

THE MILITANT

**SPECIAL STRIKE
SUPPLEMENT**

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All out to back UPS strikers!

Teamsters stand ground against shipping giant

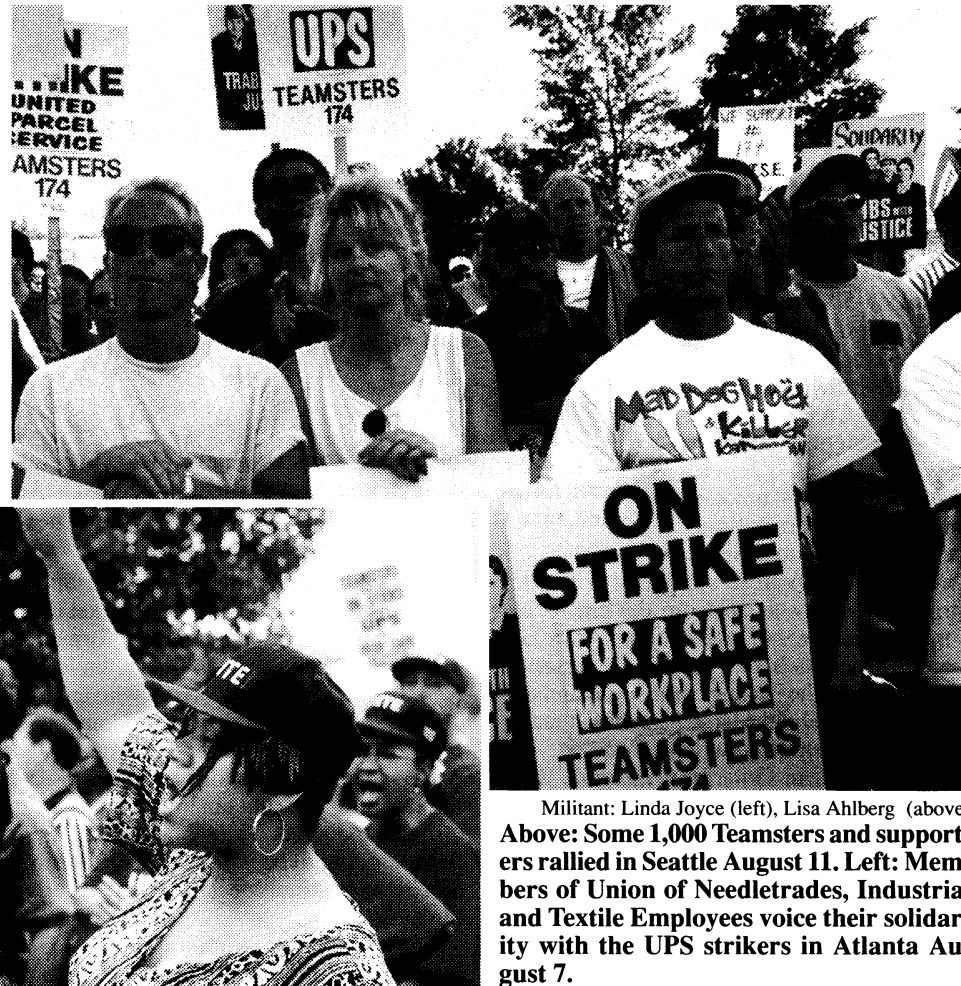
BY DANNY BOOHER
AND FRANK FORRESTAL

CHICAGO — In the face of an all-out assault by United Parcel Service (UPS), 185,000 striking Teamster members are standing firm against the nation's largest delivery company. Rallies in support of the striking Teamsters have been taking place across the country. While maintaining a facade of neutrality, the government is taking steps to make sure UPS can hold out against the Teamsters without bringing parcel shipping to a halt. Each day the stakes in this battle rise.

The central issues in the strike — the fight for better pay and conditions for part-time workers, the company's attempt to gut the Teamsters' pension plans, the union's demand that UPS hire more workers full-time, and health and safety issues — have touched a nerve, sparking discussions on radio and television talk shows, in letters columns and editorials of major newspapers, and in work places across the country.

The parcel giant, which usually handles about 12 million packages daily, has been reduced to 10 percent capacity and lost \$200 — \$300 million in the first week of the strike. Very few strikers have crossed picket lines since the nationwide strike began August 4.

"I wasn't for or against the strike," said striker Al Clark, a 32-year-old full-timer who works at the Northbrook UPS facility in Illinois. "But I knew that something like this would happen some day, because there



Militant: Linda Joyce (left), Lisa Ahlberg (above)
Above: Some 1,000 Teamsters and supporters rallied in Seattle August 11. Left: Members of Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees voice their solidarity with the UPS strikers in Atlanta August 7.

are so many people in there being mistreated day after day." Clark declared that "UPS stood for Under Paid Slave and Under Permanent Stress."

UPS plants have been operating with some 55,000 managers. On August 11, one of these managers was killed while driving a UPS tractor trailer in Nashville, Tennessee.

see. Nashville Teamsters Local 480 President Ronnie Martin criticized the company for using inexperienced drivers. "People are out there filling jobs they're not qualified to do. It's a time bomb waiting to happen," Martin said.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported August
Continued on Page 2

Socialist candidates call for solidarity

Five Socialist Workers candidates from around the country, all of them industrial union workers actively building support for the Teamsters strike against United Parcel Service, issued the following joint statement August 13. The candidates are Jennifer Benton for mayor of Minneapolis; Scott Breen for mayor of Seattle; Robert Miller for governor of New Jersey; Doug Nelson for mayor of Atlanta; and Olga Rodríguez for mayor of New York.

A battle has been joined at UPS with big stakes for the entire labor movement. The issues in the strike are flesh and blood to millions of workers: part-time work at second-class wages, attacks on pensions and health plans, a back-breaking pace, unsafe working conditions, and dehumanizing regimentation of life on the job. In this face-off, a line has been drawn in the sand. The employer class has taken its side with Big Brown, and all working people must stand shoulder to shoulder with our Teamster brothers and sisters.

The capitalist rulers are going to war on this one. The Clinton administration, acting for the ruling class as a whole, is mobilizing the U.S. Postal Service and enlisting the aid of the owners of the airlines, railroads, and bus lines to minimize the economic impact of the strike on big business nationwide and make it easier for UPS to outlast the workers.

The employers are demanding that postal and transportation workers accept overtime,
Continued on Page 7

Argentina: jobless workers demand relief from crisis

BY HILDA CUZCO

On the eve of a one-day general strike by major unions in Argentina, unemployed workers in several cities put up roadblocks again, demanding the government provide relief from the depression conditions facing the working class in that South American nation. On August 7 some 300 residents of a shantytown outside Córdoba blocked Highway 9, which connects that industrial center with the cities of Rosario and Buenos Aires, the capital. In recent months Córdoba province has been the scene of a wave of roadblocks by unemployed workers.

The protesting workers, members of the Union of Grassroots Organizations (UOB), were attacked by police with rubber bullets and tear gas. Protesters pelted the cops with rocks. Some of the tear gas grenades landed in a day-care center in the working-class neighborhood of Ferreyra, and several children had to be treated for respiratory problems. The clash left 12 protesters and 3 cops injured. The demonstrators cleared the highway after a judge authorized the cops to forcibly remove them. Workers then peacefully occupied the cathedral in Córdoba. They ended the takeover the next day after securing a promise that the governor would meet with the leadership of their organization.

The workers are demanding improved social programs for unemployed and impoverished workers, as well as a say in the drafting and implementation of the programs. The government rejected this call, claiming it would be a drain on state funds. The governor, Ramón Mestre initially tried to dismiss the protests as "politically motivated"

and unjustified, claiming his government has done its best to alleviate poverty and unemployment. Mestre also criticized priests who expressed support for the workers.

On August 4, *piqueteros* (pickets) erected 11 roadblocks throughout the northern province of Jujuy, including on national highways 66, 9, and 34. The police attacked the barricades in Libertador General San Martín and near the provincial capital of San Salvador de Jujuy, arresting 69 pickets. The arrested demonstrators, who were demanding the government fulfill its pledge to create jobs, were turned over to the federal authorities for prosecution.

On May 31, unemployed workers in Jujuy had reached an accord with the government, which agreed to provide more than 12,000 jobs in the region. The workers had lifted barricades and gave the local authorities two weeks to work on a plan for jobs. The town of Libertador, with a population of 60,000, is dominated by the Ledesma sugar mill, the main employer in the area. The mill has cut its workforce from 12,000 to 3,000 through automation. Unemployment in Jujuy stands at 35 percent. The *piqueteros*, denouncing "the eternal lies of the government," decided to blockade the highways again.

As we go to press, several major union organizations are carrying out a one-day general strike August 14 against the new antilabor bills and austerity measures sponsored by the government of President Carlos Menem and the ruling Peronist party. The strike was initiated by unions that are critical of the pro-government General Workers Federation (CGT).

1,200 attend trade union conference in Havana

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

HAVANA, Cuba — More than 1,200 people representing 400 trade union organizations from 61 countries took part in an international conference here August 6 — 8. Titled "International Workers' Meeting to Confront Neoliberalism and the Global Economy," the gathering was initiated by the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC). It was cosponsored by a number of trade union federations from Latin America and elsewhere.

The largest delegations outside Cuba came from Brazil and Argentina. Over 90 unionists and other activists attended from the United States, the majority of whom were organized by the Detroit-based U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange. A smaller group traveled with the U.S. Health Care Trade Union Committee of Local 1199 of the hospital workers union in New York.

