Financial Times* of London, the head of south Korea's intelligence service said the incident was a prelude to "guerrilla warfare" waged by the DPRK government.

The north Korean People's Armed Forces issued a statement September 22 explaining the submarine was engaged in a routine training mission when it developed engine trouble, ran aground, and struck a rock. The statement called for a return of the vessel and its crew, including of those killed.

"It seemed that the crew was left with no

other choice but to get to the land on the enemy side, which might cause an armed conflict," said a spokesperson for DPRK's armed forces.

"The Seoul authorities immediately labeled the incident as a terrorist act," said the *People's Korea* published in Pyongyang. Some 40,000 south Korean troops were dispatched on a manhunt along with tracker dogs backed by helicopters.

Washington joined the posse September 25, supplying 12 U.S. Kiowa helicopters equipped with infrared radar that can track humans on the ground, said Col. John Reitz, a spokesman for the U.S. military in south Korea. The *Washington Post* reported that "pilots and support personnel" from the 37,000-strong U.S. force stationed in south Korea participated in the search mission.

The south Korean pursuers killed 22 of the 26-member submarine crew, who were lightly armed. Three south Korean troops died in gun battles. A mushroom picker was killed September 23 by south Korean soldiers who mistook him for one of the north Koreans.

According to an article in the September 23 *Financial Times*, "U.S. military officials in Seoul believe the submarine intrusion may have been an accident resulting from mechanical problems or crew inexperience during a routine reconnaissance training

exercise." The financial daily had stated earlier, "There is little evidence that the North Koreans were engaged in a sabotage mission."

In light of this, Washington has so far refrained from publicly condemning the North Korean government. "Obviously the episode is a matter of concern but the facts are so murky... it's impossible to assess," said U.S. secretary of state Warren Christopher.

Meanwhile, Seoul is pressuring other countries not to make investments, provide food aid and other humanitarian assistance to the DPRK. An impending famine is threatening the north Korean population after the worst floods in a century devastated crops last year. New floods of a smaller scale inflicted damage this year as well. The country received \$8 million in food aid from Washington, \$6 million from Tokyo, and \$3 million from Seoul.

In another development, the north Korean Central News Agency announced September 6 that police arrested Evan Carl Hunzike, a U.S. citizen, for espionage. "He admitted that he is a U.S. citizen, and he illegally entered [north Korea] for the purpose of getting information of its domestic situation, the agency reported. "It has been proven by investigation that he was sent for espionage by south Korea's Agency for National Security Planning."