

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

20,000 sign to put socialists
on ballot in NY: 10,000 to go!

— PAGE 5

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 64/NO.31 AUGUST 14, 2000

¡Sí se puede! Minnesota meat packers win union

New UFCW members at Dakota prepare to fight for contract



Photo: Courtesy of UFCW Local 789

Workers with pro-union T-shirts gather at UFCW Local 789 union hall the evening before July 21 representation election at Dakota Premium Foods in St. Paul, Minnesota. The meat packers voted for the union 112-71. Above photo appears on union web site.

BY TOM FISHER

SOUTH ST. PAUL, Minnesota—"Sí se puede! 112 to 71! We won!"

The voice of union president Bill Pearson came over the public address system to 30 meat packers who had gathered at the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 789 union hall in South St. Paul to get the news of the outcome of the union representation election.

Everyone took a few seconds to absorb the news in order to be sure of the outcome. Applause and shouts broke out. The announcement was translated into Spanish, the language of the big majority of the meat packers. More shouts and more applause.

The meat packers at Dakota Premium

Foods here had consolidated the gains of their previous struggles against the company by voting for the union.

Twenty minutes later, 10 of the leaders of the meat packers, members of the in-plant organizing committee, arrived. They had just come from the company cafeteria, where the voting had taken place. More applause, shouts, and handshakes of congratulations.

Now there would be a fight for a union contract, to continue to strengthen the fight against the employers' ongoing attacks on the workers. The company has vowed repeatedly that they will never negotiate a contract with the union.

The July 21 vote was the culmination of a seven-week organizing campaign in this

plant, where 200 meat packers, the majority Spanish-speaking immigrants, slaughter and process cattle. Workers initiated the union drive after carrying out a seven-hour sit-down strike June 1.

The strike and launching of the union drive were the meat packers' response to deep attacks by the company. Many workers say the speed of production doubled over the previous six months. A number of workers were asked to do the jobs previously done by two people. Several complained they were forced to continue working while injured.

As a consequence of the June 1 sit-down strike, in which they gathered at the com-

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Unionists rally in Denver for UMW strikers

BY JACK PARKER

DENVER—More than 100 striking coal miners and their supporters held a spirited rally here July 26 in front of Pittsburg and Midway's national headquarters. The miners are on strike at P&M's Kemmerer mine in Wyoming and McKinley mine in New Mexico.

They chanted "No contract, No work" and carried signs that said, "Chevron's record on human rights: murder in Nigeria, discrimination on the Navajo Nation, scabs in Wyoming." Pittsburg and Midway (P&M) is owned by Chevron.

The action was sponsored by Denver Jobs with Justice, which is affiliated to the AFL-CIO.

Three miners came all the way from North River, a P&M mine near Birmingham, Alabama, to show their support. "Every ground person is wearing a red ribbon to show their solidarity with the strikers," Carl Yerby told the *Militant*. "We can't strike, but we can tell the company where we stand."

Head Sánchez was one of two miners who came to the rally from the York Canyon mine in Raton, New Mexico. York Canyon is the other P&M mine organized by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). "We will back the Kemmerer and McKinley strikers all the way," Sánchez told the rally.

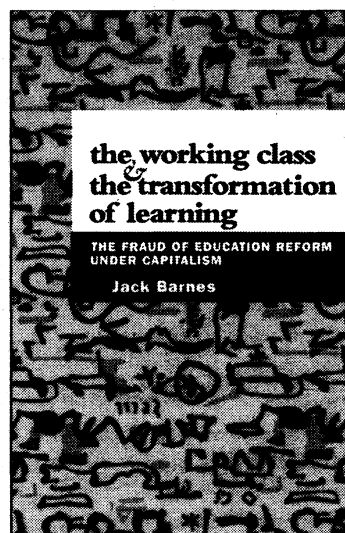
Jim Vilos, a member of UMW Local

1307 who has worked at the Kemmerer mine for more than 27 years, told the crowd, "Chevron wants to bully us, but I would like to tell the brothers from McKinley that we

are rock-solid behind you. We are fighting for our rights, for a fair contract, for fair wages, for health care for all, and we will

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NEW!
FROM PATHFINDER



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The Fraud of Education Reform under Capitalism

By Jack Barnes

"Until society is reorganized so that education is a human activity from the time we are very young until the time we die, there will be no education worthy of working, creating humanity. That is the historic truth." \$3

Available from bookstores
listed on page 8.

Thousands in Okinawa say 'no' to U.S. bases

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

"U.S. Bases Out," read the yellow vests worn by many protesters in a July 20 demonstration by 27,000 people on the Japanese island of Okinawa. Local residents seized the occasion of the summit there by the Group of Eight—seven imperialist powers plus the Russian government—to press their demand for the removal of the bases.

They linked arms in a chain around the U.S. Kadena Air Base perimeter fence, which stretches 11 miles through central Okinawa.

Among the demonstrators was a representative of the fishermen of Vieques, Puerto Rico, who have been fighting to get the U.S. Navy out of their land since World War II.

"The U.S. military owns our land, our sea, and our sky," said one angry Okinawan. Many protesters wore red, symbolically showing the bases a "red card"—used by soccer referees to instruct an offending player to leave the field.

Thirty-nine U.S. military installations—three-quarters of the total in Japan—are located on Okinawa, occupying nearly one-fifth of its area. More than half the 48,000 Japan-based U.S. troops are on the island, which constitutes less than 1 percent of Japan's land mass, and is the country's poorest region.

Fishermen, farmers, and other working people in Okinawa have long opposed the U.S. bases, which were built following World War II while the island remained under U.S. control. Washington returned Okinawa to Japan in 1972 but kept its

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Immigrants in Georgia town protest arrest of workers

BY ANN PARKER

SMYRNA, Georgia—More than 500 immigrant workers and their family members mobilized July 17 for a city council meeting here to show solidarity with six Mexican-born bricklayers. They packed the city council room and crowded into the vestibule to watch the meeting on a television, while another 100 waited outside.

"This shows that we're not alone, that we're united," declared Oscar Reséndiz, 34, a drywall installer, who attended the meeting with his wife and daughter.

They were protesting the handcuffing, arrest, and jailing last month of the six workers, five men and one woman, under a little-known and rarely used city ordinance prohibiting home construction and repair after 6:00 p.m. According to Raúl González, one of the workers arrested, a man who is white, leveling a lot next to where they were working, was not cited or arrested. Police claim they were not sure if the workers heard their warning.

Many came to the meeting in work clothes. Construction workers—dry wallers,

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How U.S. militarization drive led to 2nd world war— page 7

YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD

YSers join protests, picket line in Mississippi

BY JUSTIN HOVEY

TUSCALOOSA, Alabama—Young Socialist members from Birmingham and Tuscaloosa, Alabama, protested the lynching death of 17-year-old Raynard Johnson alongside workers and youth in Mississippi and collected signatures to place the Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot in that state.

The YS participated in rallies and marches in both Kokomo and Columbia, Mississippi, demanding justice for Johnson, a Black youth whose body was found hanging from a tree in his front yard. At these actions we had the chance to link up with other young fighters and workers from all across the South.

Both rallies were largely attended by working people, many of them youth. John White, a 17-year-old high school student, said, "It could happen to me. I am here today to take a stand, and I want to make sure this never happens again."

Similarly, Shannon Rochsa, a 17-year-old high school student, said, "Ending racism is of necessity. Justice must be served," emphasizing that protest rallies were important.

Local police have declared the Black youth's hanging death a suicide, but many working people in Mississippi reject this idea. Given the fact that Johnson had been harassed by racists in his school and community who disapproved of his relationship with a young white woman, numerous residents believe his death was a racist murder.

A friend of Johnson, Willis Hausband, 17, a high school student, said, "I know he did not commit suicide. He was too happy and had too many things going for him. This was an outright murder."

Rallies and marches necessary

Many of those interviewed from the Black community here said that rallies and marches are necessary to make sure justice will be served, and to preserve the gains made during the civil rights movement, which smashed the Jim Crow system of racist segregation.

Young Socialists not only participated in the actions to show solidarity, but used the opportunity to present the Socialist Workers national campaign for president and vice president, which gives an explanation of the political polarization and racism we see in this country today and offers a

class-struggle alternative to the capitalist parties. Many of those we talked to about the socialist campaign had not yet been exposed to a revolutionary working-class perspective. John White, who was attending his first protest march, said he initially associated communism with Hitler and fascism. But after some extensive discussion about socialism, some history on the Russian Revolution, and related questions, he replied, "Wow! I never knew there was a party like this. I want to be a part of something like this," and signed up to find out more about the Young Socialists and its upcoming activities.

The Pathfinder book table we set up in Columbia was the hot spot at the rally. Numerous people who approached the table signed our petitions to get the socialists on the ballot. One bought *Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It* by Leon Trotsky. So-

cialist campaigners surpassed our goal of signatures collected for the day. Overall, the Young Socialists from Birmingham and Tuscaloosa were able to link up with young fighters and workers and gain rich class-struggle experience under the sweltering Mississippi sun.

Campaigning for socialist candidate

One week later, Young Socialists took the opportunity to meet and campaign in Natchez, Mississippi, with Margaret Trowe, the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice president. There, YS members petitioned at various locations and visited the picket line at Titan Tire with Trowe, and we went over our goal of signatures for the day.

At the tire plant, where workers have been locked out of their jobs for almost two years, Trowe and members of the Young Socialists exchanged views with workers there on

their struggle and other political topics. Willie Evans, one of the strikers, greeted Trowe and campaign supporters on the picket line and explained how much he appreciated the solidarity the socialists have given during the course of the strike.

Spending time on the picket line and discussing with the tested unionists of Titan Tire proved valuable for the Young Socialists. We learned a great deal from the strikers, and many of these lessons can be used in the struggles that lie ahead.

On July 22, the YS headed back to Mississippi with teams of campaign supporters from Atlanta and Birmingham to make a strong push to get all of the signatures needed to get on the ballot in November.

Justin Hovey is a member of the Young Socialists and a student at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Pickets at Indiana power plant 'hang strong'

BY JEREMY ROSE

EVANSVILLE, Indiana—"We're hanging strong and the public is behind us," declared Anthony Bushrod, a stockman with 15 years' service at the Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Co. (SIGECO) power plant in Warrick County. He was among scores of locked-out workers who took part in an expanded picket line July 19 here at a downtown maintenance facility.

Many passing motorists honked to show support for the pickets.

Workers at SIGECO are members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 702. They were locked out hours after voting down a contract offer June 30 by the company, which claimed they were "unreliable" without an agreement.

Local 702 business representative Matt Hemenway, who joined the pickets earlier in the day, said, "Everyone is united and staying strong. Morale is remarkably high."

He added that morale among management personnel who are forced to work long days doing union members' work is getting worse. Bryan McGehee, a pipefitter, said, "We're locked out and they're locked in," pointing to a supervisor driving a repair truck into the facility.

McGehee and Robert Arthur, a mechanic, reported that eight trailers have been set up inside the maintenance yard and at several power plants. Caterers have been brought in to provide meals. Supervisors, line foremen, and engineers have had to cancel vacations and family plans. Administrative personnel, the unionists said, are forced to work 12-hour shifts and then kept on the property. After 36 hours they are allowed to go home for a short time, and some are called back after only a couple of hours at home to deal with emergencies.

Secretaries and other office employees have been pressed into 12-hour stints in the field but are allowed to leave at the end of the day.

About 100 company personnel reportedly signed a petition protesting the conditions they are forced to work under.

Supporters of the locked-out workers have organized car caravans of four or five cars at a time to show their support. By rigorously observing legal speed limits and safe driving conditions near power plants, coal trucks attempting to make deliveries have been significantly backed up.

Several workers explained the big sticking point in contract negotiations is a demand by the company to bar sympathy strikes, while seeking separate contracts for each facility, a move that would undercut the union.



Members of Local 702 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers at picket line outside SIGECO headquarters on July 10. Just over a week later the unionists organized an expanded picket line at SIGECO power plant.