Nearly 50 unionists attended from Canada. Sizable delegations came from the CGT of France, one of the three major union federations in that country, as well as other countries in Europe. Participation was smaller from Asia and Africa.

Delegates discussed the causes of joblessness, falling real wages, worsening working conditions, rising homelessness, growing social inequalities, attacks on unions, slashing of social services, and discrimination against women, Black,

and immigrant workers that are prevalent in the capitalist world.

They adopted a program of action aimed at uniting workers and their mass organizations around the world to confront this crisis. The main resolution includes proposals for "economic policies that foster more and better jobs," including through agrarian reform necessary in many underdeveloped countries; "higher wages and income for both full-time and part-time workers, sufficient to meet their basic needs"; "shortening the work shift without cutting wages"; and "substantial increases in health, education, social security, and housing appropriations."

The conference also adopted a resolution condemning the U.S. economic war on Cuba, demanding the lifting of Washington's trade and economic embargo on the Cuban people, and designating October 8 as an international day of trade union actions in solidarity with Cuba. That date is the 30th anniversary of the death in combat of Ernesto Che Guevara, one of the main leaders of the Cuban revolution.

Delegates decided that the next conference of this kind will be held in Brazil in the summer of 1999.

Ernie Mailhot is a member of the International Association of Machinists in Miami. (More coverage of this conference will be published in the next issue.)

Issues in the UPS strike — pages 4-5

Teamsters stand ground against UPS

Continued from front page

13 that UPS had leased 48 planes, along with crews, from other companies. The 2,000 pilots employed by UPS are honoring the Teamsters picket lines.

Across the country numerous rallies have taken place in support of the UPS strike. At an August 8 rally of close to 1,000 people in Somerville, Massachusetts, Mary Reed, a part-time UPS driver, captured the spirit of many UPS strikers. "We don't just do this for ourselves, but for everybody," she said. The strike "is not just about money — it's about being treated like a human being."

Hundreds of UPS strikers were joined by steelworkers, construction workers, teachers, public employees, and contingents from other local unions. Politicians including Massachusetts Governor Paul Cellucci, several congressmen, and Somerville's mayor

spoke at the rally. The UPS Somerville facility has been the scene of several confrontations between pickets and Somerville cops, where strikers have been beaten and some 20 people have been arrested.

In New York on August 7 some 500 members of various locals of the Communications Workers of America joined Teamster Local 804 members at their picket line. Hospital workers from Local 1199 turned out at the main UPS facility August 11. Two days later 1,500 Teamsters and supporters rallied in Jersey City, New Jersey.

In Chicago a rally at the Jefferson facility drew a crowd of 500 strikers and supporters. The featured speakers at the rally were Teamster International president Ron Carey and AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.

More than 1,000 unionists and strike supporters turned out at the UPS hub in Seattle August 11 to express solidarity with the strike. A roar went up from the crowd as some 75 members of International Association of Machinists District 751, representing workers at the Boeing company, marched into the rally behind a large banner that read, "Fighting Machinists Support You."

Meanwhile, in Ontario, California, 250 people joined a rally August 9 called by the Independent Pilots Association in solidarity with the striking Teamsters. Addressing the crowd, UPS pilot Captain James Kelly said, "2,000 men and women of the Independent Pilot Association walked off the job in support of your strike. Since that time, not one UPS union pilot has crossed your picket line." Within a few weeks, UPS pilots will begin a strike of their own if a new contract is not reached.

Members of UAW Local 719 in Chicago organized a plant gate collection for UPS strikers on August 12. Local 719 organizes workers at General Motors-Electro Motive Division.



UPS manager (right) directs truck through picket line in Warwick, Rhode Island, as cop shoves strikers out of the way August 6. The company and police have stepped up violence baiting and arrests of strikers.

nizes unions in the trucking, rail, and aviation industries in more than 120 countries, has issued a call for "maximum international support" for the UPS workers. A leaflet being distributed by the federation in the United Kingdom, headlined "Exporting Misery from America," states, "In France, UPS fired hundreds of French workers after purchasing the profitable French package delivery company, Prost. In Italy, Spain, Belgium, and the Netherlands, UPS is shifting from full-time to part-time jobs...."

Company propaganda

UPS has launched a propaganda offensive in the big-business press, at the heart of which is UPS's demand that the Teamsters leadership allow their membership to vote on what the company describes as their "generous" final offer. A full-page ad appeared in dailies across the United States August 12, including the *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, *New York Times*, *San Francisco Examiner*, *USA TODAY*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Post*.

The ad, under the subheading, "UPS part time jobs are great jobs with great benefits," defends their use of part-time workers. It also says part-timers are "highly paid" with "comprehensive benefits" and "that's why so many students, homemakers, and others — who only seek part-time work — want to work for UPS."

According to the *New York Times*, "The company's call for a vote has won widespread backing in the business community."

Continued on Page 6

The yo-yo train

BY SARAH ULLMAN

BOSTON — United Transportation Union members at Conrail here and in Worcester, Massachusetts, took satisfaction in watching a special train made up of some 50 United Parcel Service trailers go back and forth between the two cities without being unloaded for six days last week.

Through a series of management disputes on how to handle the train, SPL901 — which workers dubbed the "yo-yo train" — shuttled back and forth along the 40-mile stretch several times before Conrail management finally got the trailers unloaded in Worcester August 11, and UPS managers drove them out of the yard.

The rail workers kept the strikers informed of every move and used whatever opportunities there were to keep the parcel-laden trailers off the ground as a gesture of solidarity. On his second round trip the engineer of SPL901, James Lugumira, said of the embattled Teamsters, "If they lose this, every CEO in the country will have hit Megabucks: they will call it a victory and won't negotiate in good faith."

Sarah Ullman is a member of UTU Local 1473 and a conductor at Conrail.

Nationally the Teamsters are distributing a "Teamster UPS Update" at the picket lines. The August 7 edition contains information on support from other unionists, including from Federal Express workers who are on a Teamster organizing drive in Indianapolis. In addition, the newsletter encourages supporters to call their hot line to get up-to-date information. A recent hot line message said, "It is clear that good jobs for working families are going to be won on the picket lines and in the communities, not at the negotiating table."

The strikers are winning labor support internationally as well. The International Transport Workers Federation, which orga-

Wheeling-Pitt strikers approve contract by a wide margin

BY TONY DUTROW

PITTSBURGH — After almost 11 months of a hard-fought battle against Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp., which vowed to never accept an industry-standard guaranteed pension, 4,500 members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) voted in their vast majority on a contract that includes a defined pension benefit of \$40 per year of service, increasing to \$44 per year guaranteed by the end of the five-year pact. Other parts of the agreement include a \$2,000 signing bonus, a \$1.50 per hour wage increase, and \$200 plus full health coverage for workers not immediately recalled after start-up. Some parts of the mills will be operating as early as August 24.

In its front page report on the strike settle-

ment, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* acknowledged the blow this struck at the heart of the plans of the Wheeling-Pitt bosses to maintain their substandard pension plan. "The biggest plum in the contract for the union is the return to a defined benefit pension plan that it made a priority during the negotiations, a plan [Ronald] LaBow [Chairman of WHX Corporation, Wheeling-Pitt's parent company] had initially said he would never accept."

Voting took place August 12 by secret ballot at local union halls in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The turnout was 90 percent of the workforce, of whom 79 percent voted in favor of the contract.

Tony Dutrow is a member of USWA Local 1557.

THE MILITANT

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Socialist candidates speak out for workers

BY HEATHER WOOD

MINNEAPOLIS — Jennifer Benton, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Minneapolis, took her campaign to the UPS picket line August 8. She pledged to use her candidacy to tell the workers' side of the story. Accompanying her were three members of the Young Socialists and another young supporter.

A solidarity rally was held on the line early that morning. About 150 people attended, including representatives from a dozen other unions. "It was really exciting," said Teamster striker Jon Senum. He's been a part-timer at UPS for 12 years. "It was a great experience to see the solidarity of other union people at the rally, and those who have stopped by on their own to bring money or food for the picketers."

A picketer was hit August 5 by a car driven by a manager going in to do scab work. After that incident a court issued an injunction limiting pickets to three per gate. Strikers, however, have been massing across the street from the main gate.

"The cops have warned us not to follow the delivery trucks that are on the road, because that would violate Minnesota's antistalking law," said Senum. "But we did our homework. We went to a library and copied the law and found it doesn't apply to picket activity. Now, we have copies of the law with us when we picket the deliveries."



Just back from Cuba, Atlanta socialist candidate joins picket

BY ARLENE RUBENSTEIN

ATLANTA — Doug Nelson, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Atlanta, was out on the UPS picket line here August 10 — the day after he returned from Cuba, where he took part in the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students and an international trade union conference.

"I heard about the UPS strike while I was in Cuba," said the 22-year-old member of the United Steelworkers of America. "Workers in the United States are a real part of the resistance by working people to the bosses' demands for belt-tightening around the world."

Nelson's campaign has issued a statement urging working people in this city and region to "get out on a picket line, bring your union, your co-workers, your friends, and anyone else you can." Nelson and his supporters gave out copies of the statement to strikers picketing the UPS facility on Pleasantdale Road. Nelson picked up a "Proud to be a Teamster" t-shirt, which, he said, he plans to wear at work.



Striker: 'I used to respect cops, but now I'm not so sure'

BY EDWIN FRUIT

PITTSBURGH — As the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh, I have been going out to various UPS strike sites here. At the Distribution Center in New Stanton, Pennsylvania, 40 miles east of Pittsburgh, we talked to a number of young strikers. After showing one of them a copy of the *Militant* with a front-page picture of the NAACP demonstration demanding justice of Jonny Gammage, he asked me what I thought of the Civilian Review Board that had just been put in place in Pittsburgh. I

said I had been active in the Jonny Gammage coalition here and I didn't think such a board would be a step toward stopping police brutality. He then told me of a civil suit he has against cops in suburban Pittsburgh because of a beating he suffered by the police. The worker, who is white, had a diabetic seizure. When cops arrived, they reportedly assumed he was on drugs and began handcuffing him and wrestling him to the ground.

During this conversation, supervisory personnel were driving several UPS trucks out of the New Stanton facility, escorted by Westmorland County police. "I don't know why the cops are helping the company," the striker, who asked to remain anonymous, said. "Last night, one of our people was knocked down by one of those trucks and the cops did nothing. If it had been me driving I'd be in jail for sure. I used to have a lot of respect for the cops. But after what happened to me and what they're doing in the strike here I'm not so sure."



Alabama socialist candidate solidarizes with poultry workers

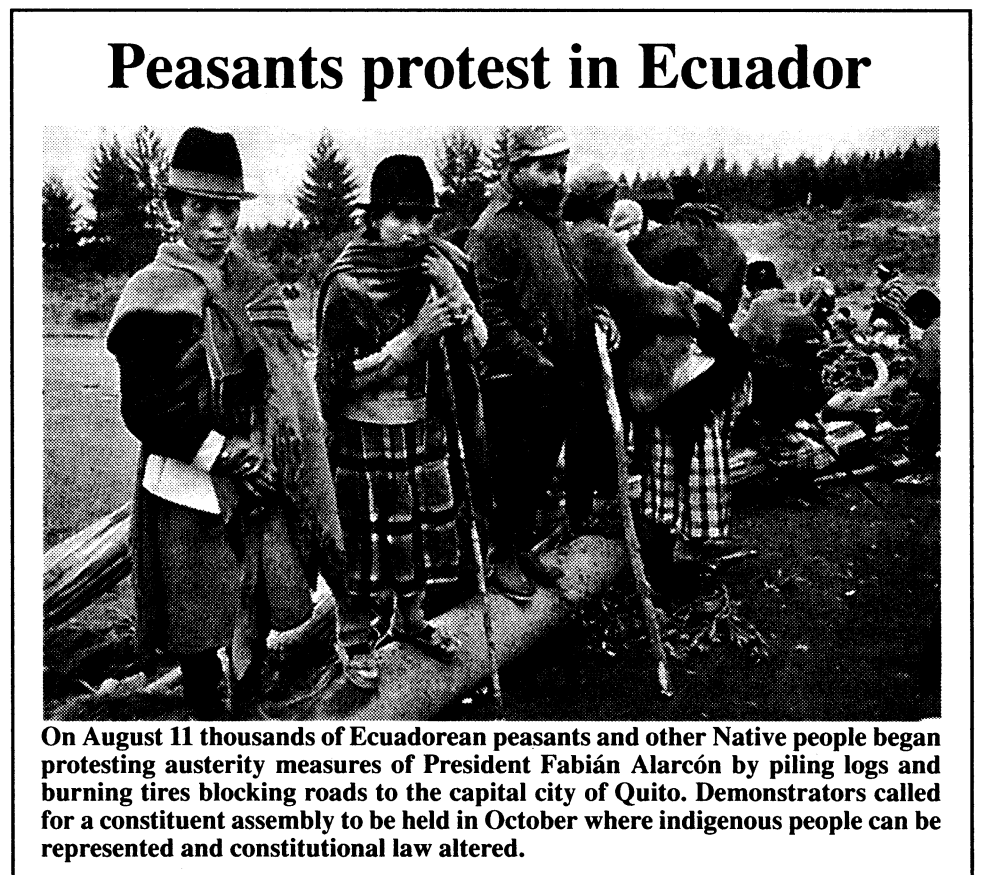
BY CINDY JAQUITH

ASHLAND, Alabama — George Williams, Socialist Workers candidate for Birmingham City Council District 3, visited this rural town of 2,400 on July 19 to express his solidarity with 106 poultry workers arrested July 8 by immigration authorities.

According to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), 72 Mexicans were to be deported immediately, while 33 Guatemalans and 1 Honduran await court proceedings.

The workers were all employed at the Tyson Foods chicken processing plant here. Eight of those seized were women.

"These workers only 'crime' was working to support their families, who are facing depression conditions in their countries of origin" because of the imperialist domination by Washington, declared Williams, a former meatpacker himself. Williams currently works at Pemco Aeroplex in Birmingham and is a member of United Auto Workers Local 1155.



On August 11 thousands of Ecuadorean peasants and other Native people began protesting austerity measures of President Fabián Alarcón by piling logs and burning tires blocking roads to the capital city of Quito. Demonstrators called for a constituent assembly to be held in October where indigenous people can be represented and constitutional law altered.

"We must demand an end to the INS raids," Williams emphasized. "Working people should welcome the growing community of Latin American immigrants in Alabama."

This message was eagerly received by immigrant workers here, about 75 miles east of Birmingham. Several invited the socialist into their homes to discuss the INS raid further.

Williams met with one of the Tyson Foods workers arrested at 4:30 a.m. July 8. "They handcuffed us and then chained us all together, like criminals," the worker said. The detainees were herded into a nearby National Guard armory. "When I explained I had to leave to take care of my children, they said: 'If you want to leave, pay up.'"

Authorities insisted that each Guatemalan and Honduran prisoner post a \$1,500 bond to be set free. These workers still face

an immigration hearing to determine if they will be deported. Some, unable to pay the bond, are still in jail.

"They treat people like dogs," commented another Tyson Foods worker, who emigrated from Cuba less than three years ago and asked that his name not be used. "I was so sorry to see how [the INS] took those people away. They don't have papers, but they just come here to work. All people are human beings." Stating that he had many disagreements with the Cuban government, the man added, "I never saw this kind of brutality in Cuba."

This worker decided to buy a copy of the Spanish-language socialist monthly, *Perspectiva Mundial*, with a large picture of Cuban president Fidel Castro on the cover. "I'm not political," he said with a smile, "but I do like to keep up with the news."

— YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD — Seattle YS campaigns for Socialist Workers

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists (YS), an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism.

BY ALARIC DIRMEYER

For the last four weeks, supporters of the Seattle Socialist Workers campaign have actively campaigned and petitioned to get three Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot. Among the supporters of the campaign are members of the Young Socialists in Seattle, who have endorsed the candidates and program of the campaign.

The Young Socialists have participated in a number of ways. They have assisted in the organization of several campaign events, including a campaign kickoff rally in which a representative of the YS spoke in support of the campaign and encouraged other

young fighters attending to do the same. YS members also were a regular component of the petitioning effort of the last several weeks, helping to collect the signatures needed to get the Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot, by going out to various universities and working class neighborhoods. Getting out across the city, handing out campaign information, and selling books published by Pathfinder, members of the YS here were able to meet many young people interested in learning more about the fight for socialism and the YS.

These included young workers looking to change their unions and society, activists fighting for abortion rights, for Cuba solidarity, for the farmworkers' unionizing drive, and justice for other struggles, as well as a number of students interested in action and education towards socialist revolution.

The Young Socialists here have taken on a goal of recruiting at least one young fighter to our movement to build a chapter of the Young Socialists. In order to make full use of the recently collected list of names of interested youth, Seattle members of the YS have begun a weekly class series, cosponsored by the Socialist Workers campaign.

Thus far there have been two classes. The first, entitled "What the Socialist Campaign Is Fighting For," featured several of the Socialist Workers candidates for office, and discussed the candidates' program for the upcoming election. It was attended by several young fighters from the outlying Seattle area, one of whom is a young railworker interested in socialism who is reading the Pathfinder book, *Eugene V. Debs Speaks*.

The second class, "Socialism vs. Anarchism: Two Conflicting Strategies of Revolution," was widely attended and the scene of a heated debate. Among the 16 participants were several young anarchists and a libertarian. The discussion began when one

of the young IWW members asked a question pertaining to the Bolshevik-led October revolution of 1917: "What would you have done differently [in order to prevent the Stalinist degeneration] of the Russian Revolution?" YS and SWP members explained the historical obstacles facing the Russian revolution. The vast economic and cultural backwardness, the underdevelopment of industry, and the huge death toll of the imperialist-backed civil war, combined with isolation due to the failure of other revolutionary struggles in Europe, led to the conditions for a bureaucratic decay of the revolution.

The YS and SWP members added that the coming revolution in the United States would find itself in a much superior situation, with a vast industrial base and a large and truly international working class.


The YS class series continues with "Fascism: What It Is and How To Fight It."

YS members have also been part of building local support actions of the United Farm Workers (UFW) for the organizing drive of agricultural workers in Washington. Recent events include a informational picket line at Costco (a large wholesale grocery outlet) and a solidarity march at Pike Place Market August 2nd to raise awareness about the Mattawa march on August 10th. The march was a great success, with activists young and old marching down the crowded street in front of the market, chanting "¡Sí Se Puede!" ("Yes We Can!").

YS members acted both as marshals leading the march and as participants. The joint organizing drive of agricultural workers by the UFW and the Teamsters union has been a central issue of the Socialist Workers campaign and an area of focus for the YS.

Alaric Dirmeyer is a member of the Seattle Young Socialists.

Join the Young Socialists



The Young Socialists is an international revolutionary youth organization of workers, students, and other young people fighting to overthrow the capitalist system and replace it with socialism. We are active in working-class struggles, fights for democratic rights, and opposing imperialist war, while studying the history of the communist movement. Join us!

For more information about the YS write to:
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Issues in UPS strike

Part-time work

BY MIKE ITALIE
AND CLINT IVIE

ATLANTA — The central issue in the UPS strike is the company's use of part-time workers. Today part-time workers account for 60 percent of the company's work force, and 83 percent of the new hires since 1993. They receive fewer benefits than full-timers, and their wages start at \$8 per hour. In comparison, full-timers average \$19.95 an hour. In fact, the part-time starting wage has been frozen at \$8 per hour since 1982. The union is demanding 10,000 more higher paying full-time jobs; the company's "best offer" is just 200 new full-time jobs per year.

On the August 10 "Face the Nation" television program, UPS Chief Executive Officer James Kelly asserted, "The part-time job at UPS is a great job. More than half of part-timers are college students, and heads of households" who need the benefits. He claimed that UPS has been an "engine" of growth for the economy and jobs.

But Atlanta strikers disagree with Kelly. Robert Gordon, 19 years old, leaves the house at 6:00 a.m. for his full-time job at Wilen Manufacturing, and gets back home at 11:00 p.m. from his part-time job at UPS. At UPS he works with so-called "irregular" packages, those weighing over 70 pounds. A Morehouse College student, studying math and engineering, Gordon pointed out that "Most workers at UPS who are in college quit. They hate the job."

Kevin Fionini, who has worked for UPS for nine and a half years, also has a different definition of part-time work from company CEO Kelly: "Anyone who works 40 to 50, even 60 hours a week needs to be full-time. The company has held a carrot over our heads and after working all these years you can't just get up and leave." Pointing to big businesses such as the grocery chain Winn Dixie, Sears department stores, and others that have expanded the use of part-time work, Fionini said Teamsters on strike against UPS "are setting an example for workers all over America."

According to Labor Department statistics, nearly 20 percent of workers in the United States are employed part-time, up from 14 percent in 1968, at median wages of roughly two-thirds those of full-time workers. These figures understate reality, however, since anyone working 35 hours a week or more is counted as full-time, even if the hours come

from two or more jobs.

The UPS bosses hoped part-time and full-time workers would see their interests as different. But many of the strongest opponents of the surge in part-time work are Teamsters who work full-time. "I've always been pro-union, but I've never been more pro-union than now with the strike," said Jena Leaver, a driver at the Pleasantdale facility. Leaver, 35, worked eight years part-time and has been a full-time driver now for four years. "Before going full-time I worked two part-time jobs here at UPS," she explained, "and everyone's scrambling for their hours. We're not trying to get rid of part-time, but there are a lot of people who want to progress — so many people working part-time 10 years is too much."

Along with the expansion of part-timers, UPS has sped up the work pace. And speedup means unsafe working conditions. Last year at UPS there were 33.8 injuries for every 100 workers — an injury rate 2.5 times the national transportation average. Cynthia Bigby, who has worked 17 years as a part-time sorter at the Fulton-Industrial facility in Atlanta, was angry about "UPS replacing full-timers who retire with part-timers. They want eight hours work to be done in five hours." The bosses say it's more efficient to employ workers for shifts of three to five hours, with no breaks, than to have regular eight-hour shifts.

Last year UPS made a profit of \$1.1 billion dollars on \$24.2 billion dollars in sales. Teamster William Boddie, who has 23 years at UPS, concluded that, "UPS makes millions of dollars off of part-time workers. You can work 60 hours a week at part-time and not make half of what a full-timer makes in 40 hours. You get one low-rated part-time job after another. If we win this strike we will show America that their jobs are worth fighting for. That's why this strike is so important."

Mike Italie is a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees. Clint Ivie is a member of the United Auto Workers and of the Young Socialists.

Pension plan

BY SALM KOLIS

NEW STANTON, Pennsylvania — Striking Teamsters have begun erecting tents



Militant/Carole Lesnick

Picket line of 250 in support of UPS strikers, Ontario, California, August 9.

near the picket lines at UPS's hub here, signaling their intention to hang tough in their battle with the shipping company.

One of the issues in the strike is over who will control the pension plan for full-time workers — the union or the company. Currently, UPS workers are part of local and regional multi-employer pension plans organized by the Teamsters. The company is demanding that the funds be switched over to a company-controlled plan for UPS workers only.

Some part-time workers on the picket line

here didn't consider the pension plan to be a big issue because they are not covered by the Teamsters plan. Others, like Al Fox, who has 10 years with UPS, felt strongly about the union controlling the plan. "The company tells part-timers 'Why do you care about the union controlling the pension plan?' I'm a Teamster, that's why I care," Fox said. "Who do you want holding your pension money — big brother or your union brother? Money from the pension plan helps us run our union. I don't want interest from the pension plan buying their planes or boosting their profits."

In the last two years the Teamster fund investments yielded over \$1 billion in extra income to help pay for benefits, according to Teamster spokesperson Jeff Cappella. UPS claims it wants to control the fund in order to provide better benefits to its employees. However, the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette* pointed to a less altruistic motive. The company's "bottom-line benefits where there are better than estimated returns on investments," an article in the daily noted.

Despite allegations in the big-business press about "mob influence" in the union, most strikers simply don't trust the company to handle the pension plan. Their mistrust is based on the treatment they have received from the company. "How can we trust them to handle the pension fund, when they are always trimming time off our paychecks?" asked part-timer Mike Dibucci.

"I don't trust this company. I've worked here 18 years. I know how they are — they have no feelings, no concern. They don't care about you," Gino Bosett declared emphatically. "Teamsters get good benefits from our pension plan. I don't know of a single Teamster that hasn't gotten his pension. Look at what Wheeling-Pitt tried to do to. I don't want the company to control decisions on the pension fund."

In the Wheeling-Pittsburgh steel strike, the big issue was over pension benefits of the substandard company-controlled plan, imposed in 1985.

Workers there have just waged a 10-month strike demanding a return to the industry standard of a fixed benefit plan. "We're scared that could happen here," explained Scott Accipiter. After 12 years of working part-time for UPS, Accipiter finally got a full-time feeder driver's job about a year ago.

"You report an accident and they ask 'How's our equipment? How are the pack-

The crisis facing working farmers today

Below we print correspondence between Nick Pell, a Young Socialist from Boston, and Doug Jenness, a longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party and the author of several titles on the crisis facing working farmers and the alliance between workers and farmers. Jenness is currently the SWP's candidate for mayor in St. Paul, Minnesota, and is a member of the United Steelworkers of America.

July 27, 1997

Doug Jenness

Greetings,

I am engaged in a discussion with a

worker who has questions about farmers. Any information you could provide or lead me to about the farm question (in particular food production in percentage of world production by small farmers) would be appreciated.

Comradely,
Nick Pell

July 30, 1997

Dear Nick,

I'm writing in response to your note inquiring about information on working farmers. You particularly are interested in figures showing the proportion of world food production that is the result of the labor of "small farmers."

I'm not sure what you have already read but there are a couple of things that would be useful to start with. They are: *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s*, Doug Jenness; *Marxism and the Working Farmer*, Jenness, et. al; and "The Crisis Facing Working Farmers," Jenness (in *New International*, No. 4). These are all available from Pathfinder.

In 1992 the proportion of labor used to produce agricultural commodities in the United States was 69 percent for exploited farm families and 31 percent for wage labor.

This doesn't represent a significant shift from what it's been for decades. Between 1930 and 1970 the figure for the labor of exploited working farmers hovered around 75 percent. There has been a slight downward trend in the use of family labor in the past 25 years and the proportion has vacillated between 65 and 70 percent since 1975. These figures are compiled from the *Statistical Abstract* published by the U.S. gov-

ernment.

I don't have comparable figures for the world. My guess would be that the proportion of agricultural output produced by exploited farmers is even higher in most other countries, particularly those oppressed by imperialism.

I'm not sure what the nature of the questions your co-worker is raising with you is, but I know there's a common misconception that the decline in the number of farmers means that family farm labor is becoming less important and is a relic of the past. I think the figures that I've presented indicate that this is not so.

As the result of advances in technology, selective breeding, and application of chemicals the output per hour for working farmers has dramatically increased.

Comradely,
Doug Jenness

August 1, 1997

Dear Comrade Jenness,

Thank you for your helpful information regarding the farm question. The question was raised by the daughter of a small farmer who lived on a farm until the late 1960s, when her father died and the farm was sold. The farm was then bought by a multinational agribusiness. This combined with her reading of pessimistic literature regarding the farm question has shaped her ideas of small farmers.

The figures were actually quite shocking to me, and I am looking forward to entering these into the dialogue with her. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Comradely,
Nick Pell

New International
THE CRISIS FACING WORKING FARMERS
by Doug Jenness

THE FIGHT FOR A WORKERS' AND FARMERS' GOVERNMENT IN THE U.S.
by Nick Pell

Land reform and farm cooperatives in Cuba
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JACK BARNES
In *New International* no. 4

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DOUG JENNESS
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(See ad on next page)

ages?" Not how are you," Accipiter said. "I don't trust them to handle the money. I used to be on the safety committee. You mention a safety problem and if it doesn't cost much they fix it, otherwise they do nothing."

In the union-controlled fund, employers pay into a common fund, and this provides some protection for workers at companies that go out of business. The company's propaganda attempts to pit UPS workers against other unionists in the Teamsters pension plan.

In an open letter to Teamsters president Ronald Carey, published in the August 12 *Wall Street Journal*, Chicago UPS director Gary MacDougal argued that the multi-employer plans "have UPS expending many millions of dollars each year that have nothing to do with UPS employees.... my bet is that as the strike drags on, the idea of 'UPS dollars for UPS people,' will gain support.

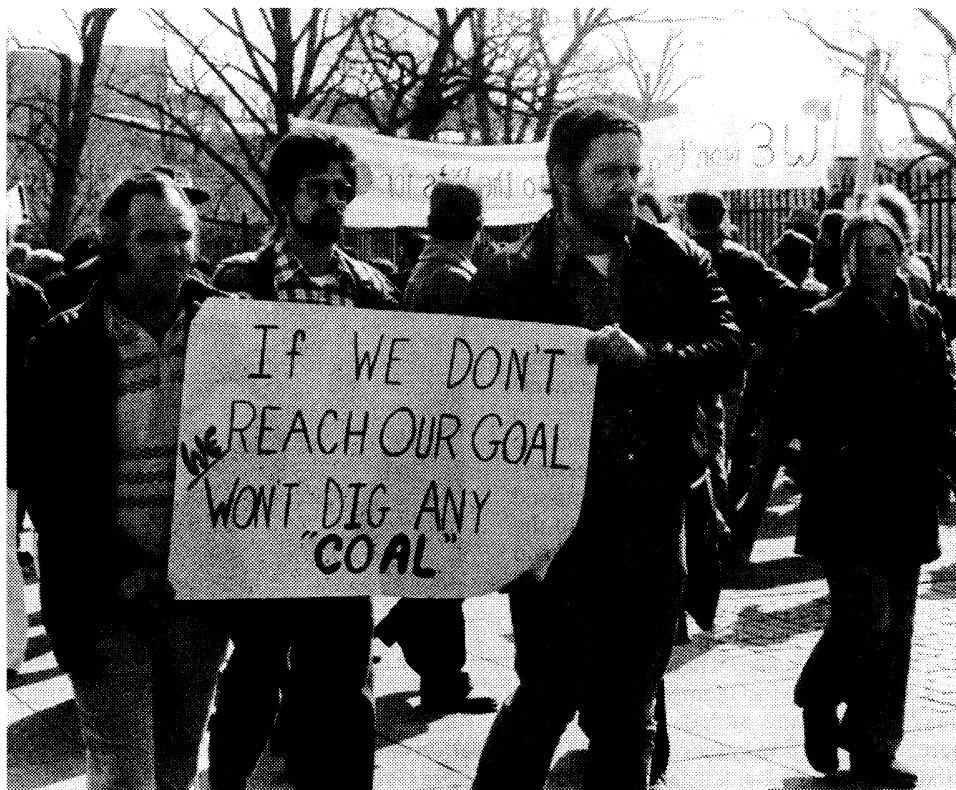
But a lot of strikers don't buy that line. "Many of the drivers here have worked for other employers before," explained Accipiter, "and their benefits were paid into the same fund so they didn't lose out when they changed jobs. Sure, UPS is a big company now, but no company is secure. My dad taught me that. He was a steelworker for 30 years and he never dreamed the industry would dry up like it has.

"This strike is a major test of union strength. With the national freight agreement coming up, other companies are watching," Accipiter continued. "I don't want the president to intervene. The government uses the Taft-Hartley law to protect the greediest companies out there. We have to stick together in this strike."

Taft-Hartley Act

BY MEGAN ARNEY

UPS has been calling on the Clinton administration to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act against the striking Teamsters. While Washington has decided not to do so at this point, it's useful to look at what this law is, how it has been used in the past, and how workers



Militant/Nancy Cole
Demonstration in Washington, D.C., to support 160,000 coal miners on strike, March 15, 1978. During that three-month-long walkout, U.S. president James Carter ordered the United Mine Workers members back to work under the Taft-Hartley Act. The miners refused to buckle, scoring a victory for the entire labor movement.

have resisted it.

Enacted on June 23, 1947, the Taft-Hartley Act was one of several antiunion measures passed under the presidency of Harry Truman in response to the massive labor upsurge that followed World War II. The labor officialdom's collaboration with the bosses during the war, including no-strike pledges, opened the door for these measures.

The Taft-Hartley Act outlawed closed union shops; required a 60-day prior notice, the so-called cooling off period, before strikes; allowed the president to set up a "fact-finding" board that could intervene in labor disputes; prohibited strikes by federal employees or workers in government-owned corporations; required unions to file with the Secretary of Labor annual financial statements, copies of their constitutions, and by-laws, full details of how all officers were

elected and their initiation fees and dues; and demanded that officers of local, national, and international unions file an affidavit swearing they were not members of the Communist Party and did not support any organization advocating overthrow of the government by force or any "unconstitutional" means. The Act gave the president the power to intervene directly to break a strike if he deemed the walkout threatened to "imperil the national health or safety."

As soon as it was passed, the Taft-Hartley Act met stiff resistance from workers — 212,000 miners in five states struck in protest in the summer of 1947. But the law has remained in the books ever since.

Democrat James Carter was the last U.S. president to use the Taft-Hartley Act. He invoked it against the 1977-78 strike by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). Some 160,000 miners walked out nation-

wide on Dec. 6, 1977, for the right to strike, full-time union health and safety committee persons paid by the company, a six-hour workday, expanded health benefits, equal pensions for all retired miners, and a substantial wage increase.

After three months on the picket lines, Carter ordered the miners back to work under Taft-Hartley. The terms of the injunction prohibited all union officers and staff from "continuing, encouraging, ordering, aiding, or taking part in" the strike. The order banned any activity "interfering with or affecting the continuance of work in the bituminous coal industry."

The government warned that anyone not complying would be fined or jailed. Food stamps would be cut off for strikers, since their walkout was now "illegal."

Government officials announced that state troopers, the National Guard, the FBI, and even federal troops were ready to move against anyone who interfered with production or transportation of coal.

On March 13, 1978, — the first day the injunction took effect — the companies admitted that less than 100 miners in the entire country showed up for work.

No one was jailed.

No one was fined.

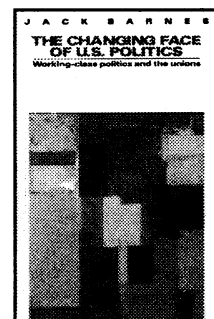
No coal was mined.

And the government was powerless to enforce its order.

The very next day the mining companies came up with a new contract proposal dropping provisions in earlier offers for disciplining wildcat strikers, limiting the authority of union safety committees, instituting probation period for new miners, and a series of other "givebacks." While the union did not win all its demands, the miners did block the bosses' offensive and shattered the employers dream of housebreaking the UMWA.

The utter defeat of the Taft-Hartley injunction was dramatized when — as the miners prepared to vote on the third contract proposal — the federal judge who issued the order refused to renew it. The miners were "not paying any attention to what I do anyhow," he admitted.

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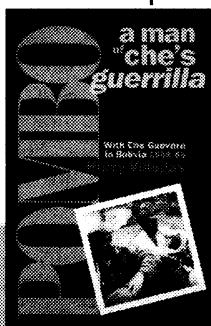
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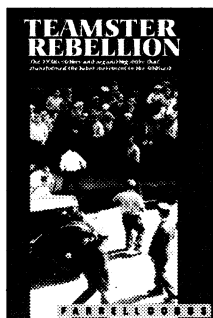
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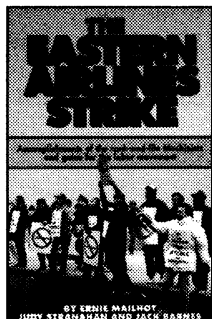
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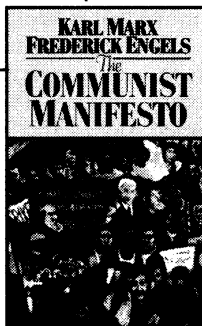
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Fighters need Pathfinder books and the 'Militant'

BY SARA LOBMAN

Socialist workers and youth are finding that the strike by Teamster members at UPS is opening up new opportunities to sell the *Militant* and its Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*, as well as Pathfinder books and pamphlets. It also can give an impetus to the campaign to convince readers of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* to renew their subscriptions.

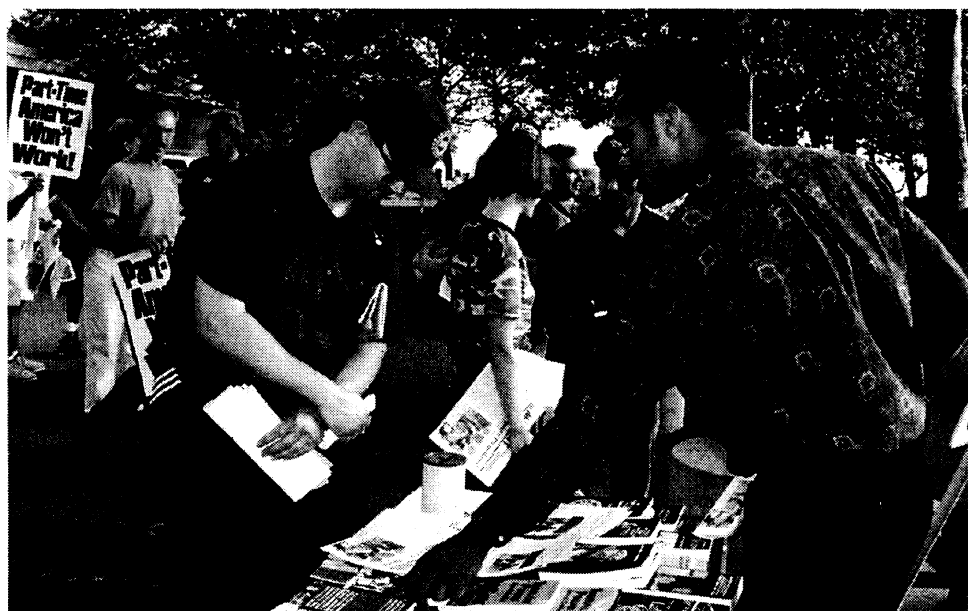
At the beginning of August, supporters of the socialist press launched a campaign to sell copies of Pathfinder's newest title; *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'* by Harry Villegas, which is the story of the 1966-68 revolutionary campaign in Bolivia; *At the Side of Che Guevara*, also by Villegas; and *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* by Jack Barnes, which is now available in Spanish as well as English. These books are available at a special discount for \$16 each for strikers and members of the Pathfinder Readers Club.

With 185,000 Teamsters on the picket lines, Pathfinder is also offering a special 30 percent discount to strikers and Readers Club members of the four-volume Teamster series by Farrell Dobbs (see ad on page 5). Written by a leader of the communist movement in the United States and an organizer of the Teamsters union during the rise of the CIO, these books take up the 1930s strikes and organizing drive that transformed the unions in much of the Midwest into a fighting industrial union movement.

Jim Altenberg reports from San Francisco that socialists there are making a special effort to reach strikers on the picket lines to show support for the strike and get out the socialist press. "We hold nightly meetings where the day's developments are discussed and from which we send teams out to the picket lines, working class communities, and political meetings taking place in the area." A large calendar is posted in the Pathfinder Bookstore, showing strike activities, meetings and other events. "There's been barbecues organized by the Teamsters all over the area," Larry Lane added. "And tonight there's a rally in San Francisco and the UPS strikers are sending a delegation to address my union meeting." Lane is a member of International Association of Machinists.

The bookstore in San Francisco didn't wait for the national special on the Teamster series. So far, one striker has purchased a set and another ordered cloth copies of the four books. "This book looks like one I won't be able to put down," a third striker said as he bought a copy of *Teamster Rebellion*.

Helen Meyers reports from Chicago that a team of socialist workers from that city traveled to Peoria, Illinois, to discuss the UPS strike with readers of the *Militant* there. One reader engaged the socialists in a wide-ranging political discussion. Was capitalism gaining ground in the world? Could workers really resist the bosses' attacks? What kind of leadership would it take to make a revolution? Out of the discussion, the *Militant* reader bought a copy each of *Pombo: A*



Militant/Margrethe Siem
Brock Satter (right), Socialist Workers candidate for New Jersey state assembly, sells *Militant* and Pathfinder books at August 13 rally for UPS strikers in Jersey City.

Man of Che's 'Guerrilla' and *At the Side of Che Guevara*.

A team of four socialists campaigning at a Conrail yard in Newark, New Jersey, sold out of their bundle of six copies of the *Militant*, Martín Koppel reports. This was a big increase in sales over previous weeks. "Our sign alone, reading 'Support UPS strike — Socialist Workers campaign,' drew honks and waves from workers in passing cars and trucks," Koppel noted.

Bob Miller, the Socialist Workers candidate for governor of New Jersey and a member of the United Auto Workers union at Ford in Edison, New Jersey, reports that since the beginning of the UPS strike, workers at his plant have bought one copy of *Rostro cambiante de la Política en Estados Unidos*, one copy of *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'*, two copies of *At the Side of Che Guevara*, and seven copies of the *Militant*.

Miller also reports that UPS strikers in

Edison bought 10 copies of the *Militant* one night last week. And a couple of workers from the *New York Times* printing plant in Edison, who were visiting the picket line, teamed up to get a subscription.

Pathfinder reports that about 70 copies of *Teamster Rebellion* have been sold to bookstores across the United States since the strike began. A little less than half of these are to Pathfinder bookstores. A bookstore in New York, part of a large national chain, called a few days into the strike to order one each of the Teamster books. The buyer explained that a customer had just come in and bought the entire set. A college bookstore in Chicago sent in an order for 35 copies for use in a class. While the professor had placed the order before the strike began, the sale should serve as a reminder of the opportunities to convince professors to use titles like these in their classes, thus getting them into the hands of hundreds more youth.

U.S. gov't acts to help UPS withstand strike

Continued from Page 2
ity."

UPS workers received a copy of the final offer in the mail with their last check. Bunny Swartz, a part-timer who's worked at a UPS facility in Philadelphia for three years, said "you really have to read the fine print. They claim it's a good deal, but part-timers would get a pension that is for the worse," she said.

Another Philadelphia striker, Dan, said, "The union ought to encourage people to vote on the offer. Let the people take it home and crunch the numbers themselves and see how bad it is."

UPS claims the Teamsters are undemocratic by blocking their members from voting. However, this has gotten little support from strikers. The call for a national strike vote took place at a rally of 1,000 Teamsters in Louisville on June 28. In preparation for the strike, hundreds of rallies were held at UPS facilities around the country. In mid-July, Teamsters at UPS voted by more than 95 percent to give the union negotiating team the authority to call a nationwide strike unless a fair contract could be reached.

In a live CNN interview August 12, Frank Folito, a Teamster striker from Local 804 in New York City, was asked what he thought about UPS's demand that the rank and file vote on the company offer. He said, "We all voted. We're right here on the picket line."

The big-business media played up a development in Washington, Pennsylvania, where small minority of strikers carried signs reading, "Let Us Vote." In Salt Lake City, the Associated Press reported "Another counter-protest was held today in Salt Lake City, organized by striking driver, Mike Norton, who also wants to vote on the company proposal. Norton and 10 others took part, but they were outnumbered by about 120 Teamsters who marched around them shouting, 'We support the strike.'"

In another attempt to divide the unionists, UPS spokeswoman Susan Rosenberg, announced August 12 that if the walkout was not settled by the end of the week, the company would cut 15,000 jobs after the strike. This comes on top of threats by the package giant that recently hired workers who are not yet in the union would be fired if they did not report to work.

In response, the union received backing from top AFL-CIO officials. President John Sweeney said at a Washington D.C. press conference, "We will be contacting all of our local presidents and before the week is out

we will have enough loan commitments from other unions large and small to finance the worker side of this confrontation for a long strike if that's what it takes." Teamster strikers receive \$55 a week in strike benefits, totaling around \$10 million a week.

Gov't acts to keep struck work moving

While the U.S. government casts itself in the role of "neutral" arbitrator, it is clearer every day that Washington is working to deliver what would normally be UPS mail, and thereby weaken the strike. "This is week two of the strike and its impact is being felt by workers, the company, and small business more with each passing day," said Labor Secretary Alexis Herman. "The administration is seriously engaged in bringing both parties back to the table, the only place a solution will be reached."

The Clinton administration has so far rejected calls by UPS for government intervention to end the strike under the Taft-Hartley Act. In addition, Herman warned UPS that the government was against hiring replacement workers for the 185,000 striking Teamsters. "I certainly believe that that is one action that could escalate this strike, that could make it more difficult."

Washington is instead trying to ease the crisis by using its resources to deliver the mail. The main vehicle for doing this is through beefing up the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). "The Postal Service is now delivering dramatically increased volumes of mail that rival those we experience during the Christmas period," said a USPS spokesperson. In the Chicago area, 17 post offices were delivering packages this past Sunday, a move that is being repeated nationally.

The government is pressing postal workers to waive contract limits on hiring temporary workers. The Associated Press reported August 13, "The post office was able to hire temporary workers by declaring emergency conditions in selected cities, thus allowing it to sidestep an American Postal Workers Union veto of hiring such workers to handle business brought in by the strike."

Private companies are joining in this effort. In the name of moving mail, the airlines are attempting to fly packages usually shipped via UPS. According to *USA TODAY*, United Airlines "for the first time is running national ads for same-day delivery of packages up to 70 pounds and 90 linear inches." A United passenger was told "she couldn't ship her two dogs when she flies in

two weeks because it was saving room for packages." Other airlines such as TWA and Kiwi Air Lines, are also aiding this effort. In Chicago, Greyhound has "roughly tripled its package shipping since the strike started," according to the *Chicago Tribune*.

In San Francisco, United management are pushing airline workers, organized by the International Association of Machinists (IAM), to load as much as possible. "What was already an increased summer 'high passenger volume' speedup has intensified measurably," said IAM ramp worker Norton Sandler. In addition to luggage, planes are being filled to the gills with packages crammed into mail sacks. Rail workers report that many freight cars are being moved onto sidings off the main track to clear room for trains hauling mail.

Teamsters get out word on fight

In Chicago, Teamster striker Dave Healy, a full-time driver and picket captain, said strikers have been able to convince different kinds of non-UPS drivers from delivering goods to the Jefferson facility. "A cement truck driver turned back after we talked to him and also a guy delivering food to management inside," said Healy.

"We've also used portable pickets. We follow UPS trucks and set up pickets where they try to deliver," said Healy. "That's how we're taking the strike public. We got the idea for the portable pickets from another Teamster-organized strike in Chicago last year." Healy said that McCormick Place, a giant convention center in downtown Chicago, which is organized by Local 714 of the Teamsters, is not accepting any UPS shipments for the duration of the strike.

In Boston striking members of Teamster Local 25 have organized "walking pickets," which visit shop owners in the city and surrounding areas asking for their support and explaining the issues in the strike.

Teamster Local 710, which organizes about 4,300 workers in central Illinois, is the only local organized at UPS that did not strike. In response to this, members of Teamster Local 627 (who don't work at UPS) set up pickets at most UPS centers in central Illinois. Within a few days, work at UPS depots had ground to a halt.

In some cities judges have slapped injunctions on the Teamsters pickets. In St. Paul the injunction allows for three pickets per gate and in Miami strikers are limited to five strikers on the picket line.

Police violence against strikers has also picked up. In Boston, Janice Loux, the president of Local 26 Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, had her arm broken by a cop as she was arrested while joining strikers trying to prevent UPS managers from driving trucks through the picket line.

A striker was beaten up and arrested by Massachusetts state police at the picket line at Logan Airport August 8. Dozens of pickets have been arrested in southeastern Massachusetts since the strike began.

In Miami four men were arrested, two of them strikers, and charged with attempted murder for allegedly stabbing a UPS driver who crossed the picket line.

In the Chicago area UPS has been advertising in the papers for replacement workers. The August 11 *Chicago Sun-Times* ran a classified ad, "Warehouse — Act Now — UPS accepting inquiries. The phone number listed for more information explains that the 'job is very physical and requires lifting up to 70 pounds or more and would be 15 to 25 hours per week.'"

Chicago UPS striker Earl Romero said that a worker came to the plant reporting for his first day of work. "I told him we were on strike and asked him to honor our picket," said Romero. "He agreed and turned his car around. If he had crossed, he would have weakened our struggle."

Talks between UPS and the Teamsters, which broke off early in the strike, were scheduled to resume August 14, but with no indication that either side was backing down.

Meanwhile, striking Teamster workers are making it clear they will continue this fight to the end. "You know how labor went to sleep," said Eugene Phillips, a 43-year-old feeder driver from a UPS plant in Northbrook, Illinois, "not just our union but most unions have allowed our wages and working conditions to slip. Now we are looking at the damage. Unions have to get a lot stronger because the next fight will be larger and more difficult."

Contributors to this article include Elena Tate from Boston; UAW member Cappy Kidd and Maggie Perrier from Chicago; UTU member Geoff Mirelowitz from Seattle; UAW member Carole Lesnick from Los Angeles; UNITE member Deborah Liatos from New York; UNITE member Pete Seidman from Philadelphia; IAM member Janet Post from Miami; and IAM member Norton Sandler from San Francisco.

Young Socialists protest FBI harassment

Continued from Page 8

attack not only on my democratic rights, but on all working people. And, the company is as much a part of this attack for letting the FBI into the plant to interrogate me. And then, behind my back, at least one supervisor answered questions to the FBI about my whereabouts during the bombing."

Company managers claim the FBI harassment is an issue solely between Ivie and the government and they were in no way involved, in spite of the fact that they allowed the FBI to interrogate him.

Ivie offered advice to any of his co-workers or other workers or youth that find themselves in his situation. "After thinking it over, I know I made a mistake. My advice to is never talk to the FBI. Don't go into a room with them. Don't even go near the room unless you have your shop steward with you or legal representation. The FBI will try to intimidate you, turn your words

around and make you answer questions that are irrelevant. You have nothing to gain from it, and you have a right not to talk to them. Because I initially responded to their questions, they accomplished part of their objective. They established that it's acceptable for the FBI to walk into anyone's workplace and interrogate them.

"There are probably hundreds of other workers being treated the same way," he added. "I'm not just standing up for myself but for anybody who faces FBI intimidation. All workers should stand up and fight and let the government know we are not going to stand for this harassment."

Doug Nelson, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta and a leader of the Young Socialists, also spoke at the press conference. The 22-year-old member of the United Steelworkers of America declared, "The interrogation of Clint Ivie has nothing to do with the bombing at Centen-

nial Park. Instead, this action has to do with the mounting conflicts between the labor movement on the one side, and the employers and their government on the other. The government is worried about the resistance of working people to the effects of the growing crisis of capitalism."

"Even before the Olympics," Nelson explained, "the government used the threat of terrorism to justify the massive presence of cops, intrusions on democratic rights, and increased questioning of working people. At the time of the Olympics my party pointed out this threat to workers rights."

Nelson's campaign is demanding that the FBI publicly repudiate the threats and accusations against Clint Ivie, and called upon Mayor Bill Campbell and City Council President Marvin Arrington to join him in speaking out against this attack.

After Ivie and Nelson read their statements, Ivie fielded questions from report-

ers for a half hour. Some of his co-workers continued to stop by to show their support and listen to his answers.

"Have you visited the UPS picket lines?" asked the reporter from ABC-affiliate WSB-TV. "Yes — three times so far," responded Ivie. "At this plant, we are represented by the United Auto Workers. Like other unions, the UAW has been part of workers' resistance, including a number of local strikes against General Motors over the past year. The idea that the FBI can just walk into the workplace and interrogate a union member is not just a threat to me, but is a serious threat to the entire union. However, I want to firmly state that this attempt to intimidate me has failed."

Keith Puckett, a co-worker of Ivie's pointed out, "Clint is a strong person who stands up for what he believes in. They're going after him, the same way as they go after the Teamsters, telling UPS customers and the media that union members are the problem."

"The FBI is out of line," said Tim Parker, another Lear worker. "Everyone wants this case to be over, but what they did to Clint yesterday was wrong."

The *Journal Constitution* reporter, Ron Martz, asked, "Where were you during the bombing?" Ivie answered "I was in Cuba [for the U.S.-Cuba Youth Exchange] along with 130 other young people learning about the Cuban revolution."

Jack Willey is a member of the Young Socialists National Executive Committee. Arlene Rubinstein is a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees in Atlanta.

Socialist candidates call for solidarity

Continued from front page

speedup, and the use of more "temporary" hiring to ship packages that would normally be handled by the striking Teamsters. UPS normally handles 80 percent of packages shipped in the United States.

If this shipping capacity is paralyzed, affecting industries and trades of all kinds, a lot of pressure will come down on the company to settle quickly. The employers and their government hope that with a little breathing room, UPS can make an example of the strikers by dealing a punishing blow to the Teamsters and to all labor.

For workers who want to fight, conditions are better today. The almost two-decade retreat of the labor movement has bottomed out, with a more combative mood among broader layers of working people today. After going through years of concessions, speed-up, layoffs, and other attacks on their livelihood, growing numbers of workers have begun to say: Enough, it's time to stand our ground and fight back.

The relatively low unemployment rate, together with record profits for the employers, are giving workers a bit more confidence that it's worth it and possible to wage a fight. The Teamsters walkout is the first major, nationwide strike to take place in this new, slightly more favorable climate among the ranks. Millions of working people — union and unorganized — are glad to see workers standing up to an employer like UPS. Many would like to do the same.

The capitalist class sees the stakes in this fight too. They are willing to let one of their number — UPS — take big financial losses if it can advance their overall class interests against the working class and our defensive

organizations, the unions. The bosses are driven to wage this assault in order to boost their sagging rates of profit by intensifying the exploitation of labor. This is what the owners of Caterpillar had hoped to achieve a couple years ago against the United Auto Workers. Instead, the nearly 18-month strike there was a real fight and ended in a stalemate. Workers went back into the plants with their heads unbowed and their union intact. Skirmishes continue and the company is still not able to impose its "final offer" with impunity.

The 185,000 Teamsters at UPS — part-time and full-time together, encompassing all nationalities, generations, and experiences — are standing up for the working class as a whole.

This strike is a day-to-day battle. Every day the bosses muster their forces and fire their propaganda, seeking ways to divide and weaken the strike — cynically calling for a "democratic" vote on their lousy contract, trying to pit UPS workers against others in the Teamster pension plan, attempting to intimidate strikers with the specter of scabs, and other maneuvers.

The labor movement needs to vigorously answer each and every one of these lies, and hold up the banner of solidarity with the UPS strikers. We encourage all workers, farmers, young rebels, and others to join the picket lines and labor rallies. Invite strikers to speak to your union or school.

As Socialist Workers candidates, we are using our campaigns to help get out the facts about the strike and promote solidarity among fellow working people. In the factories where we work and in the streets, we and our supporters are campaigning to sell the books and newspapers that fighters today need.

We urge those reading the *Militant*, the socialist weekly that tells the truth about the UPS strike and other battles by workers and farmers around the world, to sell this paper and get it around. Order a bundle of this special strike supplement.

Use the special discount offers by Pathfinder Press to encourage strikers, co-workers, and others to arm themselves with *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*, *Pompo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'*, and other books that explain how our class can take on the ruling rich and win.

The Teamsters fight is our fight! All out to support the UPS strikers!

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Speakers include participants in the recent World Youth Festival held in Havana, Cuba; and Pathfinder representatives.

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Caoimhghin O'Caolain, TD
Friday, Sept. 5, 7:00 p.m.
Roseland Ballroom 239 52nd St.
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San Francisco

Martin McGuinness, MP
Saturday, Sept. 6, 8:00 p.m.
The Russian Centre 2460 Sutter
St. Donation: \$20.

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Saturday, Sept. 6, 7:00 p.m.
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600 W. Washington St.
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Special from 9:00-10:00 p.m.
presentation will be in Irish.

For more information call the Sinn Fein offices in Washington, D.C., at 202-547-8883.

Farm workers say: 'Union yes!'

BY NAN BAILEY

MATTAWA, Washington — About 1,500 farmworkers, agricultural warehouse workers, and their supporters marched and rallied here August 10 under banners and signs in Spanish that read: "Union Yes!", "An organized worker is a respected worker," and "Fair wages in the apple industry."

This was the largest of several marches for farmworkers rights in Washington state this spring and summer. A rally followed the spirited five-mile march. Several Mexicans and Chicanos joined the march as it passed through their trailer park. Speakers included Tomás Villanueva, former president of the United Farm Workers (UFW) in Washington state. "We are here to demand respect, dignity, and a better life for workers and their families," Villanueva said.

Other speakers were Rosario Vicente Caldillo of the UFW organizing committee in Mattawa; María González, a worker at Washington Fruit Warehouse, one of the targets of a Teamster organizing drive currently underway in the Yakima valley; state representative Phyllis Kinney; Roberto Maestras of El Centro de La Raza community center in Seattle; and Jeff Johnson of the state labor council of the AFL-CIO.



1,500 apple workers and their supporters rally in Mattawa, Washington, August 10.

When UFW organizer Lupe Gamboa asked those assembled "How many here today are farmworkers?", about a quarter of

the crowd raised their hands. Gonzalo Guillén, another speaker, pointed with admiration to the strike against UPS currently

taking place as an example for farmworkers. Guillén was a strike activist in 1987, who took part in activities to support about a dozen strikes by farmworkers in the Yakima valley that year.

Almost every speaker referred to recent victories for farmworkers. In June of this year, for example, during the apple thinning season, unorganized workers at R.T. Perry and King Fuji Ranch stopped work, set up picket lines, and called the UFW to join them in demanding a wage increase. They picketed for a few days while negotiations went on with the bosses. At both sites strikers scored victories and won \$1 an hour wage increases for the workers.

A central demand of the August 10 rally was raising the rates apple pickers get paid for every bin of fruit, which have remained virtually the same for 20 years. Workers are demanding \$15 per bin for red apples, and \$20 per bin for golden and green apples.

Socialist Workers candidates in Seattle, including Scott Breen running for mayor, Roberta Scherr for city council, and Chris Rayson for port commissioner joined the march and rally. They urged solidarity and support for workers in the Yakima valley, and for Teamsters members striking UPS.

Ontario public workers plan actions against antilabor bill

BY GREG STANTEN
AND AHMAD HAGHIGHAT

TORONTO — Half a million public-sector workers in Ontario, including teachers and hospital workers, are gearing up for strikes and other actions to resist a new attack on their union by Ontario's provincial government of Conservative premier Michael Harris. The latest assault against labor is codified in Bill 136, recently introduced in state legislature, which calls for curtailing the right to strike and gives the government greater leeway to layoff union members and decertify union locals.

Many union locals across the province have voted in favor of strike action against the proposed legislation. "We have some clear actions ahead of us," said Ron Poynters, a hospital worker from Hamilton and a shop steward in the Canadian Union of Public Employees. "The rank and file is prepared to strike. Over 80 percent voted to strike to fight the government."

On July 28, the Ontario Federation of Labor (OFL) held a "special emergency" convention for the first time in its 40-year history. The four-hour gathering took place here. A total of 2,475 delegates and guests attended, double the initial projection.

"There are times when we have to fight for our rights," said Norm Lucas, a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 8782. "That's why I came to this convention. I've never been to a demonstration but I can no longer sit and watch." Lucas has worked at Stelco, a major steel producer in Hamilton, for more than 20 years.

The convention was called to discuss and approve a plan to oppose Bill 136, known as the "Public Sector Transition Stability Act." The Ontario government introduced the proposal June 3 and aims to get it adopted soon after the legislature convenes in mid-August. The bill creates two new government commissions, consisting solely of government appointees. Employers of public-sector workers would have the power to refer bargaining issues to the "Disputes Resolution Commission." The workers would lose the right to strike over the next four years. Management-labor disputes are to be resolved through binding arbitration. In making its determination, the new commission is required to consider "the employer's ability to pay" and whether union members provide services that are "affordable for taxpayers."

Another group, the Labour Relations Transition Commission, is to be created to deal with a wide variety of restructuring issues in the province, resulting from the aus-

terity policies put in place by the Ontario government. Due to the forced amalgamation of municipalities and school boards and the closing and merger of large numbers of hospitals in the province, many public-sector union locals will be merged, occasionally with non-unionized workers. The Transition Commission is responsible for determining the union representation of the new, merged locals — including the possibility of ending union representation altogether.

Leslie Saunders, a lab technologist at the Oshawa General Hospital and a member of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), said, "The government has laid off nurses at the hospital. They will privatize the labs if they can. If that happens, we won't have successor rights to a union under Bill 136. Someone is going to die from the health cuts."

OPSEU's 70,000 members conducted a militant strike against government cutbacks in social services, including layoffs, last winter. They will vote on a proposal to strike against Bill 136 September 30.

The proposed legislation is the next step in the Ontario government's two-year-long

attack on social services and on union rights won through struggles by labor over several decades. Previously, the government legalized the use of scabs, banned by the former government of the New Democratic Party, a social democratic party. A bill that targets teachers, similar to 136, is now being prepared.

In addition to the OFL-affiliated unions, a wide range of unaffiliated private and public sector unions sent representatives to the conference. Most notable was the presence of several of the province's teachers' unions and the nurses' association. Many community groups were in attendance, as well as representatives from the United Farm Workers and supporters of the Argentine teachers' federation.

The proposed plan of action, entitled "The Last Straw," was overwhelmingly approved by the delegates. It consists of a wide variety of protest activities, including organizing public hearings, lobbying both municipal and provincial politicians, and a province-wide media campaign. Public protests are also planned for August 18, when the Ontario legislature re-opens, and on Labour Day. Delegates also voted to relaunch the

Days of Action, including protests in North Bay (Sept. 26-27) and Windsor (Oct. 17). These were a series of protests against the anti-labor drive led by Micheal Harris, which involved hundreds of thousands of unionized and unorganized workers last year, but tapered off after the Oct. 25-26 Days of Action in Toronto.

The OFL convention resolution also calls for political protest actions in public-sector workplaces, including coordinated and complete work stoppages. Chants of "strike, strike, strike" resounded in the convention hall as delegates expressed their determination to defeat the legislation.

Many delegates view the fight as a step towards reelecting the New Democratic Party in the provincial government. Ontario NDP leader Howard Hampton drew strong applause when he addressed the convention.

Following the gathering, delegates and guests marched to the provincial legislature building at Queen's Park to draw attention to Bill 136 and to the resolve of the union movement to fight it.

Ahmad Haghighat is a member of the United Steelworkers of America Local 8670.

Young Socialists protest FBI probe against auto worker in Atlanta

BY JACK WILLEY
AND ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

ATLANTA — On Monday, August 11, at 10:30 a.m., two Federal Bureau of Investigation agents interrogated Clint Ivie, a 25-year-old auto worker, at his workplace, Lear Seating Corp. The FBI agents claimed Ivie was a suspect in the July 1996 bombing during the Olympic games in Centennial Park here.

Ivie, a member of the United Auto Workers and Young Socialists, was pulled off the line by the company human resources manager and taken to a room alone with the two agents. He initially engaged in discussion. When they began asking him questions, however, Ivie refused to answer. The agents threatened the young worker, stating that if he refused to answer their questions they could serve him with a subpoena and bring him in front of a grand jury. At that point, Ivie walked out of the room.

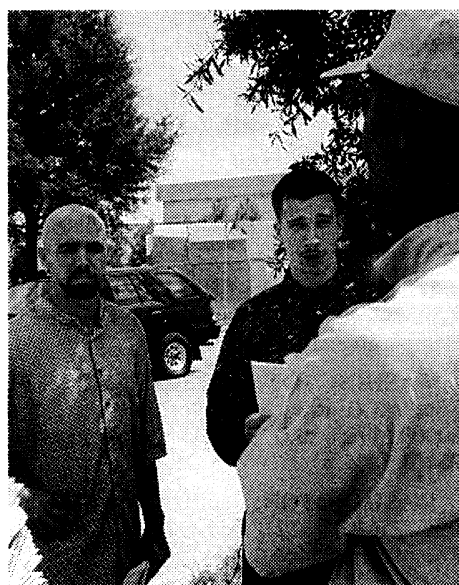
The next day Ivie held a press conference in front of Lear Seating to protest this attack on his democratic rights. A dozen co-

workers supporting Ivie, along with members of the Young Socialists and Socialist Workers Party, participated. Other workers honked horns and shouted out in support of Ivie while driving out of the plant parking lot. "Give 'em hell, Clint, they've messed up," one yelled during the press conference. Another called the harassment "bogus."

The Atlanta *Journal Constitution* and ABC affiliate WSB-TV attended the press conference. Radio stations WGST and WRFG took statements from Ivie. Lear Seating, which permitted the FBI to use its premises to interrogate Ivie, denied him permission to hold his press conference on the company's property. Minutes before the event got started, the company sent out five workers to cover its six-foot sign completely with cardboard. They moved a semi-truck that had the company name emblazoned on the trailer out of the view of cameras.

At the press conference, Ivie stated, "This action by the FBI, coming into my workplace to interrogate a union member, is an

Continued on Page 7



Clint Ivie (left) and Doug Nelson talk to reporters outside Lear Seating plant in Atlanta.