

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Writers address
cultural freedom in Cuba

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Albert Gore brags about U.S. plunder of Mexico

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

When Jack Kemp and Albert Gore — the Republican and Democratic candidates for vice president of the United States respectively — faced off October 9, one actual point of debate among them was over Mexico.

Kemp suggested that the Clinton administration policies caused the worst economic crisis in that country in decades, fueling immigration into the United States. Gore countered that the massive loans the White House arranged to shore up the Mexican economy following the collapse of the peso there in December 1994 were a big success for Wall Street and Washington: they resulted in a handsome profit for the U.S. rulers.

Since the vice presidential debate, William Clinton has consolidated a fat double-

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Hundreds buy socialist books, subs at Oct. 12 rally

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

More than 200 participants at the October 12 immigrant rights march on Washington, D.C., signed up to subscribe to the socialist press. Sales of *Perspectiva Mundial* were phenomenal — about 170 participants bought subscriptions to the Spanish-language monthly. Socialist workers and member of the Young Socialists also sold at least 49 *Militant* subscriptions and 196 books, including 63 copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*.

This helped get the international campaign to sell subscriptions to these working-class publications off to a great start. During the seven-week drive, launched Oc-

Continued on Page 5

March on Washington: 'No human is illegal!'

BY ELIZABETH STONE AND MARTÍN KOPPEL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — “No human being is illegal!” That slogan appeared on countless hand-lettered signs among the crowd of thousands of demonstrators from across the country who converged on the U.S. capital October 12 for the first national demonstration for the rights of immigrants.

Mónica De Casas, 23, a Chicana student who came with a group of 25 youth from the University of Rhode Island and Brown University, expressed the exuberance of many marchers. “It’s great to see so many of us here to make our voice heard. They can’t stop us now.” The students marched behind a banner proclaiming: “We support *La Raza*.” (Raza refers to the Chicano people; the term is sometimes extended to all Latinos.)

The march was overwhelmingly young. Mexican, Chicano, Puerto Rican, and other Latino student groups from campuses throughout the country played a major role in organizing buses, vans, and cars to get to the demonstration, especially in the three or four weeks before October 12. Organizers of the demonstration reported the turnout at 25,000. Other estimates ranged from 10,000 to 20,000.

The call for the national demonstration was first made two years ago by One-Stop Immigration and other groups that organized the 70,000-strong demonstration in Los Angeles in October 1994 against the anti-immigrant ballot measure in California

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Militant/Eric Simpson

October 12 march was called by activists involved in 1994 protests against anti-immigrant referendum Proposition 187 in California.

Auto strikers occupy GM plant in Ontario

BY JOANNE WALLADOR AND ROBERT SIMMS

TORONTO — At 10 a.m. on October 16, more than 150 striking members of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 222 occupied the General Motors north plant in Oshawa, Ontario, to prevent GM from moving dies outside its struck plants so that it can continue production elsewhere. They are among the 26,000 GM workers on strike nationwide.

The occupation followed GM’s an-

nouncement it would go to court for an injunction forbidding interference with their plans to move up to 75 dies out of the plant.

“Workers discussed the matter and decided themselves to take action,” said Les Hodgins, who works at the truck plant in the south end of the city. He was among hundreds of strikers from across Oshawa who rushed to beef up the picket lines outside the occupied plant. Three busloads of strikers from GM’s plant in St. Catharines arrived later, Hodgins said. “The general feeling was ‘No dies are going out.’”

Five hours into the occupation, CAW national president Buzz Hargrove went into the plant and told the occupiers and pickets

that negotiations were moving along and GM had withdrawn its threat of court action for now. Hargrove said he expected to reach a settlement by October 21. The workers then voted to end the occupation.

The GM workers, who began walking out of the Canadian plants October 3, are determined to stop the outsourcing to lower-paid workplaces — unorganized or organized. They are also fighting against the speed-up of line production, forced overtime, and unsafe working conditions that the GM bosses have imposed as they try to cut corners to raise their profit rates.

The unionists are demanding that GM

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The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists invite you to

Regional Socialist Educational Conferences

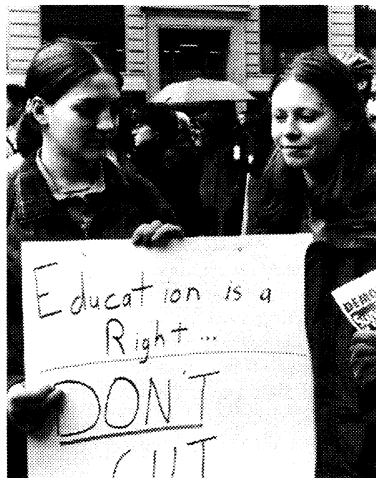
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1.6 million strike in France

BY NAOMI CRAINE

As we go to press, 1.6 million public workers in France joined a one-day strike October 17, crippling transportation, closing schools, and affecting other services. According to Associated Press, tens of thousands of strikers marched in Paris protesting the austerity drive by the government of prime minister Alain Juppé. Demonstrations also took place in Marseilles, Strasbourg, and other cities.

Rail workers began walking off the job the night before, stopping two-thirds of the normal train service. Only about 15 percent of the scheduled flights operated from the Paris airports. Postal and utility workers, medics, and teachers were also among the strikers. About one-third of the 5 million public workers in France

participated in the protest actions.

The Juppé government is pushing for a pay freeze for state workers, job cuts, and other measures in hopes of entering the so-called European Monetary Union on an equal footing with the German capitalists. Meanwhile unemployment in France is at a near-record high — officially 12.6 percent.

Massive demonstrations and strikes last December held back some aspects of the “Juppé plan,” such as raising the retirement age for rail workers, but did not reverse the government’s general austerity course. Other protests and strikes are planned for the next three weeks, ranging from retirees opposing cuts in benefits to truckers protesting a planned price increase for diesel fuel.



German unions threaten strikes

Klaus Zwickel, president of the IG Metall, the metal workers union, warned of widespread strikes after October 23 unless the employers drop their plans to cut sick pay entitlements. "The consequence is that we will then have more confrontation," Zwickel said. The dispute over sick pay was ignited by a new law passed by the German parliament that slashed the minimum statutory sick pay to 80 percent of wages. Several companies, including Daimler-Benz — Germany's largest company — attempted to take advantage of the new law, but backed down after unionists waged warning strikes.

After a four-hour meeting with union officials in Frankfurt October 10, Werner Stumpfe, president of the employers federation Gesamtmetall, stated, "There is no occasion for optimism.... The views are wide apart." Stumpfe said the meeting was about whether the wages of 3 million workers at 8,000 companies in the industry "will be compatible with the world market."

German gov't starts deportations

A 29-year-old Bosnian refugee was sent on a plane to Sarajevo October 9, as Bavaria became the first German state to begin deportations of refugees from Yugoslavia. Officials of the 16 states met with the interior ministry in August to prepare a three-phase program to deport the 320,000 refugees residing in Germany. Bavaria plans to deport 20,000 people by next summer, including immigrants between 18 and 55 years old who are receiving welfare benefits.

Attempting to deflect condemnation of the expulsions, Bavarian interior minister Gunther Beckstein stated, "Anyone who suggests we are giving these people the heave-ho or planning mass deportations is misleading the public." In order to win public support, the Bavarian government plans to include among the first deportees refugees convicted of criminal charges.

U.S. pushes African 'peace' force

U.S. secretary of state Warren Christopher, while touring the African continent in early October, proposed a 10,000-strong



Peasants burn copy of new agrarian reform law at start of October in La Paz, Bolivia. Some 12,000 hiked for up to a month to reach the capital to demand better conditions.

military force of troops from African countries to respond to "man-made and natural disasters." Washington offered to pay half the \$25-\$40 million cost to finance the imperialist-inspired force, while counting on its allies in Europe and the United Nations to pick up the rest of the tab.

London's *Financial Times* reported that "Jacques Godfrain, France's cooperation minister, has poured scorn on the sudden American interest in the continent." Paris was one of the main imperialist powers to colonize Africa and maintains troops in a number of African countries today.

Jordan: war looms in Mideast

Fearing that Palestinian tensions could boil over into Jordan, King Hussein of Jordan told a London-based Saudi newspaper, *Ashraq al-Awsat*, that the Israeli government was adopting a "siege mentality" that threatened to unleash a "fury bordering on despair" among the Arab masses. In the interview published early October, Hussein asserted "everything imaginable can happen,

including a revival of 1991 when [Benjamin] Netanyahu [now the Israeli prime minister] wore his gas mask on television." Meanwhile, a broad coalition of 21 Jordanian organizations met October 9 and called for a freeze on diplomatic and commercial ties with Tel Aviv.

Turkish premiere is in hot water

Opponents of Turkish prime minister Necmettin Erbakan called for his resignation and threatened to call a no-confidence vote in parliament following his visit to Libya, Egypt, and Nigeria. Erbakan came under particular fire for comments made by Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi at a joint press conference near Tripoli October 5. "Turkey has lost its will.... Turkey's future lies not in NATO, U.S. bases and repressing the Kurds, but in its nobility and its past," Qaddafi lectured a stunned Erbakan. "Kurdistan should be established. I'm talking about the Kurdish nation." Some 21,000 people have been killed in Ankara's 12-year war against Kurdish guerrillas fighting for independence.

"Erbakan should return to Turkey without wasting any time," said Turkey's former prime minister Mesut Yilmaz, "and submit his resignation."

Beijing, Tokyo dispute islands

The Chinese government warned Tokyo October 9 it was provoking a "confrontation" over disputed islands in the East China Sea. Beijing and the regime in Taiwan united to oppose actions by members of the right-wing Japan Youth Federation, who built a lighthouse on one of the islands. Protesters in Hong Kong broke into the Japanese consulate there demanding the return of the islands from Tokyo to China.

According to the *New York Times*, Chinese nationalist groups have demanded Beijing and Taipei use military force to seize the islands from Tokyo. Tensions escalated during the first week of October when protesters from Hong Kong and Taiwan broke through a cordon of Japanese coast guard vessels and planted Taiwanese and Chinese flags. The islands are a suspected source of petroleum.

S. Korean protesters face charges

Prosecutors in south Korea demanded prison terms of up to three years for 62 students charged with organizing demonstrations on August 15. The 7,000-strong action called for the reunification of Korea and an end to the massive U.S. military presence in the south. More than 1,000 police and students were injured in the fighting that followed a police assault on demonstrators at Yonsei University in Seoul August 15. Nearly 6,000 students were arrested during the 12-day standoff. A total of 444 youth face charges in connection with the protests.

10,000 Blacks rally in Honduras

Some 10,000 people from Black communities throughout Honduras rallied October 10 in Tegucigalpa to demand their democratic rights, which have been violated for the past 200 years. They traveled to the Honduran capital in a caravan of buses and cars from the Caribbean town of La Ceiba and met up with a contingent of Garifuna people coming from the states of Cortés and Yoro. They delivered a document presenting their basic needs and demanding immediate attention from the government of Honduran president Carlos Roberto Reina. The protesters called for immediate title to lands they use in five of the country's 18 states, as well as the construction of schools, health centers, roads, and electrification.

High school students walk out over 'pro-family' resolution

Some 200 students in the middle and high schools of Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, walked out of classes October 8 to protest a "pro-family" school board resolution. Those who refused to return were suspended for three days. About 35 of the suspended youth protested outside the school again the next day, under threat of having the suspension extended to five days. Citing the "traditional family" as being "under relentless attack," the Elizabethtown Area School Board adopted a resolution that "affirms that pro-homosexual concepts on sex and family as promoted by the National Education Association will never be tolerated or accepted in this school." Several students told the *Harrisburg Patriot-News* they interpreted the resolution to mean that students of divorced parents or students who are homosexual would no longer be welcome at school.

— MAURICE WILLIAMS

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Writers address cultural freedom in Cuba

BY CHRISTIAN COURNOYER
AND MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL — "You will meet many Cubans who complain and who criticize Fidel Castro. But if our coast is attacked, they will take up arms to defend it," said Juan Padrón. "It's because the revolution is the only national project in Cuba — unlike the projects of the opposition."

Padrón is an editor at Casa de las Americas, a well-known publishing house in Cuba and Latin America. He was responding to a question on how the Cuban people have been able to resist imperialist aggression for so long. Padrón was one of the featured speakers at a conference on "Culture in Cuba," here September 27-28. It was organized by Carrefour culturel de l'amitié Québec-Cuba, a group in favor of cultural exchange with Cuba. About 75 students, workers, and solidarity activists attended.

Norberto Codina, director of *La Gaceta de Cuba*, and Claude Morin, history professor at the University of Montreal, also spoke. *La Gaceta* is a bi-monthly magazine on culture and politics published by the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC).

The event began on the evening of September 27. It was sponsored by the Teaching Assistant Union at the University of Quebec in Montreal (SCCUQ) and by Optimonde, an academic exchange program with the Third World at the Vieux Montréal College. Codina and Padrón arrived the next morning due to a hitch in transportation arrangements. The plane tickets of the Cuban guests were paid for by the ministry of international relations of the Quebec government.

A population with a high cultural level

The conference began with presentations by the three invited speakers. Padrón underlined the key role played by the various institutions and initiatives of the revolutionary government for more than 35 years in developing a high cultural level among the Cuban people.

Codina spoke at length on this point as well. "The literacy campaign of 1961 is one of the biggest initiatives undertaken by the revolution with regard to culture," Codina said. "Only three percent of the population is illiterate in Cuba today. In 1958, less than a million books were published. By 1989, this had grown to 45 million."

Codina also described the impact on publishing of the economic crisis Cubans call the "special period." This crisis came about at the beginning of the 1990s by the abrupt end of favorable trade relations between Cuba and the former Soviet bloc countries.

In the past six years, Codina said, there are less funds available to publish new titles and new authors. As a result, Cubans have been forced to find alternatives. Many books are now published on recycled paper. And a second-hand market has developed.

Claude Morin focused his presentation on the sense of history in Cuban culture. The previous evening, during the opening of the conference, Morin stated that contrary to predictions by many after the collapse of the break up of the USSR, "Cuba survived its 'protector' because Cuba was never a protectorate." A three-hour exchange between the speakers and the audience followed the presentations.

In answer to a question on freedom of artistic expression in Cuba, Padrón replied, "I have always said what I think, including in heated and sometimes difficult polemics."

Codina added, "The latest denunciation of Cuban artists has taken place in Miami, not in Havana." He was referring to firebombings and violent threats by opponents of the revolution against the Cuban singer Rosita Fornés, who was twice forced to cancel a concert in Miami in September.

Codina described debates taking place among Cuban artists on two subjects that were previously taboo.

"The question of homosexuality," he said, "is being tackled with more audacity than in many Latin American countries, and even more so than in the United States and Spain." There is open discussion on combating prejudices and discrimination against gays and lesbians.

"Aberrations were made regarding artists who emigrated" after the revolution, Codina added. He drew a parallel between such aberrations in Cuba and pictures retouched by functionaries of the regime of Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union to erase the figure of Russian Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky.

Trotsky, who fought to advance the revolutionary political course defended by V.I. Lenin against the counterrevolution eventually headed by Stalin, was assassinated at Stalin's orders in Mexico in 1940.

"In the 1970s, some Cuban artists disappeared from the books," Codina stated. "But in the last ten years there has been an important process of reappropriating the works of artists who left Cuba."

Cultural policy of the revolution

In response to another question, Codina explained that for a number of years the policy of the revolution regarding matters of artistic freedom had been summarized in a sentence of a 1961 speech by Cuban president Fidel Castro: "Within the revolution, everything is possible. Against the revolution, nothing."

Castro gave that speech, titled "Words to the intellectuals," at a conference of artists in Cuba in June 1961. "The revolution should give up only those who are incorrigible reactionaries," Castro said in that speech. "The revolution has to understand the real situation and should therefore act in such a manner that the whole group of artists and intellectuals who are not genuinely revolutionaries can find within the revolution a place to work and create, a place where their creative spirit, even though they are not revolutionary writers and artists, has the opportunity and freedom to be expressed."

"Culturally," Codina said, "all the avant-garde are allowed in Cuba." He described

how works of Czech writer Franz Kafka, French painter Marc Chagall, and avant-garde Japanese filmmakers were accessible throughout Cuban society in the first years of the revolution.

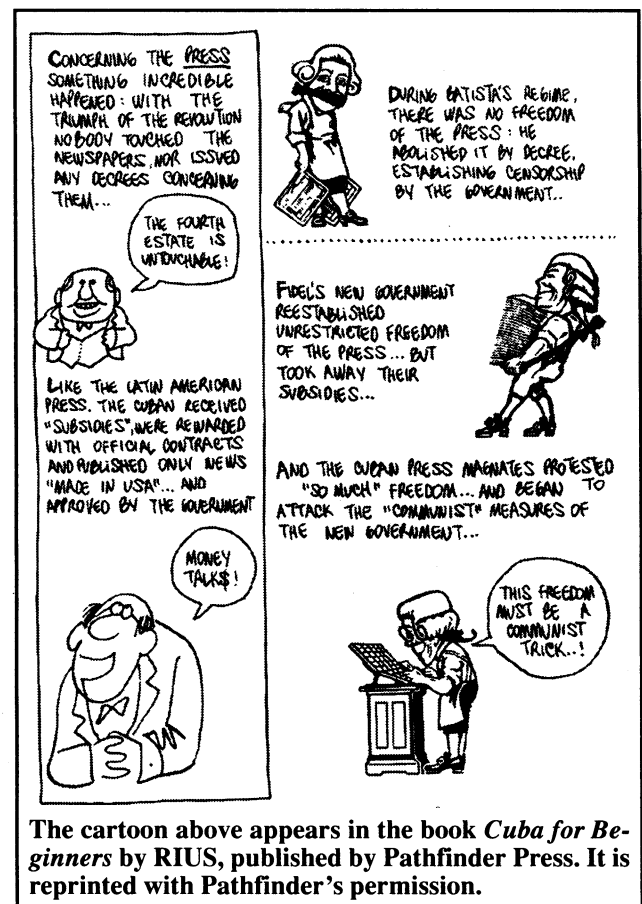
"But Fidel Castro's sentence contains a margin of exclusion, which led to a great many problems later on," Codina said. "Who decides who is in favor of the revolution? A bureaucrat? We could have saved ten wasted years."

Codina said he was referring to what many revolutionary artists in Cuba term "gray period" in Cuban culture, from the end of the 1960s to the mid 1970s when concepts borrowed either from the USSR or directly from capitalism gained increased acceptance in Cuba, undermining political consciousness.

Someone in the audience asked what the impact had been of the report given by second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Raúl Castro to the fifth plenary session of the Central Committee of that party earlier this year. Castro's report, given on behalf of the Communist Party's Political Bureau on March 23, was adopted by the Central Committee. That report "on the political and social situation in the country and the corresponding tasks of the party," was published in its entirety in the April 10, 1996, issue of the Cuban weekly *Granma Internacional*.

In that report, Raúl Castro discussed the need for communists in Cuba to lead a political and ideological battle against those who espouse pro-capitalist ideas and methods. The report also raised that certain cultural publications in Cuba were promoting values that play into the hand of those who oppose the revolution.

"A group of cultural publications contributes to spreading the ideas of the best of the revolutionary intellectuals. But we let our guard drop... and publications appeared which openly auction off many of their pages," receiving donations from abroad, Castro said in the March speech. "In those publications, along with interesting and politically correct articles, others frequently appear that scarcely differ from those written by U.S. academics who are enemies of the revolution, using supposedly revolutionary language apparently aimed at creating a



smoke screen for their true intentions."

"When Raúl spoke," Codina said, laughing, "some friends phoned me to ask if I had lost my job. This report is important because U.S. imperialism is working hard at ideological penetration. But the section on the cultural publications is the most arguable — which is what I said in Cuba. It's also been the most exploited outside the country."

"The artists have not been touched by that," Codina said. "They have continued to function as before. For example, the magazine that comes closest to those artistic tendencies criticized by Raúl is *Temas* [Themes]. It is still being published and will be introduced next week in Madrid along with *La Gaceta de Cuba*. Twenty years ago a declaration [like Raúl's] would have partially paralyzed the cultural milieu in Cuba. Not today. The revolution is stronger."

The tour of Codina and Padrón in Quebec continued through October 12. The two Cubans visited Quebec City and Hull, giving presentations in classes and meeting artists, teachers, and others.

Christian Cournoyer is a member of the Young Socialists in Montreal. Michel Prairie is a member of the Carrefour culturel de l'amitié Québec-Cuba.

'Gaceta de Cuba' honors filmmaker's life

BY MIKE TABER

Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, Cuba's best-known film director (nicknamed "Titón"), died in Havana on April 16. The July-August issue of *La Gaceta de Cuba* features a series of articles on his life and contributions by some of his closest collaborators.

Gutiérrez Alea's internationally recognized films include *Memories of Underdevelopment*, *Death of a Bureaucrat*, *The Last Supper*, *Up to a Certain Point*, *Strawberry and Chocolate*, and *Guantanamera*.

Published in Havana by the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC), *La Gaceta de Cuba* is a leading forum for discussion on culture, politics, and the challenges facing the Cuban revolution today.

The issue leads off with an article by Roberto Fernández Retamar, director of the journal *Casa de las Américas* and a friend of Gutiérrez Alea's since their years at the University of Havana. He describes Gutiérrez Alea's days as an aspiring artist and musician during the late 1940s and early 1950s. Together they participated in activities opposed to the U.S.-backed regimes of Carlos Prío and Fulgencio Batista, and were part of a left-wing group called the *Nuestro Tiempo* [Our Times] Cultural Society.

During the early 1950s, Gutiérrez Alea went to Italy to study filmmaking. His first feature film, *Stories of the Revolution*, was made shortly after the victory of the Cuban revolution in 1959.

Fernández Retamar describes Gutiérrez Alea as "the great rebel creator," and cites the filmmaker's last interview before his

death, where he stated: "I continue to believe what I have believed all my life."

Of special interest in this issue of *La Gaceta* is an interview with Juan Carlos Tabío, who collaborated in Gutiérrez Alea's two last films, *Strawberry and Chocolate* and *Guantanamera*. Tabío describes working with him for several years in the Creativity Groups. These groups were organized on a voluntary basis by leading Cuban directors. Tomás Gutiérrez Alea was an enthusiastic champion of them.

"The groups had two reasons for existing," Tabío states. "First was as a workshop where the members submitted all their ideas. The group offered only ideas, suggestions, opinions, without impositions of any type, and never a veto...."

"The other main function of the groups was that of counteracting overcentralized decisions on the part of the state body. In all film production in the world there is a final decision maker, the producer. He is the one who decides which movie is made and which movie isn't made. This of course also has to be the case with the Cuban Film Institute (ICAIC)."

"But ICAIC is a socialist producer, not a capitalist one. The operating premises are not commercial ones; on the contrary, film is treated more as a cultural phenomenon. The Creativity Groups signified a collective participation in these decisions."

At one point, Tabío explains, a proposal was raised to dissolve ICAIC into a larger body that would have responsibility for both television and film. The Creativity Groups

opposed this move, arguing that cinematography and television serve different cultural ends. Gutiérrez Alea was particularly active in defending the film institute, and the idea of dissolving it was abandoned.

In another article, writer Reynaldo González characterizes Gutiérrez Alea as a "citizen-artist." He writes: "Only those who live within the conflict-ridden days of a social process that aimed to change destiny can understand the interrelationship of two extremes: discipline and questioning. Titón understood this and practiced it in an exemplary manner."

Tributes to Gutiérrez Alea by Senel Paz (author of *Strawberry and Chocolate*), Ambrosio Fornet, and several others are also included. Previously unpublished drawings by Gutiérrez Alea himself illustrate the pages.

This issue of *La Gaceta* also includes an interview with Ernesto Sábato, one of Argentina's best-known novelists; and a collection of contemporary poetry from Holguín in eastern Cuba.

An article by Luisa Campuzano discusses the challenges facing Cuban women in the arts, as reflected in literature and the cinema. She focuses particularly on the progress made since 1984.

Included too, as a regular feature of *La Gaceta*, is a review section on books, music, drama, and the visual arts.

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C-SPAN report spurs interest in socialist slate

BY DIANA NEWBERRY

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The day before the October 12 immigrant rights march here, James Harris and Laura Garza, Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. president and vice president, respectively, addressed a meeting at George Washington University (GWU). Diana Newberry, a leader of the Young Socialists, also spoke.

The meeting was broadcast on the C-SPAN national television network. The local campus newspaper, the *Hatchet*, and the Howard University *Community News* also covered the event.

Three dozen people came to hear the socialist candidates. Many were students from around the country who were attending a conference on science and technology.

A group of students from Juniata College, near Pittsburgh, were excited to hear Garza describe how she had joined the picket lines of striking Wheeling-Pittsburgh steelworkers. Several came up after the meeting to say they wanted to meet some strikers too. A number of students signed up for more information on the campaign and the YS.

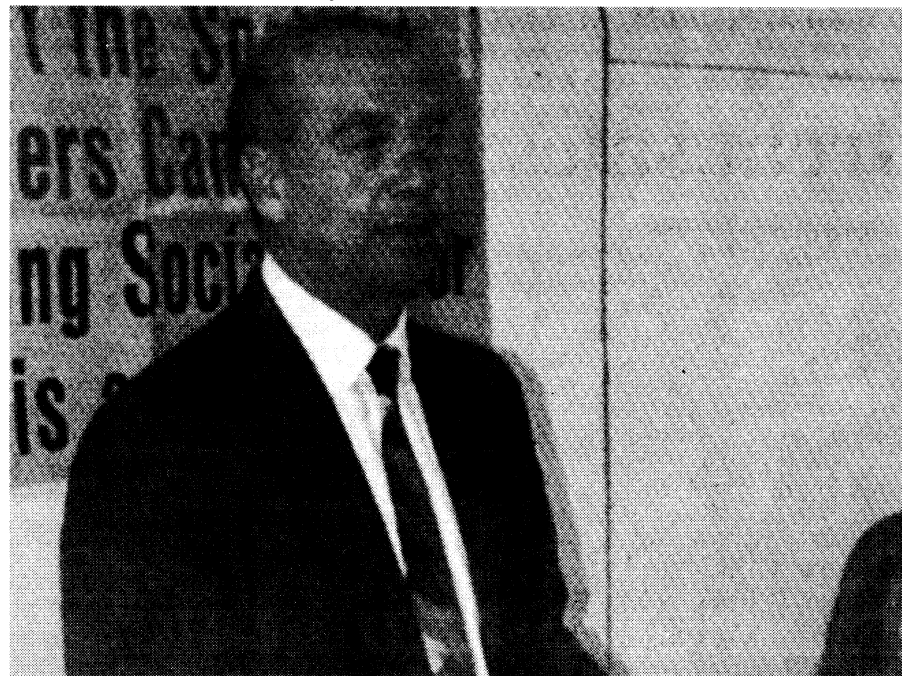
The next day, Harris and Garza marched in the demonstration with some of their supporters and received an overwhelmingly warm response. After the march, 150 people crowded in nearby Quigley's Restaurant to hear the socialist candidates speak at an open house. Among the newest supporters of the socialist campaign were two of the students who had attended the meeting at GWU.

One student from California State University at San Marcos phoned October 14, to see if Harris was available to be a keynote speaker at an anti-Proposition 209 rally at his campus. That ballot initiative is an anti-affirmative action referendum that will be on the California ballot in November. The caller also said he was impressed with the remarks given by Young Socialists leader Diana Newberry and wanted to know if she could come and speak as well.

Another caller from the Los Angeles area said he was inspired by what Harris had said at the campus meeting, and that it gave him some confidence to see himself as someone who could act politically. For the past year he has been living in Cuba making films. He said he agreed with much of what Harris said about Cuba and the stand of the socialist campaign in defending Cuba.

A Palestinian man from Queens in New York said he was so riveted by what was being said by the socialist candidates that he didn't want to leave the room to get a pencil to write down the phone number for more information. He made this reporter promise to "tell Mr. Harris that, even though I cannot vote, he is president in our home." He said he has initiated many discussions with friends that mirror the stands of the socialist candidates. He is now considering hosting a meeting at his home for one of the local socialist candidates.

From the pages of the *Daily Utah Chronicle*



Chronicle Photo Chad Greenleaf

Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor, supports a minimum wage raise, shortened work week, and gay rights.

The photo and caption above appeared in the October 9 *Daily Utah Chronicle* along with an article titled, "Socialist Party Wants Work, Rights for All." Below is a small excerpt from that article.

Fein is a member of the United Steelworkers of America, and opposes Utah's

position as a right to work state. He supports, among other things, a raise in the minimum wage to \$12 an hour, reduction of the work week to 30 hours with pay for 40 hours, immigrant rights, abortion rights and gay and lesbian rights....

Fein said he is proud there is an alternative to this scapegoating [of gays and immigrants].

BY ABBY TILSNER

NEW YORK — The phone has been ringing off the hook at the Socialist Workers Party national campaign headquarters here. People from all around the country have called in and talked to campaign volunteers, or left messages asking for more information after a broadcast of the Socialist Workers presidential candidates' October 11 meeting at George Washington University on C-SPAN.

Socialist Workers campaign on World Wide Web

Socialist Workers 1996 campaign WEB page on Internet can be located at: <http://www.swpcampaign.org/swpcampaign>

Morgantown socialists help initiate protest of Defense of Marriage Act

BY ESTELLE DEBATES

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia — The recent bipartisan passage of the Defense of Marriage Act, which bans recognition of same-sex marriage, prompted two public protests here. Outraged by the measure, participants in a September 20 Militant Labor Forum decided to invite others to a protest planning meeting a few days later. The forum featured a talk by Dennis Richter, Socialist Workers candidate for West Virginia governor, who spoke out against the anti-working class measure.

Armed with a giant neon banner reading "Civil Rights for Gays and Lesbians" and stacks of informational leaflets, some 25 protesters took to the streets of downtown

Morgantown September 27 during rush hour. Many participants were high school and West Virginia University students. Nearly everyone there said that this was the first time they had ever been to a demonstration.

The banner caught everyone's attention. Most of the participants made their own signs such as "Equal rights for all, do you want the government in your bedroom?" and "Say no to intolerance." Protesters were greeted with many gestures of support when "Honk if you support the cause" signs were held up next to the banner.

Meanwhile, several protesters fanned out to talk with people and distribute a one-page statement. "This bill attacks the homosexual community... yet this is not just a 'gay' issue," said the statement.

"Denying a subset of our society the rights the rest enjoy, threatens the freedom of all.... This bill reeks of the miscegenation laws that once prohibited inter-racial marriage. Like those, it invades our private lives."

The protest wrapped up with a march up and down the length of the downtown business district. Protesters chanted and passed out leaflets. In addition to a statement the leaflet also invited others to join in a speak-out the following Thursday.

Some of the organizers had expressed concern that anti-gay elements might attack

the protest, but the response was overwhelmingly supportive. Prominent coverage of the protest was given by WBOY-TV and in the WVU student newspaper, *The Daily Atheneum*.

The action did, however, draw fire from local politician Eric Blass. He told the campus newspaper, "They want special rights that others don't have, civil rights shouldn't be based on who you sleep with." He went on to say that accepting gay marriage could lead to protection for gay couples in such areas as housing, forcing landlords to rent to gay couples.

A rapid-fire response to Blass's attack was published in the campus paper. The author, protest organizer Jenny Bellars, pointed out that the protest was for equal rights under the law for all, and that she saw nothing wrong with forcing anti-gay landlords to rent to gay couples.

Around fifteen people attended the October 5 speak-out. Among those participating was Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice president Laura Garza. She urged people to join the October 12 demonstration for immigrants rights in Washington, D.C., as part of continuing to organize against the government's stepped up attacks against all working people. Five young people came to the local campaign headquarters after the event to talk with the candidate.

Socialist campaigners in New Jersey protest cop harassment

BY DAN FURMAN

NEWARK — Supporters of the Socialist Workers candidates in New Jersey held a press conference on the Rutgers University campus in New Brunswick, New Jersey, September 26. The speak-out was organized to protest the police harassment and assault on Bob Miller, a campaign supporter and member of the United Auto Workers at the nearby Ford assembly plant in Edison.

Miller was staffing a campaign literature table on a public sidewalk in front of the Rutgers Student Union on September 12, when a New Brunswick Police officer demanded to see his driver's license. Miller asked why and asserted that he was exercising his constitutional right to campaign. The police officer grabbed his right arm and twisted it back violently. Miller sustained an ugly bruise and abrasion to his upper arm and was issued a summons to appear in court on the charge of "no permit to solicit."

"We have campaigned and collected thousands of signatures — in that very spot — for many years to put socialist candidates on the ballot in New Jersey," Olga Rodríguez, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in New Jersey, stated at the press conference. "The physical assault on Bob Miller could only be read as an attempt to silence our campaign supporters, and to intimidate students and other youth on the campus who express interest in the program of the socialist candidates."

"This violent incident took place in the wake of demonstrations in New Brunswick demanding justice for Carolyn Adams, who was killed by a New Brunswick cop," Rodríguez continued. "And it took place as the debate around U.S. policy in the Middle East and Washington's war drive against Iraq was unfolding."

"On September 12, U.S. planes were on their way to bomb Iraq," added Miller. "As soon as our table was set up, with posters demanding 'U.S. Hands Off Iraq!', students stopped to have a discussion. Within minutes, Officer Jannarone came up and accosted me. Even then, students hung around. Support for the right of socialists to campaign is broad. We will not let space for these discussions be shut down."

Miller filed a complaint with the Rutgers University police. He is being represented by an attorney from the New Jersey American Civil Liberties Union. Supporters of the SWP campaign have sent letters to New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill, City Council President Blanquita Valente, and Rutgers University President Francis Lawrence, demanding that the charges against Miller be dropped, officer Jannarone be disciplined, and that the right to campaign without harassment be guaranteed.

Dan Furman is a member of Teamsters Local 680 at Tuscan Dairy in Union, New Jersey.

Campaign for the socialist alternative!

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

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

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

SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

Great sales at D.C. rally

Continued from front page

tober 5, supporters of the socialist press have taken a goal of selling 550 copies of *New International* and winning 1,200 new subscribers to the *Militant* and 425 new readers to *Perspectiva Mundial* (PM).

"We were so busy the whole time we hardly got a break," remarked campaigner Estelle DeBates from Morgantown, West Virginia. She described setting up a "guerilla table" at the subway stop before the demonstration. The team sold 18 Pathfinder titles and 2 Pathfinder catalogs by the end of the event. DeBates said the titles sold included *Malcolm X on Afro-American History*, *Genocide Against the Indians*, *Che Guevara Speaks*, and Spanish-language pamphlets like *Cancelar la deuda de América Latina* (Cancel the debt of Latin America) and *El manifiesto comunista* (the Communist Manifesto).

Socialist campaigners from Brooklyn topped the list for the day, selling 36 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions, 10 *Militant* subscriptions, and 40 Pathfinder titles,

including 17 copies of *New International*. Some of the subscriptions were sold on the buses during the trip to the capital city.

After selling more than one-third of the international goal for *Perspectiva Mundial* subs in a single day, socialist workers in many cities are now discussing how high to raise their targets for subscriptions to the Spanish-language magazine. Boston was the first to increase, going from a goal of 10 to 15. Not all of the subscription sales from the demonstration are reflected on the sales chart, as it is compiled based on subscription payments received at the *Militant* business office by Tuesday, October 15.

'I need to know about this group'

Many marchers also purchased *Nueva Internacional*, the Spanish-language edition of the magazine *New International*. "Three of the *Nuevas* we sold were to workers from Central America," said DeBates. "I found some of these march participants to be very serious about politics — they often reached first for the *Nueva* after looking over the

table." She noted how one activist surveyed the literature table, and then said, "I need to know everything about this organization." He bought one issue of *Nueva Internacional* and a *PM* subscription.

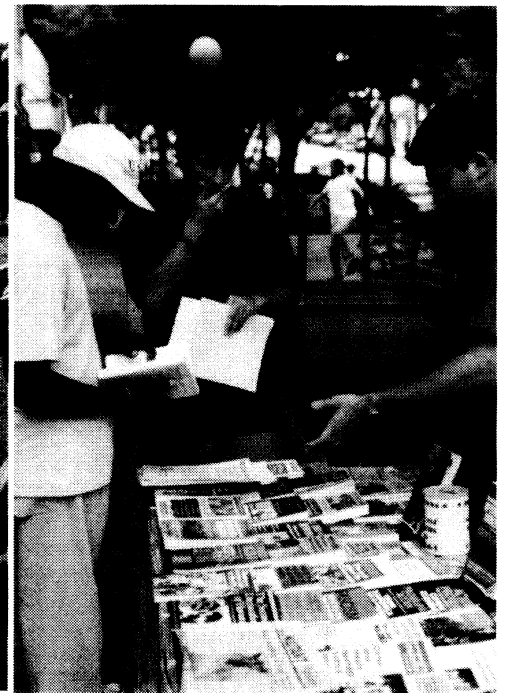
Supporters at the main campaign table for Socialist Workers presidential and vice presidential candidates James Harris and Laura Garza sold 51 Pathfinder titles, 17 subscriptions to *PM*, and 6 subscriptions to the *Militant*.

"We couldn't keep anything by Ernesto Che Guevara on the table for long," said Tom Headley from Washington, who staffed the table all day. "We met youth from all over the United States who had heard of Che and wanted to read anything by or about him."

Paco Sánchez from New York sold a Pathfinder Reader's Club



Militant/Eric Simpson



Militant/Lionel Cabrera

Sales of *Perspectiva Mundial* (left) at the October 12 immigrant rights march netted 41 percent of the national goal. In Athens, Georgia, (right) a campaign table draws interest.

Militant Subscription Drive OCTOBER 5 — NOVEMBER 24, 1996

	Militant			PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
AUSTRALIA	11	5	45%	3	1	7	2
CANADA							
Toronto	35	10	29%	10	2	25	5
Montreal	25	4	16%	8	2	40	3
Vancouver	30	0	0%	3	0	20	1
CANADA Total	90	14	16%	21	4	85	9
NEW ZEALAND							
Auckland	20	1	5%	1	0	9	7
Christchurch	6	0	0%	1	1	4	0
NEW ZEALAND Total	26	1	4%	2	1	13	7
UNITED KINGDOM							
London	36	0	0%	8	0	25	0
Manchester	26	0	0%	2	0	15	0
UNITED KINGDOM Total	62	0	0%	10	0	40	0
UNITED STATES							
Los Angeles	85	23	27%	40	17	40	11
Boston	30	7	23%	15	1	15	6
Seattle	45	10	22%	10	3	20	7
Salt Lake City	32	7	22%	12	3	10	0
Miami	30	6	20%	15	8	12	5
Newark, NJ	90	16	18%	45	24	45	6
San Francisco	70	10	14%	30	2	35	10
Birmingham, AL	48	6	13%	5	0	18	2
Philadelphia	24	3	13%	6	1	6	2
Des Moines	25	3	12%	15	4	15	0
Brooklyn	90	10	11%	45	42	60	19
Houston	40	4	10%	15	1	15	2
Peoria, IL	20	2	10%	3	0	10	0
New York	100	8	8%	40	26	50	9
Atlanta	27	2	7%	12	4	12	4
Detroit	50	3	6%	10	6	15	7
Twin Cities, MN	70	4	6%	20	0	20	6
Chicago	60	3	5%	30	9	30	2
Cleveland	25	0	0%	8	0	15	0
Denver	8	0	0%	4	0	2	2
Greensboro, NC	25	0	0%	5	0	9	1
Morgantown, WV	21	0	0%	1	0	7	5
Pittsburgh	30	0	0%	3	0	12	0
Tucson, AZ	5	0	0%	1	0	2	0
Washington, DC	30	0	0%	20	0	15	11
UNITED STATES totals	1080	127	12%	410	151	490	117
SWEDEN	12	0	0%	8	0	15	0
INTERNATIONAL totals	1281	147	12%	454	157	650	135
Goal/Should be at	1200	171	14%	425	61	550	79
IN THE UNIONS							
AUSTRALIA							
AMWU-Metal	3	1	33%	0	0	1	0
AMWU-Food	0	1	100%	0	0	0	1
AUSTRALIA Total	3	2	67%	0	0	1	1
NEW ZEALAND							
EU	4	0	0%	0	0	0	0
MWU	5	0	0%	0	0	0	0
UFBGWU	3	0	0%	0	0	0	0
NEW ZEALAND Total	12	0	0%	0	0	0	0
UNITED STATES							
UNITE	15	3	20%	10	1	10	1
OCAW	27	2	7%	0	0	15	0
UTU	50	2	4%	5	0	28	0
IAM	0	0	0%	0	2	0	1
UAW	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0
UFCW	4	0	0%	7	2	3	0
UMWA	4	0	0%	0	0	4	0
USWA	40	0	0%	10	0	22	0
UNITED STATES Total	140	7	5%	32	5	82	2
UNITED KINGDOM							
AEEU	6	0	0%	0	0	4	0
UNITED KINGDOM Total	6	0	0%	0	0	4	0

Socialist campaigners sell books

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

MIAMI — Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign here got a good start on their circulation drive October 5-6 when they attended the Common Ground conference in Orlando and a student conference in Tampa. Both meetings focused largely on the presidential elections.

The Common Ground conference sponsored by the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice and other groups had about 150 people who attended some or all of the two day meeting. Most people at the event supported Clinton as a lesser evil or the Green Party candidate, Ralph Nader. However, a significant number of people, especially the young people in attendance, were attracted to the Socialist Workers campaign table

and to a display of Pathfinder's Cuba books put out in a "Cuba room" next to the general display area.

Participants at the conference bought four *Militant* subscriptions, 1 *PM* subscription, 3 *New Internationals*, and 28 Pathfinder books and pamphlets. Several youth signed up for more information on the Socialist campaign and the Young Socialists.

At the Tampa student conference, representatives of the various presidential campaigns set up literature tables.

The campaign table for the socialist presidential ticket of James Harris and Laura Garza was very busy for the hour and a half that these tables were set up. Campaigners for the socialists candidates sold two *Militant* subscriptions and one subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial*, as well as pamphlets and single issues.

BY SARA LOBMAN

BROOKLYN — Socialist workers found tremendous interest in books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder Press among the thousands of people who came to see *The Bolivian Diary*, a film about the 1966-67 revolutionary struggle led by Ernesto Che Guevara in Bolivia. The film was directed and produced by Richard Dindo.

In just one Sunday in mid-September, when supporters organized to staff a table

are more and more ready to resist the worsening conditions in these factories. "There have been some recent walkouts led by Latino workers in the Midwest packing plants," Swanson said. "A few weeks ago we sold five *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions on a regional sales team to Denison and Marshalltown, Iowa, where workers protested against a recent immigration raid."

Swanson said socialists in Des Moines are planning another regional sales trip in the Midwest within the next 2-3 weeks. Volunteers from other areas who would like to join the team can call (515) 277-4600.

Socialist workers also got a good response at the September 22-28 convention of the International Association of Machinists in Chicago. Delegates bought two subscriptions and 50 single copies of the *Militant*, one *PM* sub, and six Pathfinder books.

Taking the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, and the titles distributed by Pathfinder to working-class neighborhoods is a key component to waging a successful subscription campaign. Rail worker Lee Oleson led a door-to-door sales team in East Orange, New Jersey, that sold three *Militant* subscriptions. "It didn't take much," Oleson said. "All we had to do was get out there and talk politics."

Amy Husk, a member of the United Transportation Union from New York, contributed to this article.

YS in Sweden participates in protests, classes

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) 644-0051. Compuserve: 105162,605

BY MAXI ORTIZ

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Members of the Young Socialists in Sweden participated in a demonstration October 9 together with some 400 other people in defense of the right to asylum for refugees. The demonstration was built by a large number of immigrant organizations, human rights groups, and political organizations, including the Young Socialists and Communist League. The YS came with a banner reading, "For a world without borders."

The Swedish government recently passed a law restricting the right to asylum. During 1995, approximately 10 out of 1,333 asy-

lum-seeking Africans were given some kind of residence permits. Many refugees in Sweden have been jailed like criminals while their cases are processed. On one occasion a Peruvian man threatened with deportation tried to commit suicide by setting himself on fire.

Many refugees have had their residence permits withdrawn after several years of living in Sweden. Several families threatened with deportation are hiding from the authorities, especially the police, who were given a budget of 100 million krona (about US\$16 million) to find hidden refugees.

During the latest clashes on the Israeli-occupied territories, the YS together with other organizations demonstrated September 29 outside the Israeli embassy in Stockholm. The YS placard demanded "Israel out of the occupied territories, U.S. out of the Middle East." Some 150 people participated in the action.

Since its establishment in Sweden early September this year, the Young Socialists have been meeting every week to organize our work and discuss politics. Since the meetings are held an hour and a half before the Militant Labor Forums, YS members are always present. At one forum the group raised \$70 to help pay for its expenses.

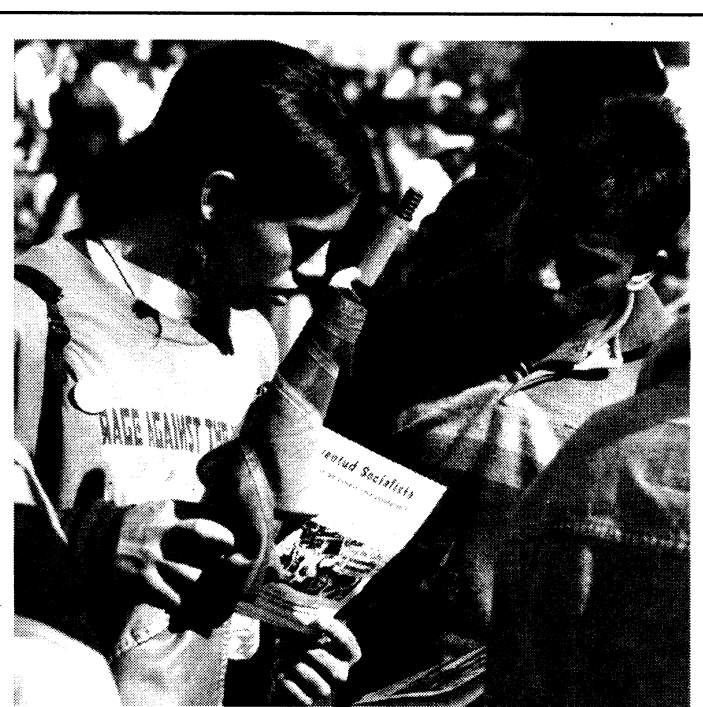
Beginning October 18, the Young Social-

ists will hold public discussions on Pathfinder books and different political topics as part of educating ourselves and developing as communists.

The first discussion will be on *Two Speeches by Malcolm X* and the second on *Peru's 'Shining Path': Evolution of a Reactionary Sect*.

The group has possibilities for more recruitment too. Two people returning from conscription military service have recently asked to join the YS.

Maxi Ortiz is a member of the YS in Stockholm.



Militant/Eric Simpson
Ved Dookum, right, a Young Socialist, discusses new YS pamphlet with a participant at the October 12 march for immigrant rights in Washington, D.C. At least 54 youth signed up for more information about the Young Socialists.

35 new members in the YS!

From July 10 up October 18

City	# of new members
Athens, GA	1
Atlanta	4
Boston	1
Chicago	2
Cleveland	2
Denver	2
Houston	3
Los Angeles	3
Minneapolis, MN	1
Morgantown	1
Newark	1
New York	3
Portland	1
Salt Lake City	2
San Diego	1
San Francisco	3
Seattle	1
Washington, D.C.	3
Total	35

All white jury to try cop who killed Black

BY EDWIN FRUIT

PITTSBURGH — On October 11, nearly 100 people marched in a candlelight vigil from the city-county building to a service at the Trinity Cathedral in downtown Pittsburgh to commemorate the one year anniversary of the death of Jonny Gammage at the hands of suburban Pittsburgh police. Gammage, who was Black, was severely beaten and asphyxiated by five cops after a routine traffic stop.

Three of the cops are being tried for involuntary manslaughter, even though a coroner's jury recommended unanimously that all five be charged with homicide. The

case has received national attention because of the ongoing mobilizations organized locally demanding "Justice for Jonny Gammage" and because Gammage was the cousin and business manager of Ray Seals, a lineman for the Pittsburgh Steelers football team.

The case against the cops is being prosecuted by the Allegheny County District Attorney's office, which is headed by Bob Colville, a former member of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

As a result of all the publicity around the case, presiding Judge David Cashman decided that he would get a jury from outside

Allegheny County. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court chose Lackawanna and Chester Counties as the site of the jury pools. The jurors will be transported to Pittsburgh for the proceedings.

Pittsburgh NAACP president Tim Stevens protested this procedure. Allegheny County is almost 12 percent Black and the city of Pittsburgh is 26 percent Black. The population of Chester County, near Philadelphia, where the jury for the first trial was selected, is only 6 percent Black.

The jury pool of 56 people in Chester County had included three Blacks and one Asian but these four were excused by the defense team. So the first trial of two officers in the case will be heard by an all white jury from a largely suburban and rural county.

According to the October 13 issue of the Pittsburgh *Tribune Review*, Stevens said, "You cannot escape the fact that race in America is a significant issue.... These people will by their history have a very positive leaning to police."

A picket line is scheduled for October 17 in front of the City-County Building and a major action is being planned for October 26 to demand that justice be done.

Edwin Fruit is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1976 and is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for General Assembly in the 22nd district.

Looking forward to Pathfinder reprints

BY NELL WHEELER

The flow of contributions to the 1996 International Pathfinder Fund picked up last

week, bringing the amount collected from \$26,000 to over \$37,000. However, Miami is still the only city on time or ahead of schedule. Pathfinder Fund supporters in other cities need to emulate Miami and catch up in the coming weeks. An average of \$22,000 a week is needed to end the drive in full and on time November 12.

More fund-raising meetings are being organized by Pathfinder supporters. In Boston, Argiris Malapanis, co-author of *The Truth About Yugoslavia*, will speak October 26 on the Palestinian struggle and the crisis in the Mideast.

In Newark, New Jersey, supporters have announced an afternoon meeting Sunday, October 27, featuring Olga Rodríguez, editor of *The Politics of Chicano Liberation*. Sarah Harris, who helps coordinate the fund there reports that supporters will be selling tickets for the event to co-workers and others.

The \$125,000 fund helps to finance Pathfinder's reprint program, so that the publisher's entire range of books by revolutionary and working-class fighters can remain in print.

"We are on a campaign to increase our capacity to produce Pathfinder books," said Rose Ana Berbeo, the press operator who heads up the sheetfed printing department in Pathfinder's printshop in New York. "This means keeping track of our production rates, improving productivity in every department, striving for the highest quality through training, and carrying out regular maintenance on all the machinery to avoid down time." The key for increasing Pathfinder production, she said, "is keeping track of and expanding the hours spent on Pathfinder on the sheetfed presses."

Berbeo emphasized that using the

Heidelberg sheetfed presses — state-of-the-art presses the printshop invested in several years ago — makes it possible to achieve the kind of quality that befits Pathfinder titles, both on the covers and in the text.

The desktop and design department is where proofreading takes place alongside the designing of new covers and ads for Pathfinder books.

Chris Remple, who directs this department, reports that several titles are in the process of being reset. Volunteers in several cities have taken books to scan electronically and check the text.

"After a book is scanned, we do another round of proofing and then set the type to be more up-to-date and readable," said Remple. He said the reprint of *Socialism on Trial* by James P. Cannon will have new text, as the type in the current book is broken up and difficult to read. *The First Five Years of the Communist International*, also scheduled for reprinting, will sport a new cover.

"Efficiency is very important," Berbeo added, "in order that to be confident in our ability to produce the reprints in a timely manner."

When Washington began its most recent bombing of Iraq, "we knew we could produce *New International* no. 7, with the article 'Opening Guns of World War III,' from beginning to end in less than a week, because we've been tracking our progress in all aspects of its production."

Berbeo said she is looking forward to the upcoming reprint of *The Politics of Chicano Liberation* because "it's a chance to be a part of responding to what is happening in politics today. So many people are buying this title because of its relevance for the struggles of today. We then can turn to producing these weapons right away and keep them in print. That is why we need the Pathfinder fund — to enable us to do that."

To make a contribution to the Pathfinder Fund, send a check or money order to Pathfinder Fund, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.

Pathfinder Fund

CITY	GOAL	PAID	% of GOAL
Miami	\$2,800	\$1,730	62%
Detroit	\$6,000	\$2,975	50%
San Francisco	\$10,000	\$4,827	48%
Cleveland	\$3,100	\$1,450	47%
Philadelphia	\$5,000	\$2,125	43%
Washington DC	\$3,500	\$1,350	39%
Brooklyn	\$6,500	\$2,420	37%
Seattle*	\$9,000	\$3,230	36%
Salt Lake City	\$3,600	\$1,200	33%
Chicago	\$7,500	\$2,250	30%
Los Angeles	\$12,000	\$3,228	27%
Pittsburgh	\$6,000	\$1,600	27%
Atlanta	\$2,700	\$675	25%
Morgantown	\$1,500	\$375	25%
Greensboro	\$2,400	\$545	23%
Newark	\$8,500	\$1,680	20%
Manhattan	\$8,000	\$1,473	18%
Peoria	\$2,750	\$390	14%
Des Moines	\$2,350	\$230	10%
Twin Cities	\$7,000	\$465	7%
Birmingham	\$4,500	\$200	4%
Boston	\$6,000	\$250	4%
Houston	\$3,000	\$0	0%
U.S. TOTAL	\$123,700	\$34,668	28%
Australia	\$750		
Canada		\$30	
Montreal	\$465		
Vancouver	\$100		
France		\$511	
Greece	\$200		
Iceland			
New Zealand	\$4,220	\$2,054	49%
Sweden	\$400		
United Kingdom	\$450		
INTERNATIONAL			
TOTAL	\$130,285	\$37,263	29%
SHOULD BE	\$125,000	\$75,000	60%

*Raised goal

Thousands join in march on capital

Continued from front page

known as Proposition 187. A coalition of organizations, Coordinadora '96, was set up to coordinate the October 12 action.

Chicano youth groups were strongly represented at the march, reflecting the resurgence of activity among Chicanos nationally. One group of high school and college students from Chicago identified themselves with a sign reading, "Chicano, Illinois, Contingent."

Sizable numbers of workers and young people from Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean were present, many carrying the flags of their country of origin. Mexican flags were by far the most numerous. Many flew the flags of El Salvador, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, and Ecuador, among others.

There was a sprinkling of Asian organizations, including a group of Vietnamese immigrants from Philadelphia and a busload of Bangladeshi workers from Brooklyn. Haitian groups from New York and Miami were also in the march.

"The new laws of the government are against all immigrants," commented Onécimo Orea, a garment worker from New York who marched with others from the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE). "We are better organized and more united than before. We are saying, Enough!"

Demonstrators carried seven bilingual banners at the head of the march with each of the official demands of the march. These were: human and constitutional rights for all, equal opportunities and affirmative action, free education for all from kindergarten to college, preserving and expanding public health services, "citizen police review boards," labor law reform and raising the minimum wage to \$7 an hour, and an extended government "amnesty" for undocumented workers.

Buses brought demonstrators from as far away as California, Florida, and Arizona. Close to a thousand came from Texas, with a contingent of 100 from the Río Grande Valley. Several hundred came by bus or plane from California. Possibly the largest mobilization was from Chicago, where many marchers carried the Coordinadora '96 signs along with homemade ones.

Dozens of organizations in the Chicago area were represented, from El Fuego del Pueblo (Fire of the People), a student group at Northern Illinois University, to the Club Patriótico del Sur de Chicago (Patriotic Club of South Chicago), to LULAC-Zapatista Chapter. While the national leadership of the League of United Latin American Citizens did not endorse the march, a number of local LULAC chapters from around the country were present.

Besides the large number of student groups, contingents came from a diverse range of local community organizations, such as the West Dallas Coalition for Environmental Justice and the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America, which helps get loans for Blacks and Latinos in Washington, D.C.

Joel Cruz, a Chicano worker, came with a contingent of federal employees from the Hispanic Civil Rights Fund in San Antonio, Texas. "I think affirmative action must be enforced," he stated, adding that his group is involved in a major class-action lawsuit

against the Defense Department over job discrimination against Latino workers at the Kelly Air Force Base. "Nine of 10 times, when there is an Anglo and a Latino in line for a promotion, they select the Anglo," Cruz noted.

Hatred of 'la migra'

Banners, T-shirts, and buttons expressing hatred and defiance of *la migra* — the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) — and the government's attacks on undocumented workers were everywhere. Many chanted or carried signs asserting: "Migra no, Raza sí!" One contingent chanted, "Si hoy nos deportan, ya mañana regresamos" (If they deport us today, we'll be back tomorrow). Another popular slogan was, "Aquí estamos y no nos vamos" (We are here, and we're not leaving).

In the weeks and months before the march, President William Clinton and Congress launched a series of attacks on the rights of immigrants. Clinton signed a measure doubling the Border Patrol and allowing the summary deportation of immigrants seeking asylum.

The new Welfare Reform Act bars hundreds of thousands of "legal" immigrants from food stamps and other federal entitlements. "Antiterrorist" legislation speeds up deportations by denying immigrants the right to due process. Meanwhile, the Clinton administration has escalated factory raids across the country.

At a speakout organized here the day before by students at Bell Multicultural High School — dozens of whom canvassed Latino neighborhoods to build the march in the preceding weeks — one youth after another denounced the scapegoating of immigrant workers by capitalist politicians. "They say Latinos cause the economic problems, but the ones that cause the economic problems are the ones over in the White House, the owners of the fields where our *gente* [people] work at," said Andrea Serrano, a college student from New Mexico who addressed the 120 youth at the meeting. "The ones who have all the money — they are the cause of the problem."

At the march, many carried signs ridiculing the distorted versions of history that justify discrimination. "Who are you calling alien, Pilgrim?" was a favorite. One banner depicted an Aztec figure sitting behind a desk and demanding from an arriving Spaniard, "Papeles! [Papers]"

"They say we are illegal but it is they who killed the Indians and took their land," commented Ronald, one of a group of 100 demonstrators organized by the Haitian Mobilization To Defend Immigrant Rights in New York.

Monica Loaiza, a teacher from Los Angeles, commented, "People attack us for not marching with the American flag, but what does that flag represent? Oppression. This is a history you are definitely not taught in school!"

Workers' struggles

The march also marked the increased confidence of many immigrant workers in resisting government and employer attacks. Dozens of poultry workers from North Carolina, most of them Guatemalan, came in two buses organized by the Laborers' International Union. They brought a large banner



Militant/ Barb Graham

Youth and workers, traveling from cities all over the country, converged in Washington D.C. to demand equal rights for immigrants at October 12 demonstration.

and leafleted the crowd to win support in the fight for union recognition by 450 workers at Case Farms, a processing plant in the town of Morganton. "We've carried out two strikes since last year," said Sergio Matheu, 21. "When we began to organize the union, the bosses improved the conditions slightly, but they are still abusive and refuse to recognize our union."

A few other union contingents were at the demonstration. Among them were a bus organized by United Auto Workers locals 600 and 900 at Ford plants in the Detroit area, a group from the Justice for Janitors campaign by Service Employees International Union Local 82, mushroom workers from Pennsylvania, and farm workers from Washington state, New Jersey, Ohio, and Florida.

"Workers are divided — that's why they can attack us," commented José Rangel, 40, a worker belonging to the Garment Workers Justice Center in Los Angeles. "This march is a good beginning. We should organize not only Latinos but all immigrants."

The theme of greater unity among immigrant workers in the fight for their rights ran like a thread throughout the demonstration. Members of the Farmworkers' Association in Florida carried a banner written in three languages: English, Spanish, and Creole. A group of construction workers marched with a sign in Spanish asserting, "In unions there is strength — Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Dominicans, Latin Americans." A chant heard over and over was: "La Raza unida jamás será vencida" (Latinos united will never be defeated).

Marchers broke into applause as they passed a group of young Irish immigrants who held up a sign along the parade route saying, "My struggle is your struggle."

The march culminated in a rally at the Ellipse, an area near the White House. Speakers ranged from Linda Chavez-Thompson, executive vice-president of the AFL-CIO, to María Jiménez, a well-known Chicana rights activist in Texas. A string of Congresspeople who are Hispanic, among other elected officials, addressed the rally.

Calls for voting Democratic Party

In marked contrast to the slogans captured in many of the signs and chants of the demonstrators, most on the speakers list repeated one overriding theme: voting for Democratic candidates in the November elections. While not explicitly advocating Clinton's reelection, many speakers focused on defeating Republicans, who they blamed for the anti-immigrant moves by the government.

Nydia Velázquez, a Democratic Congresswoman from New York, denounced "Newt Gingrich and his gang of radicals" in Congress. "Our message to the Republicans is: don't take us for granted anymore." Then she added, "And even to the Democrats in Congress: don't take us for granted anymore." Rep. José Serrano of New York condemned "English only" legislation being pushed by capitalist politicians around the country, and pleaded, "Don't lose faith. Your voices are heard. Register and vote."

William Bywater, president of the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE), urged the crowd to "take the enthusiasm you've shown here and go to the polls and throw those bums out, and then we'll have a good Congress." Jaime Martínez, IUE secretary-treasurer, also spoke.

While the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) did not endorse the demonstration, its director, Raúl Yzaguirre, spoke. Several

other traditional Latino rights organizations, such as LULAC and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), did not endorse the action either.

One speaker who received a particularly warm response from the crowd was Baldemar Velázquez, president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC). "I am not a politician," he stated. "I don't make the economic decisions that oppress the people of our country and other countries. I'm a tomato picker... We're here to declare our right to this land."

Describing how farm workers organized FLOC over the years, Velázquez said, "We didn't wait for the politicians. We didn't wait for the AFL-CIO. We started organizing the brothers and sisters. We started organizing the *tomateros* [tomato pickers]. We said: We fight now. We can't wait for later. That's what we have to do — take the fight back to our communities."

A few speakers described other current struggles, such as the years-long fight to win permanent residency for Central American refugees, the campaign to free Puerto Rican political prisoners, and the fight against police brutality.

Ramón and Iris Báez, whose son Anthony was choked to death by a New York cop, attended the rally and were introduced at the speakers platform. The week before there had been protest demonstrations in New York in response to a judge's decision to acquit the cop who killed him. "In this country, we are seen as second-class citizens," Báez told the press. "Our only strength against abuse is being united."

Elizabeth Stone is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1487 in Chicago. Ruth Nebbia, a member of the United Transportation Union in Newark, New Jersey, and Young Socialists member Verónica Poses of St. Paul, Minnesota, contributed to this article.



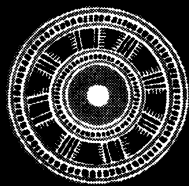
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Wellstone: liberal advocate of imperialism

Minnesota SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, Fiske, presents working-class alternative

BY DAVID JONES

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — "What distinguishes my campaign is that it has no aspirations separate and apart from what working people need to do to fight for a decent living and for our rights." Tom Fiske, Socialist Workers Party candidate, was responding to my question on how he's different than the other candidates in the race for U.S. Senate in Minnesota.

"We are beholden to no big business profiteers or anyone else who benefits from exploiting the labor of workers and working farmers," Fiske said in an interview here October 10. "We tell the unvarnished truth about the ruling families' bloody wars for profits and domination abroad and their mounting assault on our standard of living and our democratic rights at home.

"And we explain that working people must rely on our own collective power, our unions, and mass actions in the streets to defend our interests as a class, and chart a political course independent of the capitalist parties. We need to fight for a government of workers and farmers to replace the government that acts in the interests of the billionaire families that run this country, and lead millions to join the struggle for socialism."

Fiske is running for the seat now held by Paul Wellstone, who is up for reelection on the Democratic-Farmer Labor Party ticket. Six years ago, Wellstone, formerly a professor in the Political Science Department at Carleton College, defeated Republican incumbent Rudy Boschwitz.

Boschwitz is the Republican standard-bearer again this year. Five other candidates for the Senate seat are on the ballot: Dean Barkley, Reform Party; Tim Davis, Grassroots Party; Howard B. Hanson, Resource Party; Steve Johnson, Natural Law Party; and Roy Esra Carlton, Libertarian Party. Barkley won more than 5 percent of the votes in 1994, enough to win "major party" status for his party in Minnesota.

"From the media and the candidates' ads one would get the impression the race is between 'balance-the-budget' Boschwitz and 'big spender' Wellstone," Fiske observed. "That, however, hides the agreement they have on major issues." Fiske noted that both Wellstone and Boschwitz immediately hailed President William Clinton's missile attacks against Iraq in early September. "Of all the candidates in the race," he said, "I'm the only one who joined picket lines to protest these brutal violations of Iraq's sovereignty. I helped get others to these protests, including a small group of Macalester College students I met while campaigning there. And I'm continuing to speak out against Washington's cruel economic sanctions and military threats against the Iraqi people."

In spite of this, a lot of activists, including protesters against the bombings of Iraq are supporting Wellstone, I noted. How do you explain this?

Wellstone supports antigay measure

"Many people back him because they think he's in the front lines standing up to the mounting assault on Social Security, Medicare, and other forms of public assistance," Fiske responded. "His campaign staff and the media have made a big deal out of his being 'the only Senator seeking reelection to vote against the welfare bill,' which Clinton signed. The senator claims 'I voted my conscience.' But I think this covers up how he is aiding and abetting the employers' assault on working people."

It was hardly a radical step for Wellstone to vote against the Welfare Reform Act this summer, Fiske said. In the Senate, 21 Democrats voted against the bill and 25 voted for it. In the House, 97 Democrats voted against it and 98 for it — nearly 50/50, even after Clinton's no-holds-barred public demand for congressional backing. Wellstone cast his vote on this legislation not under pressure from the working class, but in step with the top AFL-CIO officialdom and the Minnesota state labor council.

Fiske continued, "If you want a real litmus test of conscience I think Wellstone's votes in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act and the immigration bill are much more revealing. The former, which lets states refuse to recognize same-sex marriages by gays and lesbians in other states, is a fla-



Militant/Jon Hillson

SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, Tom Fiske (right), talks with workers at Northern Star Co. in St. Paul, Minnesota, after May 22 INS raid in the plant. His Democratic opponent Paul Wellstone supported recent anti-immigrant legislation and antigay bills.

grant attack on the right of privacy — a right working people have fought to defend and extend.

"Wellstone," the socialist candidate stated, "has put himself on record in support of the right of the state to intrude into the most personal matters between individuals and in such a way as to stigmatize a section of the population. This can only aid the employers' attempt to undermine solidarity among working people and pit us against each other."

It is hard to think of legislation more cruel and demeaning than a measure permitting the state to treat a certain section of the population — gays and lesbians in this case — differently from others in regard to elementary civil equality and access to government benefits, Fiske said.

"We should not forget that one of the consequences of this barbaric legislation is to deny federal entitlements to same-sex partners. This includes benefits that surviving spouses have a right to, including Social Security and veterans payments. The Defense of Marriage Act has to be seen as part and parcel of beginning the assault on the social benefits working people have fought for, paid for, and are entitled to. Wellstone's vote has helped encourage the ultra-rightists' 'culture war' against working people and has helped grease the skids for deepening the attack on Social Security and other social benefits. So be it for the Senator's 'conscience,'" Fiske stated.

"We should not be surprised to see Wellstone join attacks on social benefits, including reversing himself on the question of welfare. It's easy enough to see him backing off his tactical stance on the welfare law this year. If Wellstone considers it expedient to support a follow-up to this opening assault on social security — in order to prepare to reverse it, he could say demagogically, as other liberal Democrats did on the welfare bill — he will certainly do so, pointing to his recent vote on the Welfare Reform Act to establish his liberal bona fides."

Assault on immigrants

I asked what the connection is to Wellstone's vote for the Defense of Marriage Act and his September 30 vote for legislation restricting immigrant rights.

"The omnibus spending bill that the Senate adopted just before it adjourned and that Clinton signed on October 1 included severe new attacks on immigrants," Fiske stated. "It declares undocumented immigrants ineligible for most federal, state, and local benefits. Moreover, it denies 'legal' immigrants access to most benefits except school lunch and some nutrition programs. The bill also subjects 'legal' immigrants to deportation if they receive public assistance for 12 or more months during their first five years in the United States.

"This is another way the Democrats and Republicans are starting to chip away at the social wage. They target a particularly vulnerable group of people, stigmatize them, and start to win public acceptance for beginning to go after hard-won government entitlements.

"The bills Wellstone voted for," Fiske continued, "will authorize 1,000 additional

border cops per year until the year 2000, roughly doubling the force to 10,000. It will also streamline the process for verifying eligibility and documents and for detaining and deporting immigrants."

"Again Wellstone's 'conscience' has helped reinforce ultrarightists and fascists like Patrick Buchanan," Fiske stated. Buchanan is the rightist politician who ran in the Republican primaries against Robert Dole. "In fact, Buchanan, in response to the adoption of the immigrant legislation, crowed, 'Bill Clinton and Dianne Feinstein [U.S. Senator in California] now are echoing Pat Buchanan on immigration. It's a total victory.' While this is undoubtedly an exaggeration, it gives a sense of the effects of approving these latest attacks on the rights of working people from other countries."

"I've been talking to a lot of immigrant workers and know that deep anger is developing against these new legislative attacks, the stepped-up INS raids of plants hiring immigrant workers, and the employers' increased confidence in assaulting immigrants," Fiske said.

"I've been down to Worthington in southern Minnesota talking to union-organized Mexican workers at the Monfort turkey processing plant who are fighting to get their union to take on the company's abusive treatment. I've also done a lot of campaigning at the Northern Star potato chip factory in Minneapolis talking to Latino and African workers about the recent INS raid there and trying to get some of them interested in going with me and others from here to the October 12 immigration rights march in Washington, DC." Fiske is a member of the International Association of Machinists Lodge 1037 and works as a machinist at Eaton Corporation.

Wellstone's admiration for cops

"It's not surprising that Wellstone would vote for beefing up the border police," the socialist candidate explained. "Backing the cops is one of his calling cards. Every background article on Wellstone I've read describes his admiration for cops.

"It was totally in keeping with his record to vote for substantially increasing the repressive apparatus of the government by voting to spend \$1 billion in the next year 'to fight terrorism,'" Fiske said.

This legislation, adopted by the Senate on April 17, would also restrict the habeas corpus rights of prisoners and increase the restrictions on foreigners entering the United States. Wellstone also voted for a provision to allow multipoint wiretaps in so-called terrorism cases when a suspect uses many phones, the socialist candidate noted. This undemocratic measure, however, didn't make it into the final bill signed by Clinton on April 24.

I pointed out that one of Boschwitz's campaign themes is to attack Wellstone as "a throwback to a different era, to the '60s" when the last big additions to the federal entitlements that began to be won in the 1930s were enacted.

"I think that's dead wrong," Fiske said, "Wellstone is not a throwback to either Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal or Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. There has been a

shift to the right in capitalist politics and in both the Democratic and Republican parties. This is the result of the bipartisan drive to raise profit rates and defend the dollar by promoting economic and social austerity measures at the expense of working people."

In the early 1970s the curve of capitalist development began a downward slide, Fiske said, registered in the first worldwide capitalist recession in 1974-75. Since then, the bipartisan imperialist foreign policy consolidated under Harry Truman's administration in the 1940s, has been mirrored by an increasingly bipartisan domestic policy. The declining rate of capital accumulation for the U.S. rulers continues to shift to the right the boundaries of their assault on the social wage won by labor and its allies.

"Along with this, a 'culture war,' as the fascist demagogue Buchanan has put it, is being waged as the political rationalization for the rightward march of both parties," Fiske said. "It is the boundaries of this assault on the working class that circumscribes Wellstone's liberal policies, not the boundaries of some other era. In this context, I don't think we can stress too much the support Wellstone has given to the cultural war's rationalizations by his support to the Defense of Marriage Act and the immigration bills.

"It's also in this framework we must see the Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act that Wellstone voted for. Highly publicized as a measure to give workers a little more medical security when they change jobs, it doesn't guarantee they can get insurance at reasonable rates and doesn't include some 40 million workers. It converges with the attacks on social benefits in the welfare act rather than being an antidote to them."

An 'environmental' senator?

In a recent radio interview, I said, Wellstone stated that by definition a senator from Minnesota is "an environmental senator." What do you think about this? I asked Fiske.

"I'm not sure why anyone from Minnesota would necessarily be more or less for environmental protection than any capitalist politician from another state," Fiske stated. "Wellstone's record isn't actually so good. In the ongoing debate over whether or not more of the Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness should be opened to motor boats and motorized vehicles, the Democratic-Farmer Labor Party here is divided with liberal congressmen taking opposite stands.

"In an attempt to not alienate potential voters, Wellstone is waffling on the issue and has been a strong proponent of federal mediation. Those favoring opening up these wilderness areas tend to be resort owners in northern Minnesota. Unfortunately, trade union officials in northern Minnesota have been supporting this stance too on the basis that workers there need to have the opportunity to use the areas for recreation. I think that working people can and will think more broadly about the social necessity of preserving the environment, including places for recreation for all working people. Most workers know that degradation of the environment and hazardous conditions at work are very much interconnected."

Unclogging illusions on liberalism

I pointed out to Fiske that he spent a lot of time on Wellstone's campaign.

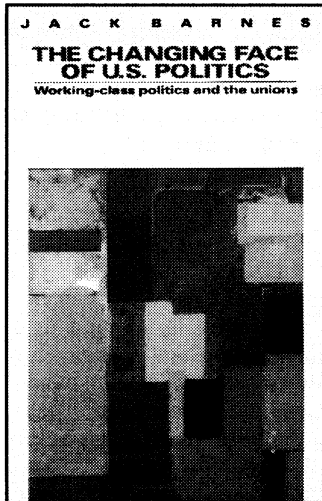
"It's important to do so," Fiske explained. "I've been reaching a lot of people, especially youth — talking to them on campuses, at soap box rallies, and at plant gates. Many are attracted to some of the positions I'm raising but have illusions that Wellstone is better than Boschwitz and, even though imperfect, he's a buffer against the rising wave of rightism in Congress.

"What I've explained should help to unclog some of these illusions. Nobody else is doing this. Barkley, for example, is promoting reform of campaign laws and a 'flat tax' as his main themes. He doesn't offer any road forward for working people any more than Boschwitz and Wellstone."

The Socialist Workers campaign, Fiske concluded, offers a working-class alternative to Wellstone, Boschwitz, and the rest of the capitalist candidates for U.S. Senate.

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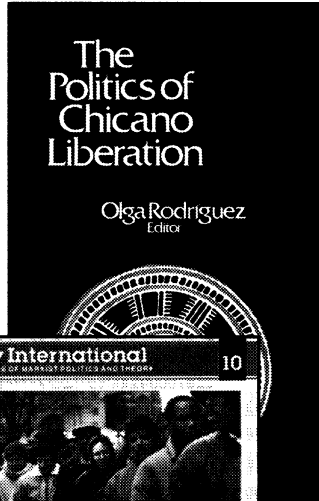


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BY OLGA RODRIGUEZ & OTHERS

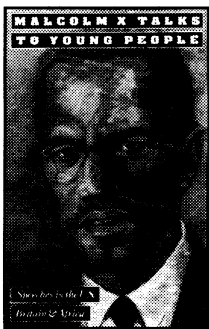
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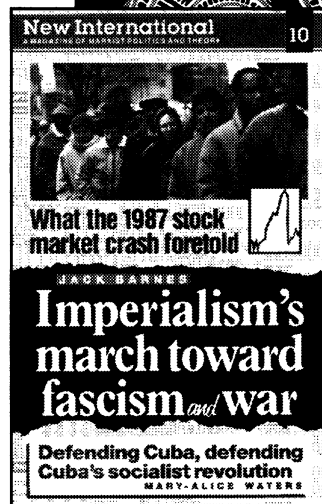
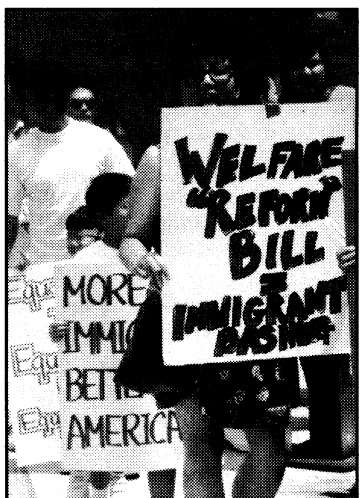
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August 1996 protest against Welfare Reform Act in Los Angeles



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



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Immigrants are a special target for packinghouse bosses

BY JOE SWANSON

DES MOINES, Iowa — A front-page article in the September 23 *U.S. News and World Report* detailed the impact in Iowa's meatpacking industry of immigration from Mexico. The piece is indicative of many reports in the big-business press this year on immigration, as the government and employers have stepped up factory raids and other attacks on immigrant workers.

Titled "Illegal in Iowa," the *US News* article says that "perhaps no industry is so dependent on... low-wage labor as the nation's meat and poultry companies. Meatpacking is a tough, \$94 billion-a-year business, where profit margins run at 2 or 3 per cent. More than half of the beef and pork industry is dominated by just three companies: IBP, Cargill's Excel Corp., and ConAgra's Monfort Inc." These three companies control 80 percent of U.S. beef production.

The article also explains the big changes that have occurred in the industry over the last decade as the packing bosses have pushed for bigger profits. "At IBP's beef plant in Dakota City, Nebraska, one of a handful of unionized IBP installations, the speed of the chain from which carcasses are hung and the meat trimmed accelerated 125% from 1969 to 1994. In the past two years the speed has increased 17% to 330 head per hour [while] the number of line workers has increased only 6%."

As a result, the packing house industry has the highest industrial injury rate in the U.S. Some 36 percent of packing house workers are seriously injured each year, the article notes. At IBP's Storm Lake, Iowa plant, site of raids earlier this year, 635 worker compensation claims were filed between 1987 and 1995 (that's six workers every month). Fewer than 5 per cent of those who filed had Spanish-language surnames, though about a quarter of the plant is Latino. IBP says it doesn't keep injury data by race and cannot verify the figures.

The *US News* article reports that in 1987, IBP was discovered keeping two sets of injury logs for the same plant, and fined by OSHA a total of \$2.59 million for safety violations. The case was settled a year later for \$975,000, less than 20 percent of the original fine. The article explains that many IBP workers, especially immigrants, post-

pone getting medical treatment, claiming that the company targets workers who file injury claims.

Union officials side with bosses

Immigrant workers are special targets for the bosses in general. A recent incident that has sparked a lot of discussion among this reporter's coworkers occurred at the IBP plant in Perry, Iowa. A Latina worker, Amparo Zelaya, was injured when the supervisor at her work station grabbed her and shook her arm. Zelaya explained in a statement to the police that her boss had gotten angry when she did not know how to do a job on a line she was not trained at.

IBP spokesperson Gary Mickelson told the *Des Moines Register* the company has found no evidence of any wrong-doing on the part of the supervisor.

Jim Oleson, president of United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) Local 1149, which organizes the plant, sided with management and said the union has also found no evidence to substantiate the "allegations." The local plans to take no action until additional information is found, Oleson said. The refusal of officials of the UFCW — the main union organizing packinghouse workers — to lead a fight to defend immigrant workers against both the INS and the packing bosses has led many Latino workers to desert the union.

The logical conclusion of the UFCW officialdom's do-nothing stance was seen in a September 8 article in the *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier* entitled "IBP union leader says it's time to stop bashing company." This article is based on an interview with David Zanders, who represents UFCW Local 431 at IBP's Waterloo, Iowa, plant, site of two recent raids by *la migrá*. Zanders told the newspaper that "this union does not condone [illegal immigration], I do not condone that. And in my opinion, this company does not condone that."

Zanders, whose local represents 1,400 of the 1,700 production workers at the plant, said "this company has flourished, has provided over 2,000 jobs. We've got all the major medical benefits, the whole nine yards... And for some reason, we don't get the recognition." The identification of union officials with the company's "right" to exploit for profit means that the union is pow-



Militant/Shirley Peña

Two workers in Newton, Iowa, protest INS raids at Swift packinghouse. Signs read: "We're not illegal. We're not criminals. We're international workers" and "The people united will never be defeated. Forward, the struggle is constant."

erless to defend all workers.

Zanders finishes his defense of IBP: "I am sick and tired of hearing nothing but negative things about IBP. We have a lot of employees who really like their job, who are journeyman meatcutters and take a lot of pride in doing a good job. But when you as an employee are constantly hearing negative things about your employer, it brings down the morale." Zander's approach puts the local union tops squarely on the side of the boss and the immigration police.

'Arrests of workers weaken union'

Opinions varied among packing house workers in Iowa on the INS raids and the working conditions in the industry. "The Mexicans are good union people; 90 per cent of them voted to go on strike along with the rest of us," a young worker who is white said in an interview at the Farmland Foods plant in Denison, Iowa. A strike vote had been taken a few days earlier by UFCW Local 271 there.

Farmland demanded the workers accept a wage freeze and increase their share of health insurance payments. The strike authorization vote passed by 94 percent. Company and union officials then entered into a mediation service. Most workers saw no alternative but to accept the company's offer when the union didn't launch a fight. The new contract included seniority-based bonuses instead of pay raises the first three years, and a base wage increase of 30 cents the fourth year. The starting wage at Farmland has dropped from \$10.54 an hour in 1982 to \$9.70 today.

After talking to workers at the plant gate in the morning, *Militant* reporters visited

two trailer parks on the outskirts of Denison, where many of the workers at both the Farmland and the nonunion IBP plant in town live.

Carrie, who is married to a kill floor worker at Farmland, was eager to talk about the new contract. "My husband has worked at Farmland for nine years," she said. "We were farmers for 20 years before that until we lost the farm. My husband voted against the contract offer and I agreed with him. The bonuses for some might be close to catching up to the cost of living; but for the majority of us it won't even come close."

Judy, 19, has lived in Denison all her life. She was visiting a few of her immigrant friends when *Militant* reporters ran into her. "These people come here only because there isn't enough work in their countries to pay enough to feed their families," she said. Judy told us that a number of Denison residents think the INS should raid the two plants there, especially the local sheriff, who blames immigrants for an increase in crime.

Militant reporters also talked to workers at the Swift pork plant in Marshalltown, Iowa, early October. The INS had raided the plant three weeks earlier, arresting and deporting 150 Latino workers. Opinions varied widely on the immigration raids.

Rita is an 18-year-old Chicana who has worked for Swift on the cut floor for about two months. Although she understood why Latino immigrants come here for jobs, she said, she did not think people should be allowed to stay if they are "illegal."

"The thing that is most terrible in my mind is that the INS had deported a man and woman that had been forced to leave their nine month old baby with the baby sitter," Rita said. "The INS would not let them go get the baby."

Workers at the Swift plant gate, had various views about the raid; some were for the raid and others were opposed to it. Lyle, who opposed the raid, said that "the arrest of these workers, many of them were members of the UFCW, weakened the union."

Joe Swanson is a member of UFCW Local 1149 in Perry, Iowa. Bill Kalman and Gerardo Sánchez, members of the United Transportation Union in Des Moines, contributed to this article.

Machinist officials back Clinton, merger

BY MARY MARTIN AND ELIZABETH STONE

CHICAGO — Delegates at the national convention of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), held here September 22-28, heard seven days of proceedings emphasizing two intertwined themes: reelecting U.S. president William Clinton and consolidating approval for the merger of the IAM with the United Steelworkers Union of America (USWA) and the United Auto Workers (UAW).

Each morning politicians, government officials, and labor tops gave speeches entreating the unionists to return Clinton to the White House. Speakers at the convention included AFL-CIO president John Sweeney; the labor federation's secretary-treasurer Richard Trumka; U.S. labor secretary Robert Reich; UAW president Stephen Yokich; USWA president George Becker; Sen. Edward Kennedy; Representatives Jesse Jackson Jr. and Richard Gephardt; Coalition of Labor Union Women president Gloria Johnson; Canadian Labour Congress president Robert White; and Marcello Malentacchi, general secretary of the Metalworkers union in Switzerland. Clinton also addressed the convention through a special satellite hook up.

Sweeney's comments on the presidential elections were repeated by all speakers in one fashion or another. "Robert Dole is an anti-worker candidate," Sweeney said. "Think like workers, vote like workers, get others to vote like workers, and we will have a workers' victory in November."

There was nearly no mention whatsoever

of Clinton's role in leading government inroads against workers' social gains — such as signing the welfare bill — and attacking democratic rights and the rights of immigrants, let alone his war record, such as the recent bombing of Iraq.

Several debates reflected the concern of many delegates about how to counter the offensive by the employers, who increasingly seek to lower wages, drive through job combinations, use more part-time workers who don't receive benefits, and subcontract out jobs. Machinists who had participated in strikes in the past months at Boeing Corp. in Seattle and at McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis were among those who took to the microphones early and often.

Top officials motivated a proposal to allocate more union membership dues for operations — including the union's facility for training union functionaries at Placid Harbor, Maryland — and less to the strike fund. About a third of the delegates dissented on the basis that money would be needed for future battles. Many of the same delegates later pushed unsuccessfully to raise strike benefits from \$100 to \$150 per week. Jim Marshall, a delegate from Local 837-A in St. Louis, spoke on that point. "As one who has seen the pain and suffering experienced by many of our members in the recent 99-day strike against McDonnell Douglas, including loss of homes and cars and effect on families, I want to explain something," he said. "In the era of today in corporate America, things aren't getting better. It's a very hard-nosed situation. When people... have to strike, they need to have

enough money to help them survive."

The IAM leadership also put forward a resolution reaffirming support to High Performance Work Organizations (HPWOs) on the job. These are company-union cooperation programs initiated by the IAM international in several workplaces in North

Continued on Page 11

700 rally for immigrant rights in San Francisco

BY TOBA SINGER

SAN FRANCISCO — About 700 immigrant workers, youth, community, and political activists rallied in Chinatown's Portsmouth Square here October — to celebrate Immigrant Pride Day, and protest bi-partisan attacks on immigrant rights by the Clinton administration, and anti-immigrant legislation supported by California governor, Peter Wilson.

The event was the first of its kind co-sponsored by organizations in the Chinese and Latin-American immigrant communities here, and the first ever of its kind in Chinatown. The event was sponsored by a wide range of immigrant rights groups, unions, and others.

Thai Phuong Nam, a young Vietnamese staff worker at Chinatown's Cameron House, played a central role in organizing the event. She described Immigrant Pride

Day as "something positive, to counter the attacks by the Clinton administration that say that immigrants are taking advantage of welfare or don't want to work. Immigrants know all about work. They often work two or even three jobs: this is an event that tells who we really are."

Brad Erickson, coordinator of the Political Ecology Group, emphasized that "inclusivity is what we're going for here. This action embodies Asian and Latino unity against these attacks. The Clinton legislation is really an attack on all immigrants, trying to divide one from the other by making different groups ineligible for services that everyone should have."

Sima Shakhari, of the Near Eastern Alliance and Iranian Refugees Alliance spoke detailing the situation of Kurdish immigrants driven from their homelands because of U.S. military aggression in the Mideast.

Strikers show tenacity

BY BOB MILLER

WINDSOR, Ontario — When the 500 Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) members poured out of the General Motors (GM) trim plant here on October 9, some 5 hours before their 11:59 p.m. strike deadline, they showed their fighting spirit and determination by grabbing their picket signs and forming a long line in front of the plant. While strikers shouted and whistled, motorists and truckers on the busy thoroughfare in front of the plant honked their horns in support of the strike.

Tom Milligan, a seat builder at the plant for 19 years, was walking the picket line the third day of the strike in this city across the border from Detroit. "We had 2,700 workers in the late 80's. Now we're down to about 1,100 and they want to sell the place," he explained. Some of the picket signs said, "30 years of profit = Unemployment."

The strikers told the *Militant* that earlier that day, three members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 22 from the GM Cadillac plant in Hamtramck, Michigan, had come across the river to express their support. The Cadillac plant, which uses seats from the trim plant, was going to shut that night, they reported.

Between the two front gates of the GM plant were lawn signs reading "No Detroit News/Free Press" in solidarity with the year-long Detroit newspaper workers' strike.

Workers at the trim plant and the Windsor transmission plant are both organized by CAW Local 1973. At the union hall, notices advertised buses leaving for Toronto on

October 25 and 26 for the Days of Action against the provincial government's austerity measures.

BY MITRA SHARMA

ST. CATHERINES, Ontario — Pickets were scattered around the GM components plant here October 12. Members of CAW Local 199 expressed their anger toward the company's closing of the GM foundry in St. Catherines October 1. Many workers viewed this as an affront since they were told time and time again that their jobs were assured as long as they were productive and took pride in the quality of their work.

Joe Kachur, a worker in the forge, explained, "The company created a lot of illusions. We gave them what they wanted and they still did what they said they weren't going to do." Twenty-five years ago, there were close to 13,000 GM workers here. Now there are just over 5,000.

CAW officials say they are fighting to get the same agreement on outsourcing from GM that they got from Chrysler, where the company supposedly guarantees that 95 percent of jobs remain in Chrysler plants during the life of the agreement. Kachur commented, "This contract is full of loopholes. I think 95 percent isn't good enough. That would mean 300 people here losing their jobs. They're whittling away at us."

Bob Miller is a member of UAW Local 980 in Edison, New Jersey. Mitra Sharma is a member of CAW Local 252 in Toronto.



Militant/John Steele

General Motors auto workers picket the Oshawa, Ontario, plant October 3. GM is pushing to get deeper contract concessions than rival automaker Chrysler.

GM strike in Canada

Continued from front page

change its plan to sell two of its parts plants in Ontario, or failing that get a commitment that any buyer must cover workers under the CAW-GM master agreement.

Many workers on the picket line are outraged that even though GM made record profits of \$1.39 billion in Canada last year,

it is not prepared to meet workers' demands. But GM measures its success not by the amount of profits, but by the rate of return on its assets, which has fallen from about 17 percent in 1965 to 3.2 percent last year. Chrysler claims a per-employee profit of \$24,000, while GM is rated at only \$12,500.

Workers are feeling the pain as GM races to catch up: "Its just unbelievable the pressure that people are under" as a result of the line speed, said Greg Crowell, a material handler who's worked at GM Oshawa for 24 years. "I've seen people have nervous breakdowns. They're constantly on the go. The foremen are always on their backs. There's a limit to human endurance."

Last spring GM showed its determination to achieve its goals when it locked out some 180,000 GM workers in the United States, Canada, and Mexico in response to the 17-day strike by workers at two GM Delphi brake parts plants in Dayton, Ohio.

Company spokesman Stew Low said GM Canada cannot accept the pattern agreement reached between the CAW and Chrysler Canada last month. Under pattern bargaining that has been in place since the 1950's, once one of the Big Three (GM, Ford, and Chrysler) auto companies struck an agreement with the union, the other two agreed to the same contract.

In the contract signed with the CAW, Chrysler supposedly agreed not to outsource any major operations, to replace any job it outsources, and not to sell or close any plants. This agreement can be reopened, however, in the event of "an act of God, catastrophic circumstances, or significant economic decline at a plant," according to the *Toronto Star*.

A special national convention of the CAW has been called for October 18 in Toronto to raise the dues of CAW members across the country. Union officials say this is needed to help sustain the strike fund.

Unionists build 'Days of Action' in Toronto

BY ROBERT SIMMS

TORONTO — Unionists in Metropolitan Toronto joined by community groups, teachers, and students, are firming up their plans for a protest strike in Toronto and surrounding municipalities October 25. They are also preparing to stage a massive demonstration on October 26 to oppose the government's deep cuts to entitlements and anti-labor laws.

The Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto and York Region, allied with the Metro Network for Social Justice, is the main organizer of the "Metro Days of Action," which encompass a week of rallies, demonstrations, and meetings October 22-27. The coalition is planning to have most unionized workplaces shutdown October 25 through cross-picketing, a successful tactic used in recent Ontario protests in London, Hamilton, Kitchener, and Peterborough.

Thousands of union volunteers will set up picket lines — but not at their own workplaces. Postal workers may picket government offices, auto workers and government workers may picket steelworkers and so on. One place targeted for a mass picket is the S.A. Armstrong factory, where 75 members of the United Steelworkers have been on strike since April 29, and replacement workers have kept production running.

The public transit system of city subway, bus lines and commuter rail lines is projected to close, as well as the postal system and provincial government offices where workers fought and won a bitter strike last winter. Organizers of the Days of Action hope to close or slow down Pearson International Airport, the hub of air traffic across Canada, in addition to municipal offices, schools and most mid-size and large industrial factories.

The 26,000-strong strike by auto workers against General Motors (GM) aids the momentum of these protest actions. "We'll be there," said a striker at GM Oshawa picket line. Strikers in Windsor and Oshawa report that buses are being booked to take them to the action.

On Saturday, October 26, a march planned to start at the Canadian National Exhibition grounds will make its way to the Queens Park provincial legislature. Sid Ryan, Ontario president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, predicts the mass demonstration may be in the range of 200,000 people. A similar two-day protest in Hamilton last February drew 100,000. The rally-site at the south end of Queens Park holds only 60,000 people. A giant sound system is being planned for the event.

The target of the protests, which will draw workers and students from across the province, is the Conservative federal government of Ontario led by Premier Michael Harris. The massive demonstration will march past

the site where the Conservative party is holding its convention.

In the 15 months since taking office, the Harris government has repealed affirmative action and anti-scab laws, made unionization more difficult, gutted workers' safety laws and compensation for work injuries, instituted billion-dollar cuts in education and health spending and slashed welfare payments due individuals and families by 21 percent. Unemployment in the Toronto area stands at 9.2 percent and homelessness and food bank use are rising.

The Liberal federal government in Ottawa, which has led these anti-worker attacks with its massive cuts to unemployment insurance, university education spending, and transfer payments to provinces for healthcare and welfare, has so far avoided being the target for the bulk of the protests.

The Toronto City Council voted 11-6 to support workers who join the protests and allow city workers to schedule October 25 as vacation or unpaid leave.

The move was rebuked by Ontario Management Board head David Johnson, a member of the Harris cabinet. General manager, David Gunn, of the Toronto Transit Commission has threatened to seek a court injunction to stop closure of city transit, to sue labor officials for lost income, which could amount to \$1.5 million, and keep the sys-

tem closed for Saturday. The Metro Toronto Council (the City of Toronto is one of five Metro cities and boroughs) backed Gunn's threat of a lawsuit. The Toronto City Council executive committee is now calling for an emergency meeting to authorize a court injunction.

In workplaces throughout Toronto there is debate and discussion over the value and effectiveness of the protests — including whether the protest is worth joining in and risking disciplinary action.

"Big business is trying to consolidate itself on the backs of working people," said Bentley Ford, a member of the International Association of Machinists at Ford Electronics. "The Days of Actions are a good thing because it might educate the business guys behind the government."

Susan Berman, who works at Ontario Store Fixtures organized by the United Steelworkers, told the *Militant* that some workers aren't sure that the protest's result would be worth losing a day's pay, and some worry how united it will be. "But sixty percent have been wearing buttons advertising the Days of Action lately, and confidence is growing that we should stay out when the cross-pickets appear on October 25."

To volunteer for cross-picketing or other activities contact the Metro Days of Protest Coordinating Committee at (416) 512-8890.

Machinists officials back merger, Clinton

Continued from Page 10
America.

Dick Doyle, a delegate from Local S-6 in Bath, Maine and works at Bath Iron Shipbuilding, told *Militant* reporters he was against the HPWOs. Bath Iron Shipbuilding is touted as a flagship of the HPWO by the IAM tops. "HPWO pits union brothers and sisters against each other," Doyle said. "The membership gets engulfed in company functions and the contract becomes a blank check for management to fill out how they want."

Keith Nelson, a TWA plant maintenance mechanic and delegate from Local 1650 in Kansas City, spoke on the floor against the HPWOs. "At TWA we have so-called 'world class maintenance groups,'" he said. "These workers are volunteers and include 'wannabe' supervisors. They are supposed to stay out of contractual issues and not act on them, but they do." A majority of the delegates, however, voted to support the HPWOs. Ron Delapp, a delegate from Local 760 in International Falls, Minnesota, who works as Boise Cascade Co., said, "I think HPWO is a good thing. We can sit down with the company, discuss problems, and work them out. There is no problem with that."

Collections were taken up for the Alitalia airline workers, now in the third year of their strike, and for the 60 Machinists of Local 1005 in Portland, Oregon, on strike for nine months against Voith-Sulzer Paper Technology Company. A delegate from Continental Airlines flight attendants who are in the midst of an IAM organizing drive received applause when he called on delegates to support the drive.

Kate DeSmet, a striking newspaper worker from Detroit, received a standing ovation when she addressed the convention. She said if the companies can defeat the newspaper workers' unions in Detroit, the labor movement across the country will suffer.

Discussions on airline safety, merger

While there was no official discussion at the convention of recent airline accidents and their impact on airline workers, there was informal discussion in the corridors.

One of the Chicago delegates, Roy Wilson, an aircraft mechanic at Northwest Airlines, received congratulations in the hallways from other delegates who had seen him interviewed recently on ABC News in Chicago. Wilson had refused to check for bombs un-

der new Federal Aviation Administration and company demands on airline workers, following the explosion of TWA Flight 800. In the TV interview he had stated he was not qualified to search for bombs and that spending time on such activity would interfere with his maintenance duties. Initially suspended from his job after he spoke out to the press, Wilson was later reinstated.

Another substantial discussion ensued under a proposal for how the vote will be taken on the merger of the IAM with the UAW and USWA, set for the year 2000. The leadership proposed the decision be made by delegates at the next IAM Grand Lodge Convention. Many delegates, who often began their remarks by expressing support for the merger, argued the decision should be made by the entire membership of the union, that is, one member-one vote as a more democratic way of deciding. The majority voted to have the decision made by delegates at the next convention.

Mary Martin is a member of IAM Local 1759 at Northwest Airlines in Washington, D.C. Elizabeth Stone is a member of IAM Local 1487 at United Airlines in Chicago.

Gore brags about imperialist plunder of Mexico

Continued from front page

digit lead in the polls over his Republican opponent, Robert Dole, whose campaigning has become increasingly desperate.

Referring to what he called foreign policy blunders by the White House, Kemp stated in the middle of the debate in St. Petersburg, Florida, "One of the most serious problems was the tremendous effort by this administration to force on Mexico a devaluation of their peso. The economy has dropped by 40 to 50 percent.... We cause the problem and then we have to bail them out."

On Dec. 20, 1994, the government of Ernesto Zedillo announced a devaluation of the Mexican peso. In response, international money traders unloaded the currency hand over fist, driving it down 40 percent against the U.S. dollar within one week. The collapse of the peso raised fears among U.S. banks and other imperialist financial institutions that Mexico could default in interest payments. The country's foreign debt stands today at \$98 billion, or 38 percent of Mexico's Gross Domestic Product. Washington quickly cobbled together \$50 billion in "loan guarantees," \$20 billion of which came from the U.S. Treasury and the rest from the International Monetary Fund and banks in Europe.

In exchange, the U.S. rulers extracted an agreement from the Zedillo administration that all revenues from the state-owned oil monopoly Pemex would be deposited in an account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York before being transferred to Mexico — or seized in the case of a loan default. The Zedillo regime also agreed to carry out a harsh austerity plan to repay the loans and continue to pay interest on Mexico's foreign debt. It subsequently imposed a cap on wage increases well below the rate of inflation, increased the sales tax from 10 to 15 percent, and raised fees for public services.

As a result, the gap between the capitalist minority in Mexico, on one hand, and working people and middle-class layers, on the other, swelled. While Mercedes-Benz sales to rich Mexicans increased 50 percent over 1995, real wages for workers fell in May for the 16th consecutive month, to 9 percent below what they were a year earlier. The number of working people classified as living in extreme poverty grew in the same period to 22 million, up by 5 million — a 30 percent jump, in a nation of 92 million.

'We made \$500 million profit'

"No, when there was a crisis involving the Mexican peso, again President Bill Clinton showed bold and dynamic leadership," Gore responded to Kemp. "I want to hasten to add that Senator Bob Dole gave critical bipartisan support at the time. He agreed with the president.... He said this was a wise move."

The Democratic nominee continued, bragging, "People said it was a big risk at the time. We've ended up making a \$500 million profit. All of the loans have been paid back."

"It's unbelievable that we could cause a drop in the standard of living of a friendly country like Mexico by 40 to 50 percent, unemployment goes up, we send U.S. tax dollars and IMF monies to Mexico, and we make a profit," responded Kemp. "At that level, that gives new meaning to the word 'profitability' for U.S. foreign policy. The pain, the suffering, the unemployment,.... the loss of the standard of living, the people who have had to come across the border of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas." Kemp concluded his point with a heavy dose of right-wing demagoguery. "If that's our foreign policy for the third world or Latin America, I believe more than ever we've got to elect a president who understands trade,.... who understands private enterprise, who understands democratic capitalism, not socialism caused by the IMF and the Clinton administration."

CALENDAR

COLORADO

Denver

The Alternative for '96: Hear James Harris, Socialist Workers Party 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.*

While this relatively minor portion of the debate received wide media attention, the big-business dailies generally didn't quote the concluding remarks by Kemp.

An article in the October 11 *New York Times* pointed to some inaccuracies in Gore's statements and chided Kemp for not taking advantage of the errors. Zedillo has not paid up the entire loan, the article said. "Under pressure to pay back the loans before the elections, the Mexican government has moved quickly to repay \$9 billion. Mexico still owes \$3.5 billion. The next payment is not due until next summer." The *Times* also noted that the \$500 million profit Gore referred to came from charging a "premium" on interest to Mexico, 4 percent higher than normal U.S. interest rates, supposedly to make up for the risk involved.

During the Florida debate, Gore stuck with praising the administration's record — both on foreign and domestic policy. Kemp continued to peddle the Republican proposal for a 15 percent tax cut as a centerpiece of spurring economic growth. According to a CNN opinion poll, Gore gained 4 percentage points in ratings after the debate, while Kemp dropped 5 percent.

The Kemp-Gore exchange on Mexico was preceded by an op-ed piece on the same topic by columnist Thomas Friedman. His column appeared in the September 25 *New York Times*.

"O.K., it's safe to say it now," Friedman began. "The 1995 U.S. bailout of Mexico's economy with a \$12.5 billion loan worked.

Mexico has now repaid \$9 billion of that loan, including \$1.29 billion in interest, and the Standard and Poor's credit agency just upgraded Mexico's government bonds from 'negative' to 'stable.'"

The columnist of the liberal daily then drew lessons for the capitalist class. He first praised Clinton for acting decisively, without seeking approval from Congress, which didn't appear forthcoming at the moment.

"As in war, so in economics, without U.S. leadership nothing happens," Friedman added. "In other words, without the G-1, there is no G-7 [Group of seven imperialist powers: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, and United States]. Unless America is ready to act unilaterally, it will never have allies with whom it can act multilaterally."

Mobilizing the bankers behind the White House was also crucial to Washington's success, Friedman said. He quoted Mexico's finance minister Guillermo Ortíz to amplify his point. "In the absence of the U.S. and I.M.F.," Ortíz reportedly said, "we would have had to declare a moratorium on debt repayments. There would have been lawsuits. It would have been a mess."

Lesson four was the clincher in Friedman's piece. "Culture matters even more than central banks," he stated. "To pay for the bailout, Mexico cut the standard of living for most of its people by 20 percent. There should have been a revolution, but there was barely a demonstration." Friedman attributed the apparent miracle for the

bourgeoisie in both countries to the "strength of the Mexican family." He quoted Antonio Madero Bracho, chairman of Sanluis, a mining conglomerate in Mexico, saying, "People moved in with each other, and the family really took the place of social security and unemployment insurance."

Wall Street considers Clinton winner

"If stock prices were votes, it would be Clinton in a landslide," commented an article in the October 13 *Washington Post*, referring to the ongoing boom of prices on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Clinton administration is working overtime to consolidate this kind of backing by touting its credentials in pushing through recent antilabor measures. Associated Press reported October 14 that the Clinton campaign began airing a new radio advertisement. The message centers on the president's signing of the Defense of Marriage Act, which outlaws recognition of marriages between gays and lesbians and bars homosexual couples from having access to some federal benefits. It also presents Clinton's support for a "complete ban" on late-term abortions "except when a mother's life is in danger" or when a woman "faces severe health risks."

As the writing on the wall by the major owners of capital is becoming clearer, Dole has dropped putting a lot of energy into arguing the Republican economic program in his campaign stops and has focused on desperate attacks on Clinton's morality.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

FLORIDA

Miami

Buchananism: What It Is and How to Fight It. Speakers: Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress 21st District; Janet Post, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress 17 District. Sat., Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. *137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$5. Translation into Spanish and French. Tel: (305) 756-1020.*

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Crisis of Imperialist Policy in Middle East from Palestine to Iraq. Speaker: Argiris Malapanis, staff writer for the *Militant*, coauthor of *The Truth about Yugoslavia*. Sat., Oct. 26, 8 p.m. Dinner, 6 p.m. *780 Tremont St. (corner Mass. Ave.). Donation: \$5. Dinner: \$5. Tel:*

(617) 247-6772.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

The 1996 U.S. Elections and the Capitalist Two-Party System. Sat., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. *Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 1155 Broadway East (Parking lot on 10th Ave. E) Donation \$5. Tel: (206) 323-1755.*

Class: "The October 1917 Russian Revolution and Its Importance for Revolutionary Fighters Today." Sat., Oct. 26, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. *1405 E. Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.*

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Defend Immigrants and Aborigines! A Work-

ing-Class Answer to Pauline Hanson. Fri., Oct. 25, 7 p.m. *66 Albion St. Surry Hills. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 9281 3297.*

CANADA

Vancouver, B.C.

The 1996 U.S. Elections and the Capitalist Two-Party System. Fri., Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. *3967 Main Street. Donation: \$5. Tel: (614) 872-8343.*

BRITAIN

Manchester

Ireland — The Peace Process Today. Speakers: Francie Molloy, Sinn Fein Councilor; Anne Fiander, Communist League. Fri., Oct. 25, 7 p.m. *60 Shudehill. Donation: £2. Tel: 0161-839-1766.*

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Unless, of course, it's necessary — In the wake of revelations that the U.S. Army School's anti-guerrilla curriculum for Latin American security forces included



Harry Ring

the fine art of torture and murder, Defense Secretary William Perry vowed to make sure "this can never happen again."

Talk about obscenity — For generations, New Mexico Chicanos have fought to reclaim their land, grazing rights and water rights. Now

they've got cable mogul Ted Turner to contend with. He just bought the 903-square-mile Vermejo Park Ranch from Pennzoil. The huge property is being used as an exclusive hunting and fishing resort. (Summer trout fishing, \$300 a day; a week of guided elk and deer archery hunting, \$13,000.)

P.S. — The Atlanta reader who sent us the Turner clipping added an indignant note: "Also they announced the Olympic Stadium, which will become the new Braves stadium, will be named the Ted Turner Stadium instead of after Hank Aaron, the baseball legend and Atlanta native who is widely believed to be deserving of the honor."

It figures — Last week we re-

ported on Erica Taylor, the high schooler who was suspended for possessing a Midol tablet. But what we wrote was based on a news report which neglected to mention Kimberly Smartt, the classmate who gave her the Midol. She got an even stiffer suspension (lifted under threat of a lawsuit). Officials said Smartt got the heavier penalty for "distributing drugs," not because she's Black.

Some harvesting work might help — In Germany, a Cologne district court ordered a man to pay \$2,400 to a farmer he insulted. Returning from harvesting beets, the farmer had found the man's car blocking his way and asked him to move it. The man responded, "You dirty farmer, brush your teeth be-

fore you talk to me!"

Don't heave on this one — "There's just one way to fire someone: with love and support and deep, deep regret. You much try as much as possible to make the act itself a caring confrontation." — James Autry, author of *Love and Profit: The Art of Caring Leadership*.

From Stalin's joke book — Russian security chief Alexander Lebed, the Chechnya "peacemaker," was asked by the German magazine, *Der Spiegel*, if there weren't "always enough volunteers to kill for their country." Responded Lebed: "For us, voluntary means the following. When our farmers were supposed to join collectives — voluntarily of course — it meant: Who

wants to join, joins; who doesn't want to join, we'll take away his cow."

All in posh areas? — Eighteen years ago, the feds banned lead-based paint as hazardous. A recent study of 26 playgrounds in 13 cities found that 16 playgrounds in 11 cities were coated with dangerous-level lead-based paint.

Being poor is risky — "Child accidental deaths have fallen significantly since 1981 among affluent families but have barely improved among the poorest... researchers say. Poor housing... has increased the chance of fire deaths and cheap cars... increase the chance of traffic deaths." — The *British Guardian*.

October 1917: 'An authentic popular revolution'

The following is reprinted from the *History of the Russian Revolution* by Russian Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky. The excerpts are taken from the book's last chapter, titled "Conclusion." We are printing it on the occasion of the 79th anniversary of the socialist revolution in Russia, which triumphed October 25, 1917. Pathfinder recently reissued this title with an attractive new cover. The excerpts below are copyright © Pathfinder Press and are reprinted by permission. Footnotes are by the *Militant*.

BY LEON TROTSKY

A remarkable consecutiveness of stages is to be observed in the development of the Russian revolution — and this for the very reason that it was an authentic popular revo-

BOOK OF THE WEEK

lution, setting in motion tens of millions. Events succeeded each other as though obeying laws of gravitation. The correlation of forces was twice verified at every stage: first the masses would demonstrate the might of their assault, then the possessing classes, attempting revenge, would reveal only the more clearly their isolation.

In February [1917] the workers and soldiers of Petrograd rose in insurrection—not only against the patriotic will of all the educated classes, but also contrary to the reckonings of the revolutionary organizations. The masses demonstrated that they were unconquerable. Had they themselves been aware of this, they would have become the government. But there was not yet a strong and authoritative revolutionary party at their head. The power fell into the hands of the petty-bourgeois democracy tinted with a protective socialist coloration. The Mensheviks¹ and Social Revolutionaries² could make no other use of the confidence of the masses but to summon to the helm the liberal bourgeoisie, who in their turn could only place the power slipped to them by the Compromisers at the service of the interests of the Entente.

In the April days the indignation of the regiments and factories — again without the summons of any party — brought them out on the streets of Petrograd to resist the imperialist policy of the government wished on them by the Compromisers. This armed demonstration attained an appearance of success. Miliukov³, the leader of Russian imperialism, was removed from the government. The Compromisers entered the government, superficially as plenipotentiaries of the people, in reality as call-boys of the bourgeoisie. Without having decided one of the problems which had evoked the revolution, the coalition government violated in June the *de facto* armistice that had been established on the front, throwing the troops into an offensive. By this act the February regime, already characterized by the declining trust of the masses in the Compromisers, dealt itself a fatal blow. The period opened of direct preparation for a second revolution.

At the beginning of July the government, having all the possessing and educated classes behind it, was prosecuting every revolutionary manifestation whatever as treason to the fatherland and aid to the en-

emy. The official mass organizations — the soviets, the social — patriotic parties—were struggling against a coming-out with all their power. The Bolsheviks for tactical reasons were trying to restrain the workers and soldiers from coming into the streets. Nevertheless the masses came out. The movement proved unrestrainable and universal. The government was nowhere to be seen. The Compromisers hid. The workers and soldiers proved masters of the situation in the capital. Their offensive went to pieces, however, owing to the inadequate readiness of the provinces and the front.

At the end of August all the organs and institutions of the possessing classes stood for a counter-revolutionary overturn: the diplomats of the Entente, the banks, the leagues of landed proprietors and industrialists, the Kadet party⁴, the staffs, the officers, the big press. The organizer of the overturn was no other than the supreme commander-in-chief with the officer-apparatus of an army of millions to rely on. Military detachments specially selected from all fronts were thrown against Petrograd under pretense of strategic considerations and by secret agreement with the head of the government.

In the capital everything, it seemed, was prepared for the success of the enterprise: the workers had been disarmed by the authorities with the help of the Compromisers; the Bolsheviks were under a steady rain of blows; the more revolutionary regiments had been removed from the city; hundreds of specially selected officers were concentrated in shock brigades — with the officer schools and Cosack [cavalry soldiers in czarist Russia] detachments they should constitute an impressive force. And what happened? The plot, patronized it would seem by the gods themselves, barely came in contact with the revolutionary people when it scattered in dust.

These two movements, at the beginning of July and the end of August, relate to each other as a theorem and its converse. The July days demonstrated the might of the self-dependent movement of the masses. The August days laid bare the complete impotence of the ruling groups. This correlation signalized the inevitability of a new conflict. The provinces and the front were meanwhile drawing closer to the capital. This predetermined the October victory.

"The ease with which Lenin and Trotsky overthrew the last coalition government of Kerensky," wrote the Kadet, Nabokov, "revealed its inward impotence. The degree of this impotence was an amazement at that time even to well-informed people." Nabokov himself seems hardly aware that it was a question of his impotence, that of his class, of his social structure....

Eight months after the overthrow of the monarchy the workers stood at the head of the country. And they stood firmly.

"Who would believe," wrote one of the Russian generals, Zalessky, expressing his indignation at this, "that the janitor or watchman of the court building would suddenly become Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals? Or the hospital orderly, manager of the hospital; the barber a big functionary; yesterday's ensign, the commander-in-chief; yesterday's lackey or common laborer, burgomaster; yesterday's train oiler, chief of division or station superintendent; yesterday's locksmith, head of the factory?"

Who would believe it? They had to believe it. It was impossible not to believe it, when ensigns routed the generals, when bur-

gomasters from the ranks of common labor put down the resistance of yesterday's lords, train oilers regulated transport, and locksmiths as directors revived industry....

The language of the civilized nations has clearly marked off two epochs in the development of Russia. Where the aristocratic culture introduced into world parlance such barbarisms as *tzar*, *pogrom*, *knout*, October has internationalized such words as *Bolshevik*, *soviet* and *piatiletka*. This alone justifies the proletarian revolution, if you imagine that it needs justification.

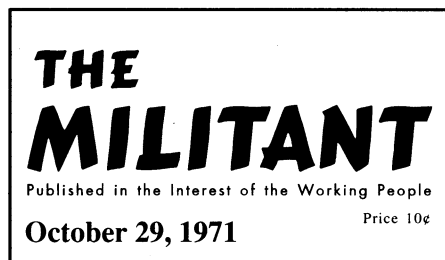
Notes

¹ Mensheviks—Moderate socialist party claiming allegiance to Karl Marx, but believing the working class must combine with the liberal bourgeoisie to overthrow czarism and establish a democratic republic.

² Social Revolutionaries—Peasant socialist party formed at the beginning of the century. Representing the wavering interests of the small peasant proprietor in the revolution, this party split into a group of Left Social Revolutionaries, anarchist in their leanings but participating in the Bolshevik government for a time, and the Right Social Revolutionaries who supported the Provisional Government of the liberal bourgeoisie that came to power in February 1917.

³ Miliukov—Head of the Kadet party (see next footnote), Minister of Foreign Affairs, and actual boss of the Provisional Government.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



LOS ANGELES, Oct 20 — Three Los Angeles City College students arrested as the result of a campus protest against the presence of marine recruiters were arraigned Oct. 19, and a trial date of Nov. 15 was set.

The three — Larry Mitchell, Richard Spear, and Marshall Givens — have been hit with trumped-up charges of "malicious mischief" and "resisting a peace officer."

Seven hundred Los Angeles City College students demonstrated Oct. 13 in defense of the three students.

The initial demonstration Oct. 4 was spearheaded by Black and Chicano students. The Black students were particularly incensed by the presence of Blacks among the recruiters. They clustered around them, angrily demanding to know why they permitted themselves to be used for such a purpose. One Black student requested a recruitment interview. Asked to give his name, he spelled it out: "U-N-C-L-E-T-O-M."

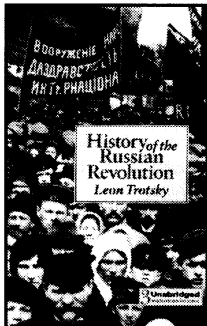
Students surrounded the recruiters' table and helped themselves generously to the free Marine literature. They indicated their opinion of it by depositing it in nearby trash baskets.

One student, Larry Mitchell, was dragged off by campus police and taken to their office. After about an hour of angry student protest, they released him, explaining his apprehension had been "a mistake."

But two days later, city warrants were issued for him, Givens and Spear. The lat-

⁴ Kadets—Popular name for the Constitutional Democrats, the liberal party, headed by Miliukov, favoring a constitutional monarchy or even ultimately a republic. It was the party of the progressive landlords, middle bourgeoisie and intelligentsia.

from Pathfinder



The History of the Russian Revolution
LEON TROTSKY

The social, economic, and political dynamics of the first socialist revolution. The story is told by one of the revolution's principal leaders writing from exile in the early 1930s, with these historic events still fresh in his mind. Also available in Russian. \$35.95

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ter two were taken into custody by campus police and turned over to waiting city cops. When Mitchell learned that a warrant was out for him, he went to the police station with SMC [Student Mobilization Committee] members and, like the others, was bailed out.

An ad hoc defense committee for the three was established at a rally of several hundred students Oct. 7. The committee, initiated by the SMC, has won the support of other campus groups and of faculty members.



October 26, 1946

NEW YORK, Oct. 17 — With the refusal of the Supreme Court to hear the case of 217 Indonesian seamen who are now incarcerated in a Texas detention camp, these men may be deported within 30 days, John Andu, president of the Indonesia League of America, stated today.

The Indonesian seamen were arrested almost a year ago, because they walked off Dutch ships in New York harbor. The ships were loading American-made arms and ammunition to be used by the Dutch despots against the Indonesian fighters for freedom. The seamen refused to transport arms designed to shoot down their own countrymen.

After six months' imprisonment in Ellis Island, the seamen were shipped to San Francisco, together with a score of Indonesian residents, rounded up by the U.S. government as reprisal against the seamen's courageous action.

Mounting protests from the labor movement and progressive groups forced the release of some of the residents, many of them married and with large families. Most of the residents have been in this country for a long time, some as long as 16 and 20 years.

The specter of revolution

It is rare to see opinion columns reveal class bias and imperial arrogance as clearly as Thomas Friedman's recent *New York Times* piece — boasting about Washington's success in robbing an extra \$1.3 billion of surplus value produced by the toilers in Mexico, and transferring it to the coffers of loan sharks on Wall Street.

Friedman's views were seconded by Albert Gore during the recent vice presidential debate when he bragged about the higher-than-usual profit capitalist banks netted through the so-called bailout of Mexico after the 1994 collapse of the peso. Webster's dictionary defines such acts as usury.

Friedman revealed that the U.S. rulers feared the possible implications of events in Mexico at the end of 1994 and early 1995. When Washington forces a government in a semicolonial country to quickly ram draconian austerity measures down the throats of working people, labor resistance can get out of hand. With unemployment soaring, real wages declining, social services being slashed, and poverty levels jumping 30 percent higher in the course of 16 months, a popular revolt is possible. Republican vice presidential candidate Jack Kemp cynically scored the Clinton administration during the vice presidential debate for gloating over their accomplishments in Mexico when the human toll was so high and at the same time so visible.

But what a relief for the bankers, landlords, and businessmen Friedman serves! "There should have been a revolution, but there was barely a demonstration," their faithful mouthpiece exclaimed.

What is the lesson for the owners of capital? If a frontal assault on the working class — allowing a higher-than-usual return on investment — is working in Mexico, without a major challenge to the rule of the bourgeoisie, why not go for more? After all, big business in the United States, and their competitors worldwide, have been unable to solve their chronic problem of declining profit rates. In fact, the curve of capitalist development continues its downward slide into deeper depression conditions; and

interimperialist competition is stiffening, putting more pressure on the rate of return for capitalist investors. So why not consider more "Mexico bailouts"?

That's what the owners of General Motors Corp. are probably contemplating. That's what the government of France is mulling over.

Ford and Chrysler have just netted contracts stacked against the workers, while top officials of the United Auto Workers tout the agreements as "breakthroughs" for the union. GM pushed back with relative ease the United Auto Workers during the 17-day strike at Dayton, Ohio, in March. The auto giant, determined not to settle for merely the concessions Chrysler and Ford have won thus far, has now forced another walkout by 26,000 Canadian Auto Workers members.

And Paris is resolved to march toward a "common" European currency as an equal with Bonn — slashing social services in the process to meet the standards and deadlines set by the European Union. Some in the French ruling class figure, "Why not!" Prime Minister Alain Juppé's government is still standing even after big strikes and street protests last fall.

A growing and more vocal minority among the U.S. rulers and other imperialists are taking Friedman's point to heart, since no one among them has come up with another alternative to shore up profit rates.

If the "Mexico bailout" is a great capitalist success story, it is also the graphic portrait of what the profit system has in store for humanity.

But as the masters of Wall Street keep pushing their onslaught, the revolution Friedman fears will be on the agenda. Working people will get their chance to take power out of the hands of the exploiters and begin the struggle to replace capitalism with a system that puts human needs before profits for an already wealthy minority. In the meantime, joining every single skirmish — from the picket lines in Canada to the street protests in France — and presenting a communist perspective to fellow toilers must be the top priority for class-conscious workers.

Support Ontario labor protests

The October 22-27 Metro Days of Action in Ontario provide an opportunity for tens of thousands of unionized and unorganized workers, working farmers, students and other youth to take a stand against the cutbacks to social services and anti-union legislation of Ontario's conservative government. Tens of thousands are expected to join work stoppages and community events on October 25, and up to 200,000 to march and rally at the provincial legislature the next day. The Canadian Federation of Students is also holding a "Pan-Canadian Week of Action" against education cuts and rising tuition Oct. 21-25.

The Metro Days of Action is the sixth in a series of city-by-city labor mobilizations against the austerity drive of the Ontario government of Michael Harris. The conservative premier is leading the assault by Canada's rulers against the social gains won through decades of struggle by working people in that country.

A massive turnout for the Toronto action will not only maintain the momentum of the previous demonstrations, but can strengthen the hand of the 26,000 striking auto workers in Ontario and Quebec who are resisting concessions General Motors is trying to ram down their throats. The assaults by the government in Ontario are part of the same battle GM is spearheading to make working people pay for the endemic crisis of their profit system.

In Canada, the federal government is leading these attacks. Working people have already seen federal unemployment insurance and funds for social services slashed.

Immigrant rights have been restricted. And Ottawa is leading the offensive against Quebecois' just struggle against national oppression and for independence. Like their counterparts around the world, Canada's wealthy rulers are trying to get working people to blame each other for the crisis—scapegoating immigrants, welfare recipients, unemployed workers, or Quebecois patriots.

Auto workers in Canada are showing the potential power of the labor movement to fight the assault on wages, working conditions, and democratic rights.

Resistance to the anti-union and austerity drives of the billionaire families is developing in countries around the world. Last December, French railway and other public workers shut down France for weeks. They are now back on the streets as Paris is pressing ahead with its onslaught on the social wage. On October 12, 25,000 marched in Washington, D.C., to defend the rights of immigrants against attacks by the Clinton administration. Resisting the effects of the growing world capitalist disorder will help forge a movement that can fight for social demands, such as a shorter work week with no cut in pay to create jobs for all, to unite working people in a struggle to take the power out of the hands of the exploiters.

The Metro Days of Action can help reinforce this fight-back. Leading up to and after these protests, working-class fighters should redouble our efforts to back the GM strikers and others standing up to the rulers around the world. All out for the Metro Days of Action!

Kids kissing is not sexual harassment

BY KAREN RAY

NEW YORK — Over the last several weeks there have been reports of elementary school children being disciplined for "sexual harassment." In September Jonathan Pevette, a six-year-old boy in Lexington, North Carolina, was suspended after kissing a classmate on the cheek. Then in Queens, New York, seven-year-old De'Andre Dearinge was suspended after he kissed a seven-year-old

AS I SEE IT

girl and pulled a button off her skirt. In early October, New York school officials announced two more investigations of elementary school children from Brooklyn and the Bronx for supposed sexual harassment.

Jane Martin, a spokeswoman for the Lexington school district, said the school policy was clear. "A six-year-old kissing another six-year-old is inappropriate behavior. Unwelcome is unwelcome at any age."

At first, one might laugh at how ludicrous it is to be suspending little children for pecking each other on the cheek. But in fact, it is not something to smirk at. Actions like these undermine what women and men have won in recognizing sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women as a social problem.

Sexual harassment has nothing to do with children, or grown men and women, showing affection to one another. It is part of the sexist abuse and violence that women confront as a manifestation of our oppression under capitalism. It can take forms ranging from lewd remarks to unsolicited physical contact. It is not about sex, but the unequal relationship between the sexes that exists in a class-divided society.

Management often promotes sexist abuse and violence against women workers for the purpose of demoralizing them, deepening divisions of the workforce along sex lines. It is stock and trade of the employing class.

In April, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) filed a lawsuit against Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing of America for conditions in its Normal, Illinois, plant, alleging that between 300 and 500 women workers faced sexual harassment. Women workers there reported being touched and fondled at work, as well as finding drawings of themselves depicting sexual activities attached to cars on the assembly line. The response by the company, the suit charges, was not to stop these activities but to encourage them.

Mitsubishi organized a protest at the EEOC office in Chicago in support of the company. Some 2,500 employees were paid a full day's wages to participate in the event. Company officials implied that the \$10 million sexual harassment lawsuit could cost workers their jobs.

In the Mitsubishi case, the company promoted an atmosphere that allowed this abuse to take place. Then by scapegoating the women who filed the charges, the company pitted workers against each other and created an atmosphere even more threatening to women who work there. It sends the message to both women and men "be happy you have a job, don't stand up and fight for an atmosphere of respect and dignity. These uppity women may take your jobs away."

Sexual harassment saps the self-confidence of women, debases men, and degrades the working-class and all human relationships. What Mitsubishi did, or any other employer does, is not about driving women out of the workforce. It is about dividing the workforce, placing women as a second class of workers. The effect is to drive down the wages and working conditions of all.

As women have become more incorporated into the workforce, we have fought for and won real social gains — from abortion rights to affirmative action. As a result of the women's liberation struggles since the end of the 1960s, broad advances have taken place in women's attitudes towards ourselves and our place in society, as well as in the views of men on these matters. It is with this advance that a broader understanding of and intolerance towards sexual harassment and other forms of abuse and violence against women has been won.

Today the capitalist class and their representatives in the White House and Congress are taking aim at some of the hard fought gains of the working class, including affirmative action, social entitlements, and abortion rights. The working class has a big stake in fighting to defend and extend these victories as part of unifying and strengthening our fighting capacities. By women and men fighting shoulder to shoulder against the attacks of the employers, the working class becomes stronger as a whole.

The flap over the kissing kids takes the victory won by women in recognizing sexual harassment and turns it on its head. It misdefines the act, trivializes it as equal to child's play, and distorts what has been accomplished. Children being suspended for "sexual harassment" for showing affection to one another or horsing around miseducates them and minimizes the serious harassment women face like that at Mitsubishi.

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Aerospace strikers march in Birmingham

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

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines

unionists as well.

Pemco's primary revenue source is from military contracts. Its Birmingham Airport facility refurbishes C-130 transport planes and KC-135 tankers. The company is trying to cut job classifications here from 61 to 31, forcing employees to perform several jobs without any wage or benefit increases.

Pemco claims the classification

Canada's major business daily, proclaimed, "Irving strike's end blow to labour; Terms of settlement seen likely to encourage employers across Canada to play hard ball."

Irving was able to keep the refinery open throughout the long strike because several of the smaller skilled-trades unions decided not to respect the picket lines and 72 former strikers crossed the line.

Irving strikers maintained 24-hour picket lines and launched an active boycott campaign. Several major rallies involving thousands of supporters marked the 27-month strike. Several CEP-organized refinery locals sent regular financial contributions. The Irving settlement means the first major rupture in what was formerly a master contract covering all CEP-organized refineries across Canada.

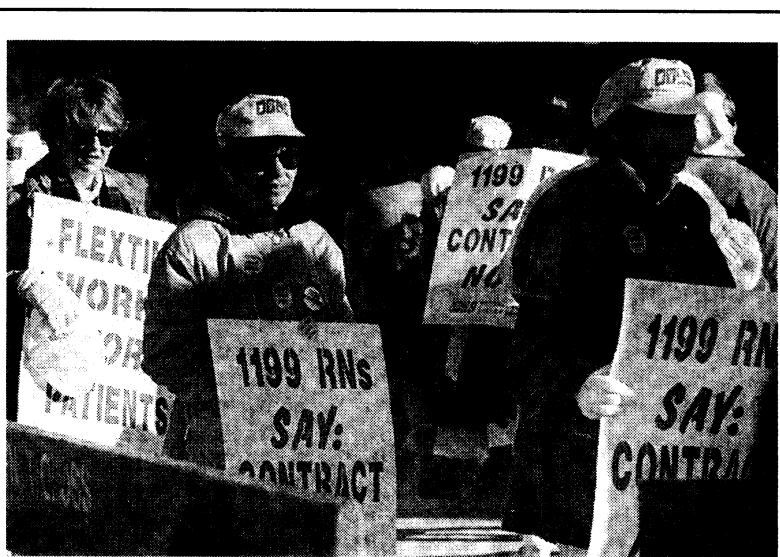
Flight attendants in Canada reject contract

VANCOUVER — The 2,600 flight attendants at Canadian Airlines voted 91 percent to reject contract concessions and authorize a strike. The vote throws the company's drive for a new round of concessions into disarray.

Canadian wants to achieve 17 percent productivity gains by reducing the number of attendants per flight, cutting sick leave and vacation time, and increasing work hours with less overtime pay.

Five other unions, including the International Association of Machinists (IAM), have already agreed to negotiate the 17 percent givebacks, through a combination of pay cuts, job reductions, and other concessions. Canadian aims to win concessions totaling \$125 million, including \$22 million from the flight attendants.

If the flight attendants, members



Local 1199 nurses of National Health and Human Services Employees Union picketed New York Hospital Medical Center of Queens, New York, October 11 on a one-day strike for job security.

ON THE PICKET LINE

about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — More than 800 members of United Auto Workers Local 1155 marched September 23 from their union hall to Pemco Aeroplex, where they set up an expanded picket line. The strikers chanted "Scabs go home" and "Take these cops with you," while 30 Birmingham cops filmed their demonstration.

Since their strike began July 22, the unionists have intensified their protests against the job-cutting demands of Pemco that precipitated the walkout. The company has hired more scabs.

The show of union solidarity was the largest protest yet during the strike. Following the march union members held a meeting. It was reported that after 10 weeks, not one of the 950 strikers had crossed the picket line.

Union members are organizing a one-day expanded picket line every week. They also discussed greater community outreach efforts and calling a protest rally at the Birmingham mayor's office in response to police harassment of strikers. The cops stop traffic to allow busloads of scabs to enter the plant and are quick to usher union members onto the sidewalk. They stop strikers' cars, search them, and ticket the

change is necessary to make it competitive, but the union insists the move would cost several hundred jobs and demands that the company put a no-cuts pledge in writing. While claiming the change would actually increase union employment, Pemco refuses to guarantee job security in a new contract.

Irving Oil strike settled after 27 months

MONTREAL — A majority of the members of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP) at the Irving Oil Refinery in Saint John, New Brunswick, have accepted a concession contract after 27 months on strike.

Thirty-seven strikers lost their jobs, including all but one member of the former union executive. Dan Farrer, one of the strike leaders fired, explained that the company recalled whoever they wanted. "I've been working at the refinery since I was 19," he said. "In the last 25 years I've prevented at least one major accident.... I can't get an answer why I was fired."

The 106 who were called back are forced to go through a three-week "orientation session."

The Irvings are among the most powerful of Canada's ruling families. People in New Brunswick, the heart of the Irving empire, explain that every second person who has a job in that province works for a company the family owns.

The Toronto *Globe and Mail*,

of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), refuse to settle, the other agreements fall through.

"We feel betrayed," said CUPE member Cindy Pellegrin after the result of the voting was announced September 26. "I don't think anybody wants to strike, but the company is forcing us into this position."

Three years ago, workers at the airline agreed to a pay cut, which was restored in August. The contracts with all six unions expired in December 1995.

"It is not so much the money but the working conditions," said another attendant coming on duty at the Vancouver airport October 1. "I have a six-year-old and I'm on my own. They want us to be away from home longer. They want fewer of us on each flight. We just got back the money we gave up last time." She expressed the mood reflected in the strong strike mandate when she added, "I don't know what the company will do but we are not backing down."

These negotiations take place just as American Airlines, a shareholder

of Canadian, has announced plans to use Vancouver as its gateway to the Asia-Pacific region. Vancouver is the base for Canadian and it expects to hire hundreds of workers to handle the extra flights.

More than 100 workers have already been hired in the cabin services department in Vancouver. They work cleaning aircraft for just above minimum wage with no benefits. Other so-called contract workers have also been hired in cargo, laundry, security, and as janitors and station attendants. Those upgraded to part-time positions with benefits and seniority after March 1996 have their wage frozen at just over Can\$9 (U.S.\$6.65) per hour for the duration of the three-year contract.

George Williams, a striking member of UAW Local 1155 in Birmingham; Annette Kouri, a member of the United Steelworkers of America in Montreal; and Monica Jones and Lynda Little, members of International Association of Machinists Lodge 764 in Vancouver, contributed to this column.

LETTERS

Clarify abortion terms

In the past two weeks, there have been several articles on abortion in the *Militant*, which, while clearly reaffirming the paper's position in favor of reproductive choice, refers to a woman seeking abortion as "the mother."

"The mother" necessarily implies a child. Many women seeking abortion are also mothers, previously had children by birth or adoption. But merely being pregnant does not make a woman a mother, unless one believes the fertilized egg is a child. Anti-choice organizations, when forced to refer to the woman at all, always refer to her as "the mother" in an attempt to convince people that the fertilized egg is indeed a "child," that it has "rights" that supersede the rights of the woman, and that to have an abortion is to "kill" a "child."

Obviously, this is not the *Militant's* position. In the past, you have referred to a woman seeking an abortion as "the pregnant woman" or simply "the woman." The *Militant* is normally very careful about its terminology, so I really don't understand this change.

Carol Sholin
Oakland, California

Cost of 'welfare reform'

A recent article in the *Des Moines Register* shows the human costs of President Clinton's attacks on the social wage. The article is about Arturo Zamora, a 36-year-old legal immigrant who lives in Des Moines. Zamora left Mexico and became a seasonal agricultural worker in the

U.S.

After working a stint in a New York City restaurant, Zamora traveled to the Midwest where he worked in the packing houses of Nebraska and Iowa.

Last December he was involved in a serious car accident, resulting in paralysis below the waist. He was denied any health care benefits through his employer, the Swift pork processing plant in Marshalltown, Iowa, because he worked there one month shy of what was needed to collect benefits. He lives on \$450 a month in disability benefits through Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and \$90 a month in food stamps.

But even that could be cut as a result of "welfare reform." Iowa officials estimate that 3,200 people may lose SSI payments, 200 households may lose food stamps, and 4,300 may lose Medicaid under Clinton's measures.

Zamora is one of these people. Legal immigrants have to work and pay taxes for ten years to be exempt from the proposed cuts. Zamora only has five years; his years as a migrant agricultural worker don't count. Zamora's wife is on a long list to apply for a green card; until she gets it, she and her children are considered "visitors" and not factored into Zamora's food stamp allotment.

As Zamora explained to the *Register* reporter, "This is not the life we envisioned for these many years." He also explained that he wants to fight to "overcome these challenges."

Bill Kalman
Des Moines, Iowa



Rally of 6,000 against logging of redwood trees in California.

6,000 rally for redwoods

Some 6,000 people joined a spirited rally here September 15, to stop the Pacific Lumber Company from cutting down old-growth redwood trees in the Headwaters Forest in California's north coast region. The 60,000-acre Headwaters Forest contains the largest stands of unprotected ancient redwoods left on Earth, including the 3,000-acre Headwaters Grove and five other smaller groves that have never been cut for lumber.

The protest was organized by the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), Earth First!, the Mendocino Environmental Center, and other organizations involved in

the fight to save the huge trees.

"We celebrate together the work we've done to bring Headwaters to national attention, and how close we've come," said Cecelia Lanman of EPIC at a pre-rally news conference. "It is invigorating. Thousands of people are joining with us today to say that they have had enough."

Other speakers included Sierra Club president Adam Werbach, musician Bonnie Raitt, and a number of activists from area environmental groups.

A pro-company, "property rights" rally protesting endangered species laws was held at the same time in Eureka, some 30 miles from the Headwaters protest. The rally

included floats with mock tombstones carrying the names of closed-down lumber mills. Earth First! activist Judi Bari took this issue up at the rally. "The loggers are pawns in this game. They are victims. Their livelihood is being destroyed by an out of town corporation," she explained.

"We've used every method we can to save the redwoods," Bari told reporters. Protest actions have included rallies, blockades of logging operations, and numerous court challenges. EPIC "has won 14 lawsuits, all they've filed. We're still here, and we're still fighting," said Bari. In 1990, in the midst of a campaign known as Redwood Summer, Bari and another Earth First! activist, Darryl Cherney, were nearly killed in a car-bomb assassination attempt in Oakland. A demonstration here last year drew 2,500 people.

Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign were well-received by rally participants. Many wanted to discuss the relationship between the fight against environmental destruction and socialism. Others, seeing the depressed conditions of California mill towns, sought the socialist candidates' views on how to ensure jobs for mill workers and loggers.

Jim Altenberg
San Francisco, California

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.

France: Rightist Le Pen gains strength

BY DEREK JEFFERS
AND ELISABETH SANGUINETTI

PARIS — "Get yourselves prepared for the revolution," French ultrarightist Jean-Marie Le Pen told young cadres of his party, the National Front, at a September 15 meeting. Le Pen received 15 percent of the vote, over four million of the ballots cast, in the 1995 presidential elections in France. Coming out of the mass anti-austerity protests in November and December of last year, the National Front appears to be stronger.

"Without a doubt," Le Pen declared to the leaders of the National Front of Youth, "we are going to live through moments of crisis. But it's crisis that's the great midwife of history.... It is certain that only the National Front can tear the country away from decadence.... There will be a moment when everything will stop, and that will be the revolution. The extreme left is preparing for that in its own way, because they can always hope. So I think that you, too, must get prepared, because at a certain point the rotting structures of our system will collapse. You must prepare your spirit and heart for it... because at a certain point we will be called on by the people."

Le Pen spoke as the economic crisis in France deepens and labor resistance springs up anew. All public sector unions, representing several million workers — including all rail, postal, telecommunications, and power plant workers, as well as teachers, Air France workers and many others — are organizing a national 24-hour strike and demonstrations October 17. The workers are protesting a 1996 wage freeze, job cuts, and plans to sell off shares of state-owned companies to private investors.

Unemployment now officially stands at a staggering 12.6 percent and is rising rapidly. In the second quarter of 1996, the French economy declined by 0.4 percent.

The conservative government of Prime Minister Alain Juppé, supported by President Jacques Chirac, is planning further deep cuts in social spending and tax increases in the name of meeting economic criteria necessary for qualifying to participate in a European Union common currency planned to take effect in 1999.

Juppé's cuts are aimed to reduce the budget deficit to 3 percent of Gross Domestic Product. A recent opinion poll for the conservative daily *Figaro* gave the Juppé regime its lowest rating ever, with only 27 per-

cent expressing confidence in the prime minister and 71 percent stating their disapproval.

The Socialist Party (SP), the main bourgeois party in the opposition, opposes early legislative elections that could unseat the government, preferring to wait until the next scheduled elections in 1998. The French Communist Party, in turn, is aiming to reach a satisfactory agreement for an electoral alliance with the SP for 1998.

In this context, the National Front has carefully turned up the volume over the last six weeks. At the conclusion of a national meeting it held August 30, Le Pen focused national media attention on himself by telling reporters, "Yes, I believe the races are not equal; it's obvious."

Immigrants from Africa are a key component of the French population today, more so than elsewhere in Europe. This is particularly true in industry, where African immigrants are generally employed. A recent study shows that of the 3 million Africans legally resident in the 15 member states of the European Union, over 1.6 million live in France. Of the 2.1 million immigrants from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia present in the European Union, two thirds are to be found in France. This change in the composition of the working class explains the high stakes involved for the French bosses, particularly during the current era of cut-throat world capitalist competition, in keeping immigrant workers intimidated and divided from other workers.

Le Pen's racist statement was condemned by all major French politicians. Yet, two weeks later, the National Front significantly increased its vote in the first round of a regional by-election in the southern French city of Toulon. In 1995 Toulon became the first city of over 100,000 inhabitants to elect a National Front mayor. Le Pen's vote rose from 18 percent in the previous regional election in 1994 to 34 percent. In the runoff election a week later, the National Front candidate lost out to a Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) official in a close 54 to 46 percent. Both the Socialist and Communist Parties supported the ruling RPR in the second round.

The National Front has also not hesitated to take to the streets. On September 9 a French 15 year-old was killed in Marseille by another youth of the same age, also of French nationality but born to Moroccan

parents. Five days later, the racist party organized a local demonstration of 5,000 "against crime and immigration". Le Pen harangued the crowd for over an hour, denouncing "those really responsible for the crime — the French politicians."

He sharpened the attack two weeks later before a crowd of over 10,000 attending the annual National Front festival in Paris, zeroing in on "the corrupt politicians of the RPR," the party of Chirac and Juppé. Several former RPR ministers have been recently sent to prison on charges of illegally financing their campaigns and their lifestyles through kickbacks on government contracts.

"The RPR," Le Pen lashed out, "lives in corruption, by corruption, and for corruption." He accused prime minister Juppé, who is also the RPR's president, of "organizing a criminal association." He later threatened, "Before the French people I make the solemn commitment that when we will be in power all these thugs, all these swindlers, all these bandits will not only have to give an accounting, but will have to give their throats."

The National Front is also stepping up its efforts to claim that it has answers for the country's deep social and economic crisis. During last year's massive strikes by millions of workers, the extreme right movement was completely absent from the street mobilizations. Now its no. 2 leader, Bruno Mégret, explains, "Our strategy is based on three axes: immigration, crime, and social and economic policies. We are considered to be competent and credible on the first two. We intend to be recognized and competent as well on the third one."

The National Front has begun to organize unions linked to it not only in the police and among prison guards, but also among teachers and mass transit workers in Paris. In 1995 Le Pen won 30 percent of the votes of unemployed workers who cast ballots and 25 percent among factory workers. Immigrants cannot vote in French elections.

The on-going seven-month-long fight of hundreds of undocumented immigrants demanding legal status has been the main resistance by labor against Paris's assault on immigrants that fuel Le Pen's racist cam-



March in Paris to support the *sans papiers* (undocumented) African immigrants (top). National Front leader Le Pen speaking at Paris rally (bottom). "The races are not equal," Le Pen says.

paings. Most of these immigrants have been working in France for a long time, often with documentation, until the adoption of anti-democratic legislation in the last few years.

Their determination, standing up to repeated police attacks and arrests, winning significant backing from the trade unions, taking to the streets again and again, has drawn support and sympathy from larger sections of the working class — far more than those previously attracted to antiracist actions. This movement has forced the government to make some concessions. On October 8, Juppé began unveiling new legislation on immigration that promises to grant legal status to some of the undocumented currently in France, while facilitating deportation procedures at the same time.

Derek Jeffers is a member of the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) at the GEC-Alstom transformer plant in Saint Ouen. Elisabeth Sanguinetti is a member of the Young Socialists in Paris.

S. Africa court acquits apartheid general

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Former South African defense minister Gen. Magnus Malan, who organized a "total onslaught" campaign against opponents of the old apartheid regime, was acquitted October 11 of murder and conspiracy charges. Malan and 15 other co-defendants were cleared of accusations by South African judge Jan Hugo in a trial without a jury.

Malan was charged with plotting to arm and train an assassination hit squad that attacked the home of African National Congress (ANC) leader Victor Ntuli in 1987, killing 13 women and children.

Ntuli, who was not home at the time, was eventually assassinated at a political meeting two years after the massacre.

Malan worked closely with former South African presidents P.W. Botha and F.W. de Klerk and led the country's military machine during some of the most violent days of racist rule. He claimed he had no knowledge of the massacre.

Col. 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. De Kock, convicted on an array of some 90 charges including murder and fraud, testified during his trial how cop units routinely killed and tortured opponents of the apartheid government with the knowledge and complicity of top apartheid officials.

Judge Hugo acknowledged in his ruling that the 1987 murder was committed by members of the Inkatha Freedom Party who were on the payroll of the South African Defense Force. The Inkatha goons were trained at secret camps on Namibia's Caprivi's Strip by the South African military.

"There can be little doubt that the deceased were gunned down by trainees of the Caprivi," the judge told the Supreme Court in Durban. Hugo told a packed courthouse that the assault "was not an officially planned or authorized military exercise."

The day before Malan's verdict, however, Hugo acquitted six Inkatha members accused of the actual shooting in the KwaMakutha township outside Durban. They received special military training in the 1980s.

According to the *New York Times*, the indictment against Malan asserted the assassination squad was created in 1985, when Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi approached the racist regime for aid in Inkatha's attacks against the ANC. The apartheid government then secretly trained 200 Inkatha men in tactics such as "attacks on identified targets" and "house penetration." They supplied them with AK-47 assault rifles.

Incredulously, Judge Hugo argued that although Malan and other top generals were involved in organizing the military opera-

tions against anti-apartheid fighters, they were ignorant of the assassination plans. He dismissed testimony from former intelligence officer Capt. Johan Opperman, who confessed to planning the attack, and his assistant, Sgt. Andre Cloete. And he accused the prosecution of presenting a sloppy case with unreliable witnesses.

The editors of the South African *Sunday Independent* condemned the verdict declaring, "a man who was instrumental in waging apartheid's dirty war has got off scot free."

Mbusi Ntuli, the brother of Victor Ntuli and whose father and three sisters were killed in the attack, charged prosecutor Tim McNally of deliberately losing the case. Ntuli said witnesses to the slaughter were available to testify, but had not been called to do so. "He engineered this," Ntuli asserted. "If a prosecutor doesn't want to win he won't." The *Washington Post* reported McNally "was renowned for his refusal to believe that hit squads even existed."

The ANC accepted the rul-
Continued on Page 6

From Pathfinder

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Jack Barnes

In *New International* no. 10

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