Militant/Elyse Hathaway

THE MILITANT

Miners take on central questions

In their strikes against P&M over the length of the workday and safety, in mobilizations to defend lifetime health insurance, coal miners are confronting the employers and their government on social questions that are key for our entire class. The 'Militant' brings you these fights and their lessons. Don't miss a single issue.



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Immigrant workers rally in Washington to demand rights

BY ELENA TATE

WASHINGTON—"Amnesty now!" and "Sí se puede!" (Yes we can) were the most popular chants here among the 1,000 workers from throughout the eastern region who took part in a March for Dignity and Amnesty July 20. Another demand was an end to deportations by the immigration cops.

Unions in New York organized several busloads of workers, particularly Local 79 of the Laborers International Union of North America in New York and New Jersey and Local 169 of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Workers (UNITE) in New York.

"The union has the power—it relies on the membership," said Juan Méndez, 25, a demolition worker and shop steward for Laborers Local 79. "If we unite, we can fight and win our demands and our rights. Workers born in the United States should support our struggle because we're fighting for better working conditions for them, too."

Hundreds of other marchers were construction workers belonging to Local 79 together with their relatives, many originally from Ecuador. The union chartered 10 buses that included hospital workers from Local 1199 of the Service Employees International Union, the Garment Workers' Justice Center, busloads from the Tepeyac Association, and various church-related groups.

The marchers were originally from Mexico, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Central American nations, and several African countries. One contingent was a group of 250 Mexican workers from Staten Island, New York.

One of the demands of the demonstration was to modify legislation that offers expedited legal residence to Cubans and Nicaraguans and to extend these provisions equally to immigrants from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti. The existing law is based on Washington's hostile policy toward the Cuban revolution and its opposition to the workers and farmers gov-

ernment that existed in Nicaragua from the 1979 revolution through the 1980s.

Francisco and Janet, both garment workers in Manhattan and members of UNITE Local 25-35, took the day off to come to the rally because "we want general amnesty for all of us," Francisco said. "They exploit immigrants and we are opposed to those conditions. We work up to 10 hours a day, and the bosses don't shut the doors properly, so rats come in while we are working."

Other demonstrators carried signs reading, "Enough of anti-immigrant laws," "Stop workplace raids," and "Fix '96," referring to the reactionary Illegal Immigration Reform and Responsibility Act of 1996.

Charles, a 19-year-old demolition worker and member of Laborers Local 79, stated, "We are here to demand equal rights for all Americans—born here or not. I support all immigrants. The way they [the bosses] exploit us must stop—working us 12-14 hours and not paying overtime." Charles had also participated in the immigrant-led May Day



Militant

Protesters demanded end to deportations, legal residence for undocumented workers

march in New York this year.

Javier, 21, a construction worker, said that before he was in a union-organized worksite, "We worked with a lot of dust, but the company wouldn't give us masks. They would yell at us and the boss would even hit us." He said he joined the union to get better pay and get respect. Wages for non-union, immigrant demolition workers, he noted, run as low as \$6 to \$8 an hour, com-

pared to \$15 to \$25 or more at union scale.

Juan Méndez echoed the sentiments of many demonstrators, stating, "Papers or no papers, everybody should have better conditions. We're fighting, and one day we will get what we want: papers, equal rights, and an end to exploitation."

Elena Tate is a member of the Young Socialists in New York.

Hotel strike in Vancouver spreads

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

VANCOUVER—Music blared and motorists honked their support in response to the signs of striking hotel workers at the Quality Hotel on Howe Street at the entrance to the Granville Street Bridge—one of Vancouver's main traffic arteries. The members of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 3000 walked off the job on July 18. Within days unionists at four more hotels organized by the CAW were also on strike. The unionists are seeking a 12 percent wage increase over three years.

The Hospitality Industrial Relations, the bargaining agent for the bosses at the Ramada Vancouver Center, Parkhill, Quality Downtown Hotel, Coast Whistler, Pacific Palisades, and Courtenay Hotel on

Vancouver Island have offered only 5 percent over three years.

The escalating strikes have put 3,700 hotel rooms behind picket lines at the height of British Columbia's busy tourist season. More than 2,500 workers at 12 hotels are now on strike.

About 2,200 unionists at seven of Vancouver's largest hotels walked off the job July 3 and 4, prompting their officials in the Hotel, Restaurant and Culinary Employees and Bartenders Union (HRCEBU) Local 40 to call an official strike. The workers struck after rejecting by 97 percent a company offer of no wage increase the first year and 1 percent raises the second and third years. Local 40 members are fighting for 3 percent annual wage increases over four years.

Seventy-one percent of the strikers rejected a second offer July 12 from the Greater Vancouver Hotel Employers Association, which represents bosses at the Hyatt Regency, Four Seasons, Westin Bayshore, Renaissance, Holiday Inn, the Delta Pacific resort, and Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel. The workers clearly decided that the 2 percent annual wage increases in a four-year contract were not acceptable.

Some Filipino workers at the Westin Bayshore indicated their intention to vote no on the offer by making a pun. "We're Filipino No's," one of them told the *Militant*. A majority of the workers are immigrants hailing from countries around the world.

The employers have responded to the workers' determined stance by seeking to limit the effectiveness of the strike. On July 13 unionists confronted scabs hired by the Hyatt Regency as they unloaded baggage with the aid of Paladin Security guards. The hotel bosses have increased their use of private cops to intimidate strikers.

A week later the British Columbia Supreme Court granted the Westin Bayshore and Four Seasons injunctions limiting the number of Local 40 pickets to four at each entrance. The Renaissance Hotel is seeking a similar injunction. In addition, SERCA Food Services has obtained an injunction preventing workers from blocking the company's deliveries to the Hyatt Regency.

Despite these antiunion moves, some 460 members of CAW Local 4275 at the Hotel Vancouver voted 74 percent for a strike mandate. Their contract expires July 31.

Beverly Bernardo is a meat packer in Vancouver.

Women's rights actions planned in Canada, U.S.

BY ROSEMARY RAY

TORONTO—Women's rights supporters in Canada and other countries are building a World March of Women 2000 to protest violence against women and the conditions of poverty facing millions of women in the world. They have been holding actions since March that will lead up to nationwide protests in different countries in October. An international delegation from women's groups around the world will join protests October 17 at the United Nations in New York.

In Canada, the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC), Quebec Women's Federation (FFQ), and Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), as well as World March of Women (WMW) committees across the country are planning demonstrations in Montreal on October 14 and in Vancouver and Ottawa on October 15. Organizers say they expect tens of thousands of protesters, the biggest women's rights actions in years. Local committees have formed across the country open to everyone who wants to build the actions.

In the United States, the National Organization for Women will be demonstrating October 15 in Washington.

The demonstrations in Canada will focus on protesting government cutbacks in social services, education, and health care, and the disproportionate impact these cuts have had on the lives of women. The WMW is demanding that the federal government in Ottawa put \$2 billion into a national child-care program, increase and extend unemployment and welfare payments, raise the minimum wage, and institute equal pay for women in the workplace.

Other demands include increased government funding for rape crisis centers and housing for women who face domestic violence. The WMW also calls for defending the rights of immigrants and canceling the

foreign debt of several third world countries.

The initiative for the WMW came from the Quebec Women's Federation, which organized a Women's March Against Poverty in Quebec in 1995, when 850 women's rights activists marched for 10 days and were greeted by a demonstration of 15,000 outside the provincial legislature in Quebec City.

NAC and the CLC have made posters and T-shirts publicizing the World March of Women. The CLC is committing resources for transportation and publicity material, and has written to all member locals encouraging participation. The United Food and Commercial Workers has issued a poster that says, "UFCW: Yes, We'll Be There on Oc-

tober 15." In Quebec, the three union federations have endorsed and are building the march. Industrial and public sector unions are chartering buses to get union members to the demonstrations.

The Canadian Federation of Students is organizing buses from campuses.

For more information on World March of Women activities across the country, phone the Canadian Labour Congress at (613) 521-3400 in Ottawa, NAC at (416) 482-4460 in Toronto, or the Quebec Women's Federation at (514) 876-0166 in Montreal.

Rosemary Ray is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 5338.

Workers in Georgia town protest arrest of immigrants

Continued from front page

carpenters, bricklayers, landscapers, and others—whose labor power is employed in the booming business of constructing residential homes and office buildings in this area, talked up the importance of a big turnout on their jobs. A Spanish-language radio station, La Que Buena, where several of the workers arrested called in to talk about their fight, advertised the meeting throughout the day.

Smyrna mayor Max Bacon defended the police and refused to back down. He stood by his statement, following the arrests, that it bothered him that city funds were being wasted to teach the police Spanish. "That's something that has always rubbed me the wrong way," Bacon complained. One speaker at the meeting asked the mayor if he had been taking lessons from Atlanta Braves baseball pitcher John Rucker, who recently earned notoriety for his racist, sexist, anti-immigrant and otherwise reactionary remarks.

Maritza Soto Keen, director of Atlanta's Latin American Association, demanded to know why the six workers were arrested when they had stopped work and were cleaning up. She pointed to the significant role that immigrant workers play in the carpet, poultry, apple, peanut, and construction industries in the region.

Another speaker who was well received was Dan Fein, a textile worker and the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 5th District. He celebrated the determined mobilization by working people, saying, "What a great turnout! As long as there was no response Mayor Bacon thought he could complain about Mexican workers needing English lessons without paying a price for his remarks."

Fein, whose remarks were translated to Spanish by a campaign supporter, added, "Workers from Mexico are a part of the working class here in Smyrna. That makes the working class stronger, not weaker."

"Meat packers from Minnesota, many of

whom were born in Mexico, are helping to lead a struggle for union recognition. They organized a sit-down strike to get the boss to meet their demands, to treat them with dignity. They are fighting for *justicia*. So are we.

"These workers are not guilty," Fein stated. "My campaign says: Drop the charges now! Sí se puede!" As Fein took his seat, the audience began to chant, "Sí se puede"—a fighting slogan that translates as "Yes we can."

Socialist Workers campaigners distributed a statement in Spanish and English. They sold the campaign papers—the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*—as well as a book by Ernesto Che Guevara and one by Karl Marx from a table set up at the meeting.

The day after the meeting at the City Council, the six workers pleaded not guilty in municipal court. Their case is scheduled to go to trial in September. If convicted, they could be fined up to \$1,000 and jailed up to 180 days. They are currently free on bond.

Socialists in garment and textile discuss next steps in joining with workers in struggle

BY MARK HOLLAND
AND MARTY RESSLER

ST. LOUIS—Socialist garment and textile workers met here July 15–16 to discuss the strikes, organizing drives and shop floor skirmishes they and other workers are involved in today. The majority who took part in the weekend meeting are members of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE), while others work in garment and textile plants that are currently nonunion.

Also taking place alongside the UNITE meeting was a meeting of socialists who are part of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). It brought together miners from the coalfields in Appalachia, Alabama, southern Illinois/Kentucky, and in the West, as well as anthracite miners from central Pennsylvania.

The strikes by UMWA members at the Pittsburg and Midway Coal Co. (P&M) mines in Kemmerer, Wyoming, and near Window Rock, Arizona; the victorious organizing drive at Dakota Premium Foods in St. Paul, Minnesota; and the strikes by UNITE-organized laundry workers in Pompano Beach, Florida, and in Chicago set the framework for the discussions by socialists at both meetings.

Support for laundry workers

Many rich experiences in spreading solidarity were discussed at the meeting of the UNITE fraction. Lisa Potash, a sewing machine operator in Chicago, described how she and other co-workers joined the picket lines of laundry workers on strike there.

"The laundry workers were striking to organize UNITE at Five Star Laundry," said Potash. "Several workers from the large Hart Schaffner and Marx garment plant where I work put aside other responsibilities and were inspired to join in picketing and leafleting teams. One young Mexican co-worker at the plant has been watching politics more closely these days and decided to take another step by going to the picket line," she continued.

In the opening report at the UNITE national fraction meeting entitled "Merging with the working-class resistance," Alyson Kennedy, a sewing machine operator and a member of UNITE in St. Louis, described the expanded openings for fighting workers to join others in struggle, and to organize solidarity. Through this, there will be more opportunities to introduce the socialist periodicals the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* and Pathfinder books, she explained.

"There are high stakes in these fights," Kennedy told those at the weekend conference, "and what revolutionary workers do in the plants, mills, and mines today matters and will have an impact on the outcome of a fight, strike, or union-organizing drive." She added that central to the weekend meeting was taking steps to get units of socialist workers "into fighting trim, into the kind of combat units that they need to be in order to get more deeply involved in these fights."

Patient, daily work by socialist workers on the job alongside their co-workers leads to trust and confidence by other fighting workers. Workers are determining through experience and common action who they trust and who they will fight together with against the bosses and their government.

The meeting showed the progress that has been made in getting fractions of two working together in the same garment plant or textile mill. Having strong functioning local fractions in Chicago and Miami, for example, strengthened the ability to do solidarity work with the laundry workers strikes.

Learning from ultraleft errors

Kennedy pointed out that socialists in UNITE have had to learn from a number of ultraleft errors in their work over the past few months. In one case, a local fraction of socialists in a UNITE shop in Pittsburgh got ahead of where their co-workers were willing to take a struggle over a contract. The fight quickly went into decline when a number of workers at the plant began to act as though the union leadership was more of a problem than the plant boss.

Socialist workers misjudged the difference between workers just expressing anger about the concession contract offer and

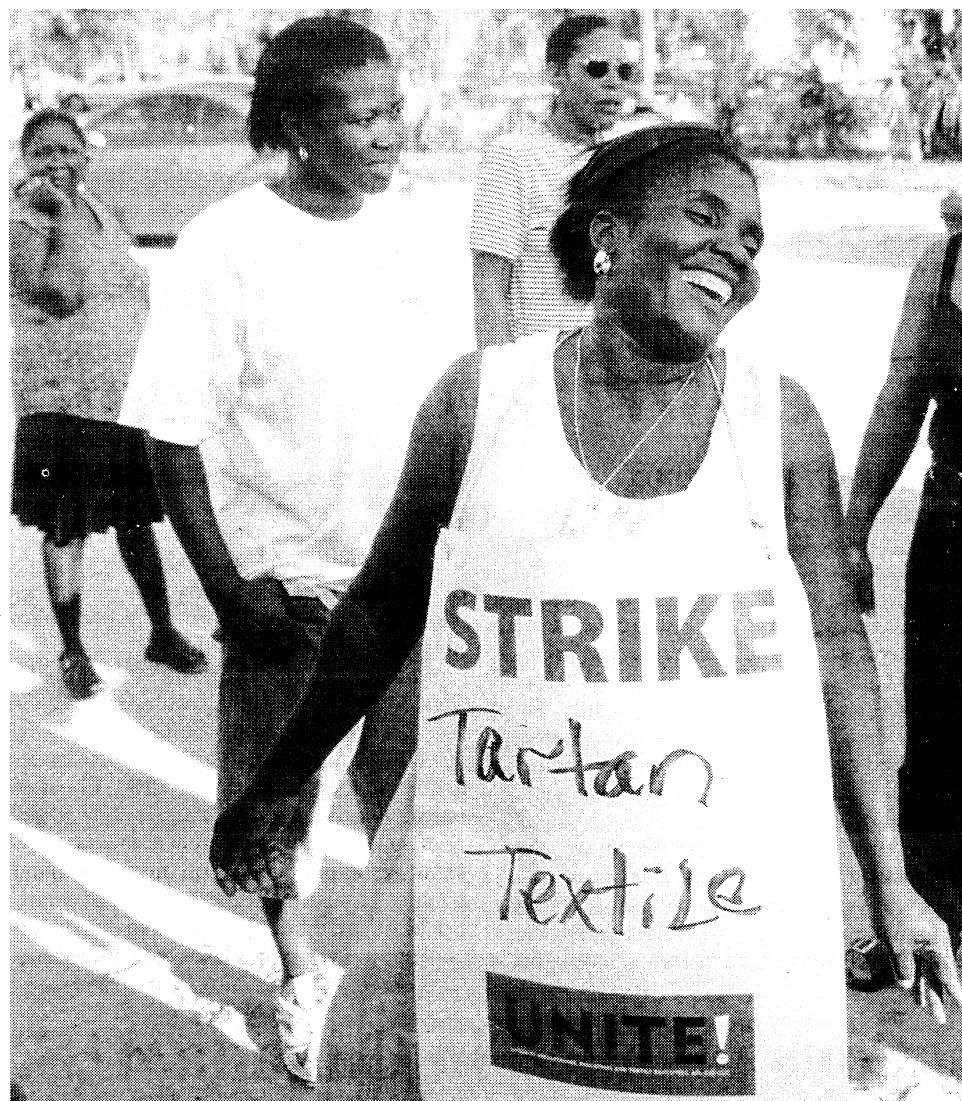
a layer of unionists who have decided to organize an effective fight against the company. At another plant, a local fraction member was almost fired because of moving too quickly to discuss revolutionary politics on the job before becoming established among co-workers.

Kennedy pointed out that in contrast to accurately reading the mood among co-workers and developments on the shop floor, "an ultraleft course can weaken our class in relation to the boss, or damage a fight—that is what happens today when workers take their fire off the boss and instead get into a confrontation with union officials who they

Carolina and Georgia alone. Recently there have been successful union-organizing drives at Fieldcrest-Cannon in Scottsboro, Alabama, and Rocky Mount, North Carolina, following the union victory at the giant textile plant in Kannapolis, North Carolina, in 1999.

'The bosses make us work harder'

It is the capitalists' intensified exploitation of workers and farmers that is at the root of the growing labor resistance, remarked Ted Leonard, a textile mill worker from Lawrence, Massachusetts. He took up the argument raised in the capitalist media



Militant/Eric Simpson

UNITE strikers picket Tartan Textile July 6 in Pompano Beach, Florida.

think are not leading a fight properly."

If vanguard workers don't have a clear understanding of the relationship of class forces between the bosses and the workers, and how that has not yet changed fundamentally, it can lead to setbacks for workers in a plant, on a picket line, or a union-organizing drive, explained Paul Mailhot, who attended the meeting for the Socialist Workers Party Trade Union Committee. Communists can do more on the job than in many years, but that doesn't mean the bosses are especially weak.

The bosses and the government still have the upper hand and will continue to seize every opening to curtail democratic rights and push back union strength that workers need to organize. For example, socialists are often getting a good response to our ideas and receptivity to the *Militant* at many non-union shops. But at the same time the cops and the bosses do their utmost to keep socialist workers from selling outside plants where they think workers through the course of reading the *Militant* will be attracted to the idea of a union.

The majority of organized units of socialist workers in garment and textile factories are sewing machine operators in the apparel industry. It is workers in the heart of production—on the jobs that the bosses depend on to extract their profits—who are pushed the hardest and feel the greatest weight from the drive for speed-up. It is these workers who are beginning to stand up to the employers' attacks against the working class.

In addition to the apparel industry, there are now socialist workers in textile mills in five cities, including in several mills in North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. Textile workers have a lot of striking power in the South, with more than 200,000 workers employed by textile manufacturers in North

that U.S. business is increasing its profits and productivity through computers. "The bosses are making us work harder, and for less," said Leonard. "There are lots of computer terminals around the plant, but they do little to increase production themselves. Instead they are a tool for the company to keep an eye on us—keeping track of when we clock in and out and how much we are producing."

"Stretch-out" is what many workers are facing," not computerization, said Don Pane, a textile worker from Atlanta. "They have me operating multiple machines at the same time—people are running themselves ragged." The flip side of stretch-out is when bosses cut back on the workday, said sewing machine operator Nancy Rosenstock from New Jersey. She explained that "this is the big issue in my plant. They drive us to produce more with the piece-rate system and then send us home early." Rather than the producers of wealth benefiting from increased productivity, "workers share the misery" of smaller and smaller paychecks, said Rosenstock.

Romina Green said studying the Pathfinder book *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* while working in a garment shop made clear why it is workers in production who will be in the forefront of battles with the bosses. This is one of the books workers and youth are reading for the socialist summer schools organized by branches of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists. Green works in a plant near Birmingham, Alabama, that makes Nike jogging pants that sell for \$40 a pair. "We only get six cents a pair for each operation sewing them," said Green. "It's easy to see why we should concentrate our forces in the production sewing jobs, because that is where wealth is produced for the capitalists."

There are increased opportunities to get the socialist newspapers the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and Pathfinder books into the hands of workers, and greater openness to the ideas being presented through the Socialist Workers election campaigns. Mike Fitzsimmons, who works as a sewing machine operator in Cleveland, told the meeting that six of his co-workers came to a local restaurant after work to meet the Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Margaret Trowe recently. "There was a lot of interest in the ideas Trowe presented and experiences and news about the fightbacks taking place among workers across the country." Lisa Potash explained that circulating the *Militant* in the plant where she works helped convince some of her co-workers to walk the picket line with strikers from Five Star Laundry.

A Militant Labor Forum Saturday night presented a panel of speakers involved in labor battles. Angy Folkes, a worker on strike from Allied Health Care Products in St. Louis and a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1345, talked about the impact on her of the ongoing six-week strike at the health-care equipment company. "Every step of the way I've been surprised," said Folkes. "I was surprised at the vote to reject the contract, and the great conversations on the picket line discussing everything from capitalism to Cuba. And we've gotten stronger the longer we've been on the line."

Role of immigrant workers

Rollande Girard, a garment worker from Miami, spoke at the forum on the victorious strike by 220 UNITE members against Tartan Textile, a commercial laundry, and the fight at RC Aluminum in Miami where workers are in a drive to organize the Iron Workers union. "The workers in these struggles are primarily immigrants, Haitians at Tartan Textile and Cubans at RC Aluminum," said Girard. "They're learning about the class struggle in this country. On the picket line at Tartan Textile, strikers sang songs from the fight against the Duvalier dictatorship, with the words changed to reflect their current struggle. In a real sense they are 'American' workers now, and they expose the lie that immigrants are willing to work for anything, thereby driving down wages and working conditions for others. If given a chance to fight many will be in the vanguard."

Girard explained the potential to carry out political activity in nonunion plants, like the one where she works as a sewing machine operator. Socialist workers in the plant got out information about the sit-down strike and union-organizing drive at Dakota Premium Foods in St. Paul, Minnesota, and decided this was also an opportunity to advance discussions on the need for a union at their own plant.

Workers there decided they should carry out an act of solidarity with the meat packers, said Girard, and gathered 13 signatures on a letter that says in part, "We just learned about your struggle for better working conditions and wages and for organizing a union. Your fight encourages us to do the same here. We face many of the same problems you do. We wish you victory."

The final speaker at the forum was Don Wilson, a coal miner from Colorado, who described the stakes involved in the UMWA strikes against the P&M coal company in the West. These strikes center on the key issues facing miners and other workers today—the fight to maintain the eight-hour day and wages, pensions, and medical care that meet today's needs. He said that five other contracts at UMWA mines in the Western coalfields expire at the end of August.

Participants at the weekend meetings were making plans to attend the July 27–29 Active Workers Conference in Oberlin, Ohio. The conference will bring together workers, farmers, and youth who are part of the growing resistance unfolding in the working class today to the brutality of capitalism, and present a way to go forward and increase their striking power.

Marty Ressler is a member of UNITE in southern Illinois and Mark Holland is a garment worker in Miami.

Trowe meets with strikers, fighting farmers in Illinois

BY ARRIN HAWKINS
AND ELIZABETH STONE

CHICAGO—"My campaign itinerary is determined by where the fights are," Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Margaret Trowe told a reporter for the Kankakee *Daily Journal* during her July 20-22 visit to Illinois. Kankakee is 60 miles south of Chicago.

In Chicago, Trowe visited the picket line at the Five Star Laundry, where workers have been on strike for five weeks to win recognition of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) and a union contract. Strikers told Trowe that after leafleting hotels they succeeded in getting four of them to cut back on contracts with the industrial laundry company.

When Trowe arrived at the picket line of Laborers International Union Local 681 at Appetizers and Inc., dozens of workers were walking the line and chanting, "Sí se puede!" (Yes we can), "El pueblo callado nunca será escuchado!" (A silent people will never be heard), and "No seven days," referring to their fight against the extension of the workweek to include Saturdays and

Sundays.

Workers crowded around Trowe and her campaign supporters to discuss their struggle and other fights, such as the successful union organizing drive by meat packers at Dakota Premium in St. Paul, Minnesota. Trowe stressed the role of immigrant workers in leading these strikes.

Security guards at Appetizers and Inc. attempted to intimidate the pickets with video cameras by taking close-up shots of their faces. Trowe got out her umbrella and joined the strikers as they opened the umbrellas they use to protect themselves from the sun to block the cameras' view and chanted, "No tenemos miedo!" (We are not afraid).

When Trowe and supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign returned for the afternoon shift, workers were called together and it was announced that the company had agreed to reopen talks with the union.

Trowe visited Pembroke Township, where Black farmers and members of Pembroke Advocates for Truth have been fighting a plan to impose a women's prison in the area. The socialist candidate was welcomed by Pamela Basu, who gave her a tour



Militant/Arrin Hawkins

SWP candidate Margaret Trowe visits strikers at Appetizers and Inc. in Chicago

of the farm worked by her family. She proudly showed a wide variety of organic vegetables and herbs being grown in rich soil—soil that she said officials pushing the prison dismissed as "scrub land."

Pamela Basu was recently fired from her job as treasurer of the Village of Hopkins Park for speaking out against the prison and is now suing the village over the firing. Commenting on the fight against the prison, Basu said the officials pushing the prison

were "waiting until we settle down. 'But we're not settling down!'"

Trowe met with 13 farmers who gathered before a meeting of the Pembroke farmers' co-op. She stressed the importance of their fight to keep the land and against the prison as an example for working people. After her presentation, the farmers raised a number of questions about her campaign and exchanged views on the most effective ways to fight back.

Trowe and socialist campaign supporters also visited dairy farmers in Wisconsin, where she pledged to support their planned Labor Day milk dumping protest against low prices to dairy farmers.

Trowe was the featured speaker at the grand opening of the new Chicago headquarters of the Pathfinder Bookstore, Socialist Workers Party, and Young Socialists at 1212 N. Ashland.

The meeting opened with a report by Luis Rivera on the Young Socialists summer school in Chicago and its combination of study and political action. A contingent of Young Socialists and a young socialist campaigner, Marlén Ortega, accompanied Trowe to the picket lines.

Campaign supporters at the forum discussed how to continue building support for strikes in the area. Dennis Chambers described an electrical workers strike in southwest Chicago. Teamster truck driver Bert Hestroffer told about a strike of Teamsters Local 142 in northwest Indiana at Globe Building Materials Inc., which makes roofing shingles. The following day, three teams were organized to get the message of the socialist alternative to these and other fighting workers.

Arrin Hawkins is a member of the Chicago chapter of the Young Socialists.

20,000 sign to put socialists on NY ballot

BY JOE BROOKING

NEW YORK—As the *Militant* goes to press, socialist campaigners were celebrating their accomplishment in collecting 20,000 signatures on petitions to put the Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot—James Harris for president, Margaret Trowe for vice president, and Jacob Perasso for U.S. Senate.

"We're two-thirds of the way to our goal of 30,000. We've had a great response from working people!" said an exultant Perasso, who has been campaigning on the streets with dozens of supporters for the past two weeks. The goal is twice the number required to qualify for ballot status.

Coming out of the July 27-29 Active Workers Conference in Ohio that many socialist campaigners are attending, they will swing into action to get the remaining 10,000 signatures and process the necessary

paperwork by August 21. Perasso urged supporters of the socialist campaign to join in the final effort to bring home a success.

The past week was a rewarding one for supporters of the socialist campaign. Elena Tate, a leader of the Young Socialists in New York, joined a campaign team at the giant Co-op City housing complex in the Bronx—one of a dozen petitioning teams that fanned out across the city on Sunday, July 23. In an afternoon's work, 89 people signed her petitions.

Tate reported that one man grabbed a petition board saying "Socialists! Great, I'll sign!" He told her he used to be a sailor and had worked with socialists in one of the maritime unions.

"A high school student was excited to hear from us about the August 26 March on Washington against police brutality," Tate said. "He wants to come to the demonstration with the Young Socialists. Another student already knew about the march and said he and a group of friends were planning to go."

Gabe, a Young Socialist who was on a

campaign team in Jamaica, Queens, reports, "We got a really good response to the issues of fighting police brutality and the death penalty. We were really flying! One woman told me how her nephew had been beaten up by the cops. Then she called her son over and asked him to sign."

Campaign teams have also gone upstate to Buffalo and Albany, and to Yonkers and Spring Valley.

In addition, several teams are campaigning to put Paul Pederson on the ballot in the 12th Congressional District. The district includes a broad swath of Brooklyn and sections of the Lower East Side and Chinatown in Manhattan.

As this issue goes to press, socialist petitioners have 1,800 signatures for Pederson in hand. They plan to file 7,000 signatures, double the requirement.

Campaign organizer Don Mackle noted, "We have to make a concentrated effort to make our goal for Pederson as we keep up the momentum on the statewide campaign. That's a special challenge for us in the next three weeks."

'You're the only party to support our strike'

BY SCOTT BREEN
AND CECILIA MORIARTY

SEATTLE—James Harris, Socialist Workers presidential candidate, met with a range of working-class fighters during his three-day stay in Washington State. He was introduced to strikers at Valley Manufactured Housing in Sunnyside and locked-out Steelworkers from Kaiser Aluminum, and toured Tent City III in Seattle, where homeless workers have organized themselves to provide safe, temporary shelter. He also met with workers from Alaska Airlines and spoke at a campaign rally in Seattle.

In Sunnyside, in eastern Washington, Harris and a group of campaigners joined the picket line at Valley Manufactured Housing (VMH). The 130 members of the Western Council of Industrial Workers, mostly Mexican-born, have been on strike since August 1999.

Harris was introduced to the pickets by a leader of the strike. They were buoyed by a recent victory in which they defeated a company-inspired attempt to decertify their union, convincing more than half the replacement workers to vote for the union. The company has appealed the election to the National Labor Relations Board.

Pablo, a lead worker with seven years' seniority, explained, "We just got tired of the abuse." He pointed out that the terrible conditions on the job have continued. To fill 200 jobs the company has hired 800 replace-

ment workers since the strike began. Companies like VMH, he said, "think they can hide their abuses in small places like Sunnyside. They know they can get cheap labor in rural places."

Harris expressed his solidarity with their fight stating that "struggles like yours are playing a vanguard role in the union movement today." That evening, several strikers and family members gathered at a striker's trailer home for a barbecue and more discussion. When Harris announced that he had just received word that meat packers had won a union representation vote at Dakota Premium Foods in St. Paul, Minnesota, strikers applauded enthusiastically.

At the house meeting, translated into Spanish, Harris explained, "Immigrant workers are bringing lessons sorely needed by the American working class." Valentín, a Mexican-born striker, added, "And that's why they are not giving us amnesty."

Another striker wanted to know, "What can we do to win support? Who can represent us?" Harris replied, "The solution lies in the people here—you must represent yourselves, and we all must deepen and broaden our collaboration with other fighters to become a social movement."

At the end of the discussion, one of the strikers thanked Harris for coming. "The Socialist Workers Party has been the only party to support us," he stated.

The next day, Harris and two campaign

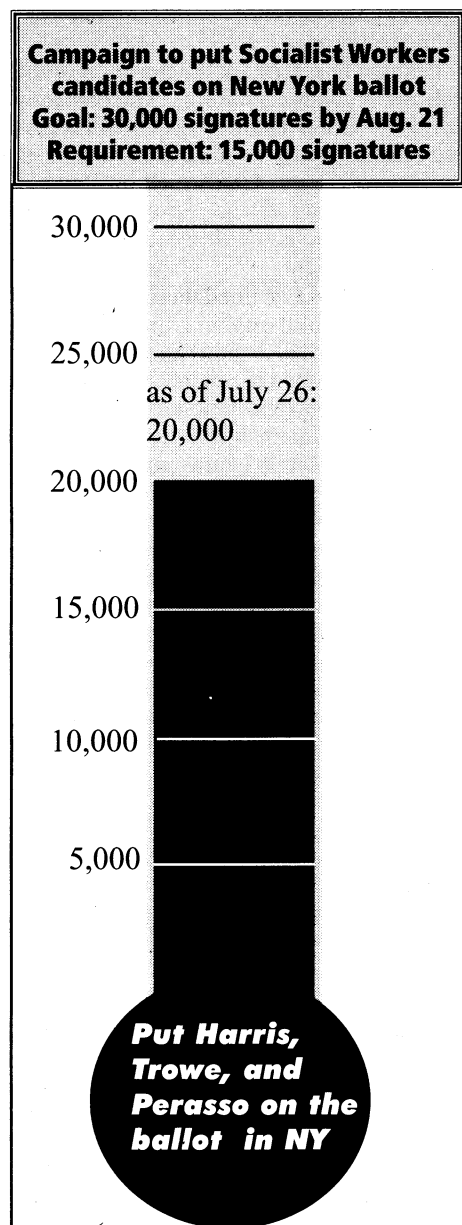
supporters met with 10 steelworkers locked out by Kaiser Aluminum in nearby Tacoma. Nine of them were from Spokane, Washington, and one from Newark, Ohio. They have been in Tacoma for a number of months speaking before unions and other organizations about the union's 22-month-long struggle against Kaiser.

The discussion got really lively when Harris raised his campaign's perspective of what it would take for working people to get rid of cop brutality. The Steelworkers related several incidents of police force used against pickets. Harris encouraged them to go to the August 26 national march on Washington against police brutality.

After Harris explained he had gone to Cuba with U.S. farmers who are fighting for their right to farm and they learned that farmers in Cuba cannot have their land taken away, one Steelworker, a member of the Coeur d'Alene Nation, related his 20-year effort to defend his Native American community's right to part of a lake in Idaho.

At a campaign rally in Seattle, an announcement was made that Harris and his running mate Margaret Trowe had been officially certified to appear on the Washington ballot this year.

Scott Breen is the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Washington State. Cecilia Moriarty is a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.



Meat packers in Minnesota vote union

Continued from front page

pany cafeteria in the morning and refused to work until the bosses negotiated their grievances, the workers gained some important concessions. The company was compelled to decrease the line speed and allow representatives of the workers to check the rate. It agreed not to force workers to work while injured. Other concessions were won.

During the seven-hour job action, workers began contacting the leaders of UFCW Local 789, who came down to the area near the plant. Union authorization cards were distributed and dozens of workers signed cards and began getting others to sign them.

On eve of union vote

The company continued its tactics of intimidation and lies on the day before the vote. Supervisors came around and talked to workers individually. According to Amy Roberts, a worker in packaging, supervisors said, "Don't vote for the union. The union will get in the way of talking to the company directly. We're already doing well."

The bosses called two 15-minute meetings of all the workers, one for the cut department and one for the kill. Company manager Steve Cortinas tried to refute each point raised in the last two issues of the union-organizing newsletter *The Workers' Voice*. Workers from the kill department report that at the meeting they attended Cortinas seemed on the verge of tears when he pleaded with the workers to vote against the union and said, "Please do this for me."

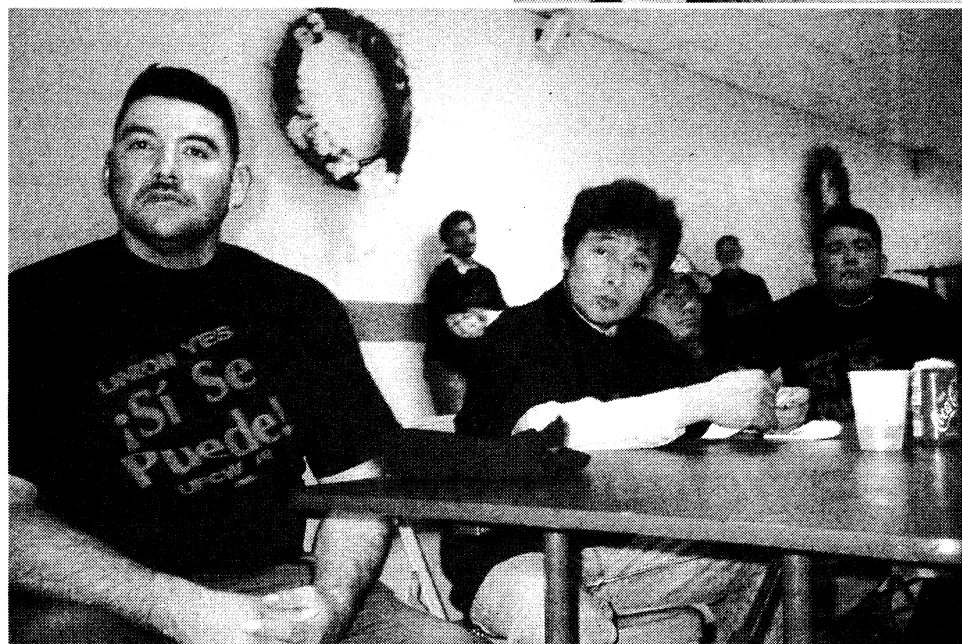
That day the company organized a party at a nearby hotel for all the workers after

work, offering all the food and beer they could consume.

The union had scheduled a double rally at the union hall for the same time, as workers got off the job. It was built by widespread distribution of two issues of *The Workers' Voice*, published in both English and Spanish.

Eighty workers—the overwhelming majority—from the cut department attended the first union rally, and 20 from the kill attended the second rally.

Miguel Gutiérrez, a boner and one of the leaders of the drive, spoke about the



Photos: courtesy of UFCW Local 789
Above, pre-election rally at union hall. Left, union activists (from left) Miguel Olvera, Matías Loya, and Javier Quintal. Through discussions, *Workers' Voice* newsletter, and rallies, workers answered employer propaganda and won support for union.

company's efforts to divide the workforce. "We made some gains as a result of our strike. There are two representatives of the workers who check the speed of the line and 'gang-time,'" he said, referring to a company practice to avoid overtime pay. "But the company did not keep its word with us on the agreements it made with the committee of 14 people that had been selected during the strike. There is a group of workers in the plant that the company allows to get full breaks. But what about the rest of us, who don't get full breaks? We have to stay united. If we don't stay united, the company will pick us off one by one."

Union president Pearson also addressed the need for unity. "The company has spent loads of money on a feast at the hotel. We can't match the money of the company. However, we are the workers. When we stick together we can defeat the company."

Pearson also spoke to a frequent question the workers had asked: what is different today from 1991 and 1992, when a union organizing drive succeeded but then the union failed to get a contract and was voted out.

"This isn't eight years ago," he said. "The leadership of the local is different but, more importantly, the members are different. Eight years ago the company promoted a number of the leaders to management. This time nobody has sold out. The workers now have a greater sense of confidence and can't be pushed around."

Pearson also took up the question of the fight for a contract, stating, "The company has said it will not agree to a contract. However, the company is vulnerable. The peak

Continued on Page 11

Workers in Omaha packing plants sign union cards

BY JOE SWANSON

OMAHA, Nebraska—Packinghouse workers have signed union authorization cards at ConAgra, Nebraska Beef, and QPI plants here, in numbers ranging from 23 to 38 percent of the workforce, over the past six weeks of an organizing drive by the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW). The figures were displayed on a chart in a new organizing center that was inaugurated at an open house and reception held July 19, which attracted 45 people.

A staffer for UFCW Local 271 in Omaha told the *Militant* at the reception that some workers have signed union authorization cards at three other meatpacking plants, including Skylark Meats. Skylark Meats is owned by Rosen's Diversified, Inc., a major U.S. beef packer that also owns Dakota Premium Foods in South St. Paul, Minnesota, where workers voted July 21 to be organized by the UFCW. There are more than 2,000 unorganized meat packers in a dozen or more plants in the greater Omaha area, he said.

The new union organizing center, located in South Omaha, which has a growing Latino population, was jointly opened by the UFCW and Omaha Together, One Community (OTOC), an organization of 38 religious congregations.

One OTOC member at the open house, a retired Mexican-American construction worker who worked in the packing industry some years ago, heard some of the workers describe the speedup and other harsh conditions in the plants today and has volunteered to help the organizing drive.

Some of the largest packing plants in Omaha are only about a mile from the new OTOC/UFCW office. One has more than 900 workers. Almost all the workers are immigrants from Latin America, most from Mexico.

Supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* have regularly distributed these papers and talked with workers at the plant gate there over the past three or four weeks or set up literature tables in South Omaha.

On one occasion, one of the workers talked to *Militant* supporters at the plant gate for more than 15 minutes. The worker, who is originally from Mexico and has worked at the plant almost three years, had recently signed a union authorization card and did

not want to give his name because of likely company victimization. He described the large turnover in the workforce. In his own case, the company fired him after refusing to accept his medical operation as an excuse for missing work and then, after his recovery, rehired him at a new employee's starting wage of \$7.00 an hour, which is at least \$1.00 to \$2.00 less than most UFCW-organized plants.

The worker described a work stoppage at his plant more than a year ago lasting 30 minutes that was carried out in nearly all the kill and cut departments. The stoppage was over holiday pay that was not on workers' checks. The company responded saying it would pay the holiday if the workers returned to the line, which they did. The company then fired the five leaders of the work stoppage and never did pay the holiday.

The UFCW has filed unfair labor practice charges against ConAgra in Omaha. It accuses the company of searching employees' lockers for union literature, questioning workers about their support to the union, and videotaping license plates of workers who took union leaflets at the plant gates.

The workers' resistance to the attacks by the meatpacking bosses, particularly the union organizing drive, has not gone unnoticed by big-business politicians in Nebraska. In June, Gov. Michael Johanns signed a "Nebraska Meatpacking Industry Workers Bill of Rights."

The new law supposedly gives workers the right to organize and join together for collective bargaining purposes, the right to a safe workplace by establishing "management/employee safety committees," adequate restroom and rest break facilities, and adequate equipment without fear of harassment or reprisals.

Of the numerous workers *Militant* reporters spoke with over the last few weeks, only a few had even heard of the new law and none had a voice in bringing it about.

Over the years, capitalist politicians around the country have drawn up many official declarations such as the new Nebraska "Bill of Rights." Their chief function has been to convince the working class that the capitalist government will actually protect their rights. But these "worker right" laws operate in favor of the bosses.

The so-called Bill of Rights, for example, starts off by declaring that "Nebraska is a right-to-work state," referring to the open

shop legislation that weakens union representation. And it has ridiculous statements such as: "The failure to provide adequate equipment shall be cause for the [management/union] safety committee to make recommendations for corrective action by the employer."

One of the Local 271 UFCW staffers at the OTOC/UFCW open house said he had heard about the sit-down strike at Dakota Premium Foods in St. Paul, Minnesota, the June 12 pro-union march and rally, and the fight against the company's antiunion campaign. He said union organizers in Omaha have learned things from their experiences to win union representation. They have been leafleting churches and the soccer fields in South Omaha. They are now starting to hold house meetings with meat packers and their families about the union, and OTOC activists are helping to provide translation.

500 rally for striking Teamsters at Pepsi

BY TOM FISHER

BURNSVILLE, Minnesota—Some 500 striking Teamsters and supporters marched July 22 against the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Group in this southern suburb of Minneapolis-St. Paul. They walked around the large bottling plant carrying signs and chanting pro-union slogans. Some wore pins saying "Boycott Pepsi Products."

The march was preceded by a rally addressed by officials of the Teamsters and other unions and by some politicians. The keynote speaker was Teamsters international secretary-treasurer Tom Keegle.

The unionists, members of Teamsters Local 792, have been on strike against Pepsi since June 11. Key issues in the fight are pay, working conditions, and jobs. Workers at the rally explained that the company has refused to budge in the negotiations from a wage increase offer of 45 cents an hour. Workers at the nearby Coca-Cola bottling plant, whose contract also expired recently, received a 90-cent raise, strikers say.

The company insists on being able to ship syrup directly to its restaurant customers, a change that would eliminate

many jobs of delivery drivers and production workers at the plant.

The bosses are backing up their hard negotiating stance by deploying 100 Huffmeister Security guards, who attempt to intimidate strikers with their video cameras and military-style uniforms.

The strikers have not let themselves be intimidated, keeping up their picket lines. They also organize teams of strikers in vehicles to follow the trucks and set up picket lines when the scab truckers try to deliver their products.

A striker named Walter reported that none of the 440 members of Local 792 have crossed the picket line. The company tries to maintain production with managers and workers from other Pepsi plants, and claims production has been little affected. But in some local stores and vending machines Pepsi products are no longer stocked.

Many Pepsi strikers and representatives of other Teamster-organized plants in the area attended the march and rally. Also there were 15 members of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, which just scored a victory in a strike against seven hotels in the Twin Cities area.

How U.S. militarization drive led to second world imperialist slaughter

Pathfinder Press reprints 'In Defense of Marxism' by Leon Trotsky

BY STEVE CLARK

Pathfinder Press has just issued a new printing of Leon Trotsky's final major work, *In Defense of Marxism*.

In 1990, when the publishing house released the third edition of the book, the editors added the subtitle: "The Social and Political Contradictions of the Soviet Union." That edition went on sale amid the events that culminated at the end of 1991 with the collapse of the Stalinist regime in Moscow, including dissolution of the federation that since 1922 had been called the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or Soviet Union for short.

Ten years later, many workers and young people who will be interested in Trotsky's book have lived their entire political lives during a period when the term "the Soviet Union" did not appear on any up-to-date map or globe they may have looked at.

Recognizing that political reality, Pathfinder has now expanded the subtitle to read: "The Social and Political Contradictions of the Soviet Union on the Eve of World War II."

By doing so the publisher hopes to establish a historical and political framework that makes the topic of Trotsky's work a bit more accessible and concrete, and thus of greater interest, to potential readers. With the same goal, Pathfinder in the mid-1990s added the years "1928-38" to the title of another of its standard books, *The History of American Trotskyism* by James P. Cannon, a founding leader of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party.

Why 'on eve of World War II'?

In Defense of Marxism had been redesigned with more readable type and an attractive new cover in 1995, and those who already have it on their bookshelves will notice no substantial differences in this new printing. So the addition of seven words to the subtitle might seem of little note, especially to anyone other than a new reader.

In fact, however, the editors' choice of wording—"on the eve of World War II"—raises a thought-provoking question: Why not "at the opening of World War II" instead? After all, Trotsky's articles and letters collected in the book are all written following September 3, 1939, when the imperialist governments of the United Kingdom and France declared war on Germany, a few days after Berlin's invasion of Poland.

Pathfinder's editors made the right decision. For class-conscious working people, the decisive spread of the war in Europe in the fall of 1939 signaled the inevitability of what would truly transform the conflict both there and in Asia into a second world war: the entry of U.S. imperialism.

References to the opening of World War II in September 1939 are comparable in this sense to calling the Bolshevik-led workers and peasants government established in October 1917 the dictatorship of the proletariat some half a year before the toilers had expropriated most capitalist-owned means of production. In both cases, such terminology is an anticipation for practical, that is, revolutionary, purposes.

In Defense of Marxism is a collection of polemics by Trotsky written to arm the proletarian cadre of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) against a petty-bourgeois minority current in the leadership of the party that was bending to the intensifying pressures of bourgeois public opinion during Washington's militarization drive.

Trotsky was a central leader of the October 1917 revolution who, following the death of Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin, fought to continue advancing Lenin's communist course against the political counterrevolution eventually headed by Joseph Stalin.

Exiled by Stalin in 1929, Trotsky was liv-



Workers at General Motors plant in Flint, Michigan, staged sit-down strike in 1937 in fight for a union. U.S. rulers at the time were preparing for war by strengthening police apparatus of imperialist state and beginning concerted effort to combat antiwar, anti-intervention attitudes among working people.

ing in Mexico in 1939-40 when he collaborated with Cannon and other SWP leaders in conducting this political fight, at the center of which was their intransigent defense of the Soviet workers state in face of the impending imperialist assault.

Wars in Europe and Asia

Both the war in Europe and the war in Asia had begun well before the closing months of 1939.

In Asia, the Japanese government had launched its invasion and occupation of Manchuria in 1931, extending its brutal imperial control over China throughout the following seven years. (Korea had been annexed by Tokyo as far back as 1910, and remained so.)

In Europe, during the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39, the fascist regimes of Adolf Hitler in Germany and Benito Mussolini in Italy provided military aid to Gen. Francisco

Franco in savagely crushing the labor movement, insurgent peasants, and the rebellious colonized people of Morocco. The Italian government militarily conquered Ethiopia in 1935-36 and annexed Albania in April 1939. German imperialism occupied Austria in March 1938, the Sudetenland in October of that year, and much of the rest of Czechoslovakia in March 1939.

But the declaration of war by London and Paris in September 1939 came 21 months before German imperialism's invasion of the Soviet Union—and no one at the time knew whether it would take place in 5 months, 21 months, 35 months, or when.

In fact, Stalin in August 1939 had just concluded the so-called German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact with Hitler, opening the way for Berlin to invade and occupy the western half of Poland. At the same time, Moscow invaded and occupied the eastern sector of Poland, after which Stalin's mur-

der squads rooted out Bolshevik oppositionists and antifascist officers of the Polish armed forces.

The counterrevolutionary course of the bureaucratic caste registered by the Stalin-Hitler pact had a demoralizing and demobilizing impact on workers and farmers in the Soviet Union and worldwide, facilitating German imperialism's invasion of the workers state in June 1941. Stalin was stunned and unprepared for this assault. On its eve, he refused for days to approve defensive action by the general staff of the Red Army, because he couldn't believe what was about to happen.

But as Trotsky's polemics demonstrate, the communist workers movement had been actively readying class-conscious working people for more than half a decade to defend the Soviet workers state and take advantage of every opportunity to extend the socialist revolution.

Roosevelt presses for war

In December 1941 the expanding wars both in the Pacific and in Europe were finally unified with the North American imperialist colossus, and transformed into a world war.

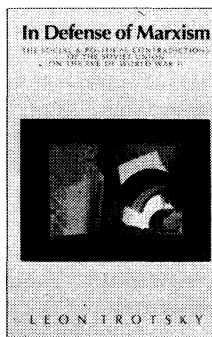
On December 8 of that year, Congress adopted the proposal by Democratic president Franklin Roosevelt that it "declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan [on the U.S. naval base in Pearl Harbor] on Sunday, December 7, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire."

Several days later, on December 11, Berlin and Rome declared war on Washington, and a grateful Roosevelt administration merely had to ask U.S. Congress to reciprocate—a vote that would have been defeated even two weeks beforehand.

A little more than two decades earlier the leading families of U.S. finance capital had emerged from World War I surpassing the United Kingdom as the dominant imperialist power financially, and were increasingly overtaking London's more-than-a-century-long economic and naval prowess as well. Successfully challenging the British Empire and the momentous advantages accruing to

Continued on Page 10

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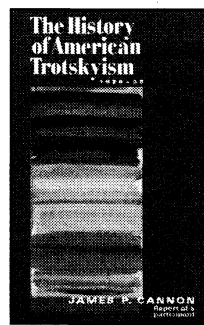
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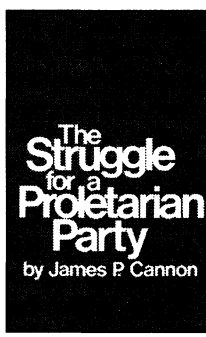


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Thousands in Okinawa protest U.S. bases

Continued from front page

bases. Until that year Washington, with the knowledge of Tokyo, stockpiled nuclear arms on the island.

The Japanese government, which subsidizes the U.S. bases in Okinawa to the tune of \$5 billion a year, has sought to defuse protests by Okinawans against the U.S. military.

Five years ago protests exploded after three U.S. marines were convicted of raping a 12-year-old girl. Some 85,000 people took part in one action. In recent weeks a new round of demonstrations was sparked by the arrest of a U.S. marine for sexually molesting a 14-year-old girl and by a hit-and-run accident involving a U.S. soldier. Gen. Earl Hailston, U.S. marine commander in Okinawa, formally apologized for the incidents, an unusual action.

Clinton treads carefully

U.S. president William Clinton assumed a diplomatic pose on arriving for the G-8 summit, which began one day after the mass outpouring. Speaking at a ceremony at a war memorial to the 234,000 victims of fighting on Okinawa in World War II, he said the U.S. government would reduce "our footprint on this island."

Two and a half years ago, Okinawans



voted in a nonbinding referendum in favor of reducing the U.S. military "footprint," by rejecting a plan for a massive offshore military heliport.

Clinton did not mention any troop reductions in speaking to U.S. soldiers at Camp Foster. Rather, he handed out a "heavy dose of praise for the military's sacrifices and community service," reported an Associated Press correspondent, combined with a "gen-

tly worded admonishment" to the soldiers to be "good neighbors." Washington, wrote the correspondent, uses "Okinawa's bases as firewall against trouble in Asia."

Leaders of Vieques fight in Asia

"[We want an] island of peace without military bases," said Shiko Sakiyama on July 20, speaking for the Action Committee that called the protest.

Carlos Zenón, president of the Vieques Fishermen's Association, was an invited guest at the Okinawa protest. "The Japanese suffered the brutal onslaught of World War II. The message I am taking them is that for us, the residents of Vieques, World War II has not ended," said Zenón on his departure for Okinawa.

Meanwhile, Ismael Guadalupe, a leader of the Committee for the Rescue and De-

velopment of Vieques, traveled to south Korea. He was invited to attend an "International Solidarity Conference on the Massacres against Civilians Perpetrated by the U.S. Military in Maehyang-ri," a village on the southwest coast. Over the last month villagers have led protests against the U.S. Air Force training ground nearby. Guadalupe dubbed Maehyang-ri "the Vieques of Korea."

Cuban trade union leaders speak in Boston

BY BROCK SATTER

BOSTON—Cuba is stronger than 10 years ago, said Cuban trade union leader Leonel González here at a meeting held at the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 285 union hall.

González, director of international relations of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), addressed the meeting along with Manuel Montero, head of the CTC's North American Interests Bureau, on the first leg of a national tour by three Cuban trade union leaders. A third unionist, Olga Rosa Gómez, is also on tour.

"We are here to speak out against the continued U.S. blockade against the Cuban people, to speak out against the Cuban Adjustment Act, and to exchange information on the realities of life of the Cuban people with the people of the United States," said González.

"New legislation being considered in the U.S. Congress says that Cuba can buy U.S. products, but we can't sell products to the United States. They want to demobilize the fight against the blockade."

Why does Washington maintain a trade ban on revolutionary Cuba? "Because Cuba is an example of what sovereignty and independence can do for the people," González stressed.

Condemns immigration law

González condemned the U.S. law known as the Cuban Adjustment Act, which expedites U.S. legal residency and citizenship for Cubans who claim political asylum, compared to most other immigrants. "When a Cuban applies for a visa to come to the United States they are denied. When they risk their life on a raft they get U.S. citizenship," González said.

"What the U.S. wants is propaganda against Cuba. Every year 1.2 million people

immigrate here from Mexico. They don't say they are trying to flee the regime in Mexico."

Montero reported that "in Cuba, the workplace is ruled by the workers. Administrators must report to workers, and their performance is criticized by the workers. The unions don't just deal with economics, like wages. They participate in the economic, political, and social life of the country."

Referring to the economic crisis that began in the early 1990s with the collapse in preferential trade and aid from the Soviet Union, Montero said, "In 1993 tens of thousands of factories shut down for lack of fuel. There were blackouts for 16 hours a day. But there were no social explosions. Why?

Because discussions were organized in every workplace to discuss the situation," and every major measure the revolutionary government was taking to get production going again. "Discussions in more than 70,000 workplaces were held," he reported. "The same process took place in the high schools, universities, and peasant organizations."

"That's why Cuba survived. Workers participated as part of a workers state," the trade unionist stated. In recent years Cuba has slowly recovered from the worst of the economic crisis.

Brock Satter is a meat packer in the Boston area.

Union leaders from Cuba tour the U.S.

Three leaders of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC) have begun a month-long U.S. speaking tour. They are:

Olga Rosa Gómez Cortes

General secretary of the Cultural Workers Union and a deputy in Cuba's National Assembly

Leonel González González

Has been a leader of the health care workers union and is an official in the CTC's foreign relations department. He is also a deputy in the National Assembly, and a member of the assembly's Foreign Relations Commission.

Manuel Montero Bistilleiro

Secretary of the union of workers in the sports industry and head of the CTC's International Relations Department relating to the Americas.

The following is the schedule and contact phone numbers for the tour:

- July 30 Toledo
- August 1 Tennessee (865) 933-3443
- August 2 North Carolina (919) 683-3145
- August 3 San Jose (408) 261-4151
- August 4-6 San Francisco (415) 821-6545
- August 7-8 Los Angeles (310) 419-2983
- August 9-12 Chicago (773) 376-7521
- August 13-14 Detroit (313) 561-8330

The tour is being organized by the U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange.

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FBI's Internet spying attacks privacy rights

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In a serious attack on democratic rights and the right to privacy, the FBI publicly confirmed in late June that it has developed and is utilizing an electronic surveillance system, dubbed Carnivore, which enables the federal cop agency to eavesdrop on virtually any piece of information sent over the Internet. This snooping operation can scan millions of e-mails a second, as well as access instant messaging systems, and Internet chat sessions.

"The Carnivore system has disturbed many in the Internet industry," states an article in the July 11 *Wall Street Journal*, "because when deployed, it must be hooked directly into Internet service providers' computer networks. That would give the government, at least theoretically, the ability to eavesdrop on all customers' digital communications, from e-mail to on-line banking and Web surfing."

With such Internet wiretaps, which are supposedly conducted under state or federal judicial orders, the FBI places its secret Carnivore computer system in a locked cage on the Internet provider's premises, with agents making daily visits to retrieve the data obtained from the provider's network.

"Legal challenges to the use of Carnivore are few," comments the *Wall Street Journal* article, "and judges' rulings remain sealed because of the secretive nature of the investigations."

"Nobody can dispute the fact that this is not legal...within the context of any current wiretap law," stated House majority leader Richard Army.

The Republican congressman from Texas added that the most troubling problem he sees with Carnivore is "an erosion of trust

in the government" by U.S. citizens.

The FBI's website touts Carnivore as a "diagnostic tool" that represents "one of the most important capabilities for acquiring evidence." The agency claims that "there is no substitute for electronic surveillance" while hypocritically claiming that it is "providing enhanced privacy protection."

Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Democratic from Vermont, who the *Washington Post* described as "a staunch privacy advocate," backed the FBI's arguments on the need for such electronic surveillance. "Carnivore is like a car," Leahy stated, "It can be useful or it can be abused. What counts are the rules of the road and the license we give the driver."

One of the nation's largest Internet service providers, Earthlink Inc., refused to install the FBI's new surveillance device on its network. They countered a federal marshal's order with a promise that they would provide the government with the requested information about specific e-mail senders and recipients.

Earthlink, which has 3.5 million subscribers, fought the FBI's demand in court, but lost the case when a federal magistrate earlier this year ordered the company to give the FBI direct access to its system. Carnivore, however, wasn't compatible with the operating system software on the remote access servers. So Earthlink was forced to install an older version of the system software that would work with Carnivore. This older version caused its remote access servers to crash, which in turn knocked out access for a number of its customers.

Meanwhile, the American Civil Liberties Union is seeking information under the Freedom of Information Act that would

Striking food workers in Chicago oppose seven-day workweek



Militant /Betsey Stone

Laborers Local 681 members in Chicago picket Appetizers and Inc. opposing bosses' demand for weekend work and other concessions. The giant inflated rat, popular at many picket lines, represents the owner of the company.

force the FBI to disclose technical details about how its surveillance system works. It filed a request July 14 specifically asking for the release of the system's "source code" as well as "letters, correspondence, tape recordings, notes, data, memoranda, e-mail" and other information connected with Carnivore.

The ACLU has also asked for similar information on two earlier FBI electronic spying systems, known as "Omnivore" and "EtherPeek."

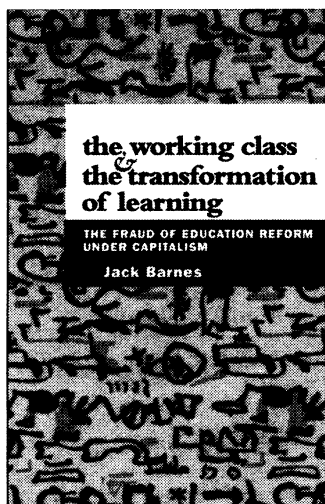
The White House, hoping to codify into law the "right" of police agencies to monitor communications on the Internet, an-

nounced July 17 that it would be proposing legislation within the next 10 days that sets legal requirements for surveillance in cyberspace by federal authorities. White House chief of staff John Podesta, who made the announcement, called for "harmoniz[ing] the legal standards that apply to law enforcement's access to e-mail, telephone calls, and cable services."

Barry Steinhardt, an associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union, condemned the administration's stance. "Rather than glossing over Carnivore, Podesta should have announced that the administration was suspending its use," he stated.

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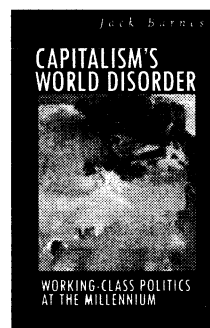
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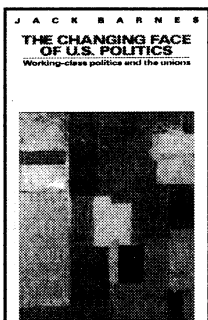
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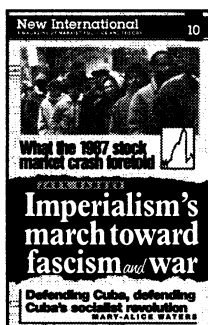


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‘In Defense of Marxism’

Continued from Page 7

Westminster would take another world war.

At least since Roosevelt’s October 1937 “Quarantine the Aggressor” speech, the U.S. rulers, represented by the White House, had been building up their military preparedness to extend their dominance on the battlefield.

At the same time, they began a concerted effort to combat the deep antiwar, anti-intervention attitudes among broad layers of working people in the United States, especially among many of those involved in the mass social movement that forged the industrial unions and fought for Black rights in those years.

“Under one or another pretext and slogan the United States will intervene in the tremendous clash in order to maintain its world dominion,” wrote Leon Trotsky in the manifesto adopted by the May 1940 emergency conference of our world movement, the Fourth International. That manifesto—entitled “Imperialist War and the Proletarian World Revolution”—continued:

The order and time of the struggle between American capitalism and its enemies is not yet known—perhaps even by Washington. War with Japan would be a struggle for ‘living room’ in the Pacific Ocean. War in the Atlantic, even if directed immediately against Germany, would be a struggle for the heritage of Great Britain....

The present titanic battles on the fields of Europe are in this sense preparatory episodes in the struggle between Germany and America. France and England are only fortified positions of American capitalism, extended beyond the Atlantic.

Seeking to direct the widespread antiwar sentiment against the imperialist rulers and their government, worker-bolsheviks in the Socialist Workers Party campaigned in the late 1930s to “Let the people vote on war!” Through their involvement in vanguard union and farmer struggles, above all in the Upper Midwest—recounted in Pathfinder’s four-volume Teamsters series by SWP leader Farrell Dobbs—they took steps toward the creation of workers defense guards to combat the antilabor thuggery of fascist outfits such as the Silver Shirts, the employers’ private company goon units, and others.

Recognizing the inevitability of U.S. capital’s march toward war by the close of the 1930s, communist workers advanced this proletarian military policy to prepare the toilers to use the revolutionary methods—the only methods—that could both bring such a slaughter to a halt and defeat for all time the forces of fascist reaction.

“Our struggle against United States intervention into the war has nothing in common with isolationism and pacifism,” said the 1940 emergency manifesto.

We tell the workers openly that the imperialist government cannot fail to drag this country into war.... The real struggle against war means the class struggle against imperialism and a merciless exposure of petty-bourgeois pacifism. Only revolution could prevent the American bourgeoisie from intervening in the second imperialist war or beginning the third imperialist war.

Struggle for a proletarian party

This proletarian internationalist course necessarily went hand in hand with the party’s stepped-up effort to turn to colonizing industry and the industrial unions, to more deeply proletarianize the party, and to chart a clear, convergent working-class orientation for the youth.

The leadership of the youth, Trotsky writes in the pages of *In Defense of Marxism*, “have indubitable virtues and ability but, alas, they have been educated in the spirit of petty-bourgeois combinationism and if they are not wrenched out of their habitual milieu, if they are not sent without high-sounding titles into working-class districts for day-to-day dirty work among the proletariat, they can forever perish for the revolutionary movement”

This aspect of the 1939–40 political fight in the SWP is described more fully in the companion volume by James P. Cannon, entitled *The Struggle for a Proletarian Party*.

Simultaneous with the “Quarantine the Aggressor” speech, the Roosevelt administration took steps to prepare for war by strengthening the police apparatus of the imperialist state to wield against the vanguard of the working class.

In 1939 there was stepped-up FBI harassment of Teamsters in the Midwest—whose publications proudly opposed any support to imperialist war and championed the resistance by the colonial masses and their fight for independence, regardless of the current leadership. Among the first of these government assaults was the frame-up and indictment in 1939 of union militants in Sioux City, Iowa, who were involved in the effort to organize over-the-road truckers.

Smith Act frame-up

In 1940 Roosevelt signed into law the Smith Act, a thought-control measure aimed at breaking the class-struggle vanguard of the labor movement that was leading opposition to Washington’s preparations to drag workers and farmers into the slaughter. The following year, 18 leaders of Local 544-CIO in Minnesota and of the Socialist Workers Party were convicted in federal court of violating that law. As it happened, their sentencing was set for December 8, 1941.

As Farrell Dobbs recounts in *Teamster Bureaucracy*, at the very moment he and other Minneapolis defendants entered the courtroom to be sentenced, “Roosevelt was

EDITORIALS

No to ‘antiterror’ campaign

The antiterrorist campaign the government is whipping up around the FBI arrests of 18 people in North Carolina and Michigan is aimed at all working people and should be loudly denounced by supporters of basic democratic rights.

The sight of a raid and arrests by 200 heavily armed FBI agents is no longer a new one. It will be familiar to residents of Miami, who experienced the April 22 assault by FBI and immigration cops on a private home in that city, ordered by top cop Janet Reno in the name of rescuing a Cuban six-year-old.

And it will be familiar to the people of Puerto Rico, a U.S. colony, where on May 4 U.S. FBI agents, marshals, and marines carried out a massive raid of the island of Vieques and detained protesters against the U.S. Navy occupation of their land.

Who will be next?

In the case of Charlotte, North Carolina, the dramatic raids and sensationalized media coverage are being used to tar immigrants from Arab countries as “terrorists.” While formally charging those arrested with evading cigarette taxes, the FBI seized computers, papers, and other possessions, and is now on a fishing expedition to cook up more allegations. To give a taste of what they’re preparing, a government affidavit includes vague references to “target practice” by some of the defendants to bolster the charge of terrorism. As if thousands of people in North Carolina don’t have and use guns, which is a constitutional right.

At the heart of this case is freedom of association. The

federal cops claim they suspect those arrested of supporting Hezbollah, a political group that many Lebanese and others sympathize with because of its role in the successful fight to expel the Israeli occupying army from southern Lebanon. To justify their assertions, they cite anonymous “sources”—a time-honored tradition in police frame-ups. They have the gall to allege that one of the defendants visited a Hezbollah web site and shared information from it with others. This attack on the right to hold political and religious views, discuss them, and access information comes as the FBI is pressing for greater leeway to carry out electronic surveillance on the Internet—the ominously named “Carnivore” spy system.

The case also highlights Washington’s increased use of immigration laws to attack political rights and justify the arbitrary use of police powers. Nearly all of the 18 defendants are accused of “false marriages” to obtain immigration papers—another classic tactic in political victimization by U.S. cops. The U.S. rulers use their hated Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to try to keep a whole section of working people in a second-class position, with fewer rights, to aid the employers in their efforts to divide our class and drive down the wages and working conditions of all. In recent years they have expanded the powers of the INS to hold immigrants without charges, including on the basis of secret evidence—in the name of fighting “terrorism. Working people should demand: Free the 18! Drop the charges! Stop the anti-Arab witch-hunt!

U.S. bases out of Okinawa!

The fight that tens of thousands of people are waging in Okinawa against the U.S. military bases on their land is one that working people in this country should make our own.

A total of about 100,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Okinawa, elsewhere in Japan, south Korea, and aboard warships afloat in the Pacific. These troops, together with a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons, are aimed against the workers states in China and north Korea—as well as Russia—and against working people throughout Asia who fight to assert their rights. They are key to the U.S. rulers’ efforts to remain the dominant Pacific power.

Washington targets China and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea because workers and farmers there ripped those lands out of the control of Washington and other powers that had long plundered them, and overturned capitalist rule. U.S. officials have labeled north Korea a “rogue state”—now revised as a “state of concern”—because the Korean people continue to refuse to get on their knees to imperialism. The U.S. troops and weapons on the Korean peninsula are meant to reinforce the 50-year-long division of that nation. Washington’s bipartisan drive to develop a missile “defense” system—in reality an offensive system designed to give the U.S. rulers a first-strike nuclear capacity—is also aimed against these workers states.

U.S. officials argue that the U.S. bases in Okinawa are needed in face of “instability” in Asia. They have in mind rebellious workers and farmers such as those in south Korea who continue to mobilize in strikes and demonstrations for union rights, against economic austerity measures, and for the unification of their country.

urging retaliation for what he termed a day of ‘infamy’ at Pearl Harbor. The capitalist propaganda machine was flooding the country with calls for patriotic support of the war effort, and we had just been convicted of advocating the overthrow of the government by force and violence.”

These class-struggle fighters were given sentences ranging from 12 to 18 months in federal prison.

Toward the second world war

The increasingly aggressive course of the Roosevelt administration against Japan (including a tightening naval blockade of oil shipments to this island nation) made a retaliatory assault by Tokyo inevitable. There is no need for conspiracy theories about Roosevelt to explain either Pearl Harbor or why Washington seized on the bombing to declare that “a state of war has existed” with Japan—this was the opportunity, long awaited by the most aggressive wing of the U.S. rulers, to counter widespread opposition to war and drum up a patriotic majority for the deployment of U.S. military might.

By the end of 1941, the interimperialist conflict between the Axis and the Allied powers in Asia, Europe, and North America; the war to defend the Soviet workers state; and the war of the colonial peoples for their liberation had come together in what the communist movement recognized as “three wars in one.”

Unlike in the First World War, North America was not drawn in only during the closing 18 months of the conflict. In the second worldwide slaughter, U.S. troops saw combat for some three and a half years, and led the Allied imperialist conquest of North Africa, invasion of continental

Europe, and taking of the Pacific.

The wars in Europe and Asia had been joined and the conflict had become a truly *world war*—one whose results and aftermath mark the relationship of class forces and the channels through which the world class struggle continues to flow today.

UMWA rally

Continued from front page
not take a step backward.”

Lawrence Oliver, president of UMWA Local 1332 at the McKinley mine, said, “We want a contract, and we want it now. P&M is trying to take advantage of the treaty rights of the Navajo Nation, and that is as low as you can go. By trying to get miners to use Indian Health Services, they are trying to take away medical care from Navajo children.” Oliver invited those present to an August 13 rally at the McKinley mine. He reported, “Miners from Black Mesa and Kayenta will be at McKinley that day.” Black Mesa and Kayenta are mines on the Navajo Nation; they are owned by Peabody Coal, and their contract is due to expire August 31.

UMWA international president Cecil Roberts told the crowd, “Unity is what made the UMWA, and unity is what is going to win these strikes.” Roberts pledged the full backing of the international union to the fight of the McKinley and Kemmerer miners.

¡Sí se puede! Meat packers vote union

Continued from Page 6

season is coming up in a few months. The unemployment rate is low. The company will need every single worker."

Armando, one of the workers present, argued for moving swiftly to the next step. "We have to launch a fight for a contract. We can't wait for a contract to come to us. I do not know if I'll be around in a year or 10 months. The union now is better."

'You need a union'

Francisco Picado, a meat packer on leave from his job and currently a full-time organizer for the union, read messages of support from other workers. Two messages were particularly well received. One was from 120 meat packers at the IBP plant in Perry, Iowa. It said, "We, workers at IBP, in Perry, Iowa, wish to congratulate you, workers at Dakota Beef, in St. Paul, Minnesota, on your victory against the company with your demands for dignity, more control over the line speed, and fair wages, and we support you in your fight to join the union."

Another message was from a farmer in southern Georgia, Willie Head. "I worked at Swift meatpacking in Moultrie, Georgia, for four years. We moved from 4,000 hogs a day to 4,800 hogs a day in a short period of time. We were denied the right to go to the bathroom. We were denied the right to bid on the job of our choice. We were denied the right to talk to our supervisors about working conditions such as the line speed. We were forced, as you have been, to work when injured—or get fired. This is why you need a union more than a paycheck. You really don't have a choice. YOU NEED A UNION."

Messages were also read from tomato pickers in a union organizing drive in Arizona, from workers in a nonunion Miami garment plant, and workers locked out by AK Steel in Ohio.

The meeting of the cut was also addressed by Alberto Puga, a former farm worker and veteran of struggles that forged the United Farm Workers a couple of decades ago. Puga was representing Isaiah, a coalition of religious-based community organizations that supports the rights of immigrant workers in the Twin Cities area.

Threats about immigration

"As an immigrant worker who has taken part in union struggles I know what you are going through right now," Puga said. "I've been told the company is making threats about immigration. Don't get intimidated. The community and the churches responded to the call of the workers of the Holiday Inn Express when their employer used the INS [Immigration and Naturalization Service] against their organizing drive. The employer lost and had to compensate those workers and the INS had to give them work permits.

If they tried to do something similar to you, we'll be ready, we'll be right here. You are not alone."

Some members of the International Association of Machinists who work as baggage handlers at Northwest Airlines also spoke in solidarity. In addition, a few members of other unions such as the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; United Auto Workers; and Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical, and Energy

worked in the kill for six years, stated, "When we killed several hundred cattle it was considered a record and they gave us beer, entire meals, and bonuses. Now we kill 700 and they give us nothing. Cortinas said that what *The Workers' Voice* has published about the company's production drive was a lie, that they would keep production at 700 cattle a day. But I know he is not telling the truth. They are installing new rails in the cooler. They are planning on expanding to

statements to be published in *The Workers' Voice* calling for a "yes" vote.

The voting began at 2:30 p.m. in the company cafeteria. That morning, leaders of the union organizing drive passed out copies of the new color edition of *The Workers' Voice*. Workers in the cut department kept chanting, "¡Sí se puede," according to workers in the department.

The bosses had some new tricks. Workers in the plant report that the company had tried to allow some quality control personnel to vote. This was not allowed, however, since quality control employees are part of management. The company tried to allow brand-new workers to participate in the vote by switching their blue hats to white hats to fool other workers into thinking they were eligible to vote. The workers assigned to be union election monitors foiled the maneuver. Company supervisors, however, were successful in a few instances in preventing pro-union workers from voting by misleading them about the time they were allowed to vote.

The voting, which continued until 5:30 p.m. was conducted by representatives of the National Labor Relations Board. A little after 6:30 the votes were tabulated and the union victory was announced: 112 for the UFCW, 71 against.

Union monitors contested 12 votes. Four votes by union supporters were disqualified as not clear.

The celebration of the union victory continued until 8:30 that night. There were numerous informal discussions about what needed to be done now.

José Mateo, a boner and a leader of the union drive, told a group of co-workers, "We need to be even stronger now. We don't know the plans of the company. They will try to take advantage of any weakness. Let's not be provoked." Francisco Picado stated, "It's very important not to allow the company to provoke us. We need to respond collectively."

Miguel Olvera, another worker in the cut and leader of the drive, said, "We have to deepen and solidify leadership in the different departments of the company. And we have to win over the 71 who did not vote for the union. We have to strengthen ourselves for the next stage of the fight. We have to keep the pressure on the company and continue to organize to fight."

The next day, at a demonstration of 500 workers in support of Teamsters on strike against Pepsi-Cola in the Twin Cities, a number of workers and union activists commented that they had heard about the union victory and felt boosted by it.

Tom Fisher is a textile worker in Minnesota.



Courtesy of UFCW Local 789

Workers at Dakota Premium Foods and supporters hold march and rally June 12. Using momentum of July 21 election victory, union members are now preparing to wage a fight for a union contract.

Workers attended the event.

The high point of the rally was when the cut workers took the stage at the union hall for a group photo. Dozens had put on black T-shirts that had printed in red letters across the chest, "Union yes—¡Sí se puede!" The mood was festive and confident. Workers gave themselves a big ovation.

The photograph was printed in color the following morning in a special last-minute edition of *The Workers' Voice*, designed to show the strength of the union-organizing drive and answer again the bosses' arguments. The photo appears on the home page of the Local 789 web site, at www.ufcw789.org.

The same issues that were discussed at the rally for the cut were discussed at the rally for the workers from the kill. José Estrada, a meat packer for 40 years, stated, "On the eve of the vote to decertify the union eight years ago, the supervisors went around putting a lot of pressure to vote no. And this worked on some people. Yesterday they were doing some of the same things. But don't be afraid. Talk to your co-workers about why we need a union."

Enrique Flores Sr., a lead man who has

900 cattle in nine hours. They promise you things and then they break their promises."

Pearson also addressed the kill meeting. "At the earlier meeting of the cut, there were 80 brothers and sisters. We are strong in boning. In the kill we can make the difference. On June 1 you did the bravest thing I've ever seen in my life. Tomorrow is just the beginning of a new fight. When we win, this starts the battle for the contract. The fight will be on for wages, benefits, and dignity."

'Who will you call tonight'

A number of workers in the kill department raised their hands and went to the front of the room to address the issues. Messages of solidarity from other workers were read again. Pablo Tapia, a representative of Isaiah, asked the kill workers present, "Who are you going to call tonight to discuss the need for a union?" He reiterated the commitment of his organization to the fight for a contract. The kill workers took the pro-union T-shirts and put them on. Several gave

LETTERS

'Learn the exploiters'

There's a typo, actually a missing word, in the excerpt from Jack Barnes's new pamphlet, *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform under Capitalism*, which has now appeared in two consecutive issues of the *Militant*, which suggests that the error is in the pamphlet itself.

The excerpt reads: "...for the greatest of all battles in the years ahead—the battle to throw off the self-image the rulers teach us, and to recognize that we are capable of taking power and organizing society, as we collectively educate ourselves and learn the exploiters in the process."

Shouldn't "about" appear between "learn" and "the"? Other than that, this Pathfinder pamphlet sounds like it's perfect for the reality that's unfolding before us. Thanks for publishing it. Now we have to get it into workers' hands. The other night I got a call from an old friend from high school who's now a teacher in Jersey. We got to talking about education and I told him about Jack's new pamphlet and read to him the "Lifetime Education for All" section of *Capitalism's World Disorder*. He thought it was excellent and is now going to buy a copy for himself.

Kevin McGuire
by e-mail

Editor's reply—The excerpt quoted is not an error. As a second definition of the word "learn," Webster's dictionary says: "Non-standard: teach." For example: to teach the exploiters a lesson.

The dictionary's editors, in their own class-biased way, explain the usage as follows:

"Learn in the sense of 'teach' dates from the 13th century and was standard until at least the early 19th <made them drunk with true Hollands—and then *learned* them the art of making bargains—Washington Irving>. But by Mark Twain's time it was receding to a speech form associated chiefly with the less educated <never done nothing for three months but set in his backyard and *learn* that frog to jump—Mark Twain>. The present-day status of *learn* has not risen. This use persists in speech, but in writing it appears mainly in the representation of such speech, or its deliberate imitation for effect."

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people.

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.

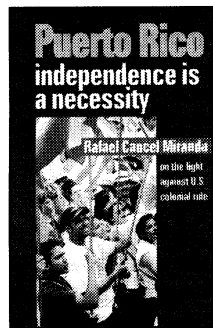
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FROM PATHFINDER

Puerto Rico: Independence Is a Necessity

Rafael Cancel Miranda

In two interviews, Cancel Miranda — one of five Puerto Rican Nationalists imprisoned by Washington for more than 25 years until 1979 — speaks out on the brutal reality of U.S. colonial domination, the campaign needed to free the Puerto Rican political prisoners, the example of Cuba's socialist revolution, and the resurgence of the independence movement today. In English and Spanish. Booklet \$3



The Communist Manifesto

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Founding document of the modern working-class movement, published in 1848. Why communists act on the basis not of preconceived principles but of facts springing from the actual class struggle, and why communism, to the degree it is a theory, is the generalization of the historical line of march of the working class and political condition for its liberation. Booklet \$3

Available from bookstores listed on page 8, or write Pathfinder, 410 West Street, NY 10014. Fax: (212) 727-0150. If ordering by mail, please add \$3 for shipping and handling.

Palestinians: no Israeli rule in Jerusalem

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

In the recent "peace" talks at the Camp David site in Maryland, the U.S. and Israeli governments sought to pressure Yasir Arafat, president of the Palestinian National Authority, to make concessions. At the same time thousands of Palestinians held demonstrations on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, taking advantage of the international debate to draw attention to their struggle for national self-determination and a homeland.

The talks collapsed July 25 with Washington unable to get the concessions it wanted from the Palestinian leadership. The negotiations revolved around the future of Jerusalem, as well as the Palestinian demand for the right of return of all refugees forced out of their homeland.

Palestinians have never accepted Israeli rule over Jerusalem, which was supposed to be an "international zone" under a 1947 UN plan to partition Palestine into Israeli and Arab states.

Washington has pretended to be neutral, asking both sides to compromise, but siding with the Israeli regime and pressuring the Palestinians to concede as much as possible.

The Israeli regime has insisted on making Jerusalem its capital. Because of the international authority won by the Palestinian struggle, however, most governments in the world do not recognize Israeli control over the city. The Zionist forces annexed East Jerusalem shortly after seizing it in the 1967 war.

Commenting on the Camp David talks, Israeli cabinet member Michael Melchior said July 21 that his government backed a "proposal which accepts Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem as an undivided city and has some signs of joint sovereignty, expanded [Palestinian] self-administration of some of the Arab Muslim quarters in the outskirts of Jerusalem." He said the Zionist regime would also annex nearby Israeli settlements located in the West Bank.

"It seems to be something new on the face of it, but when you look at the substance, there is nothing new," said Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi, referring to the talks, which began July 11. She rebuked Melchior's comments about the Israeli regime conceding outlying sections of Jerusalem. [Those parts] "are ours anyway," she added.

"Short of total Palestinian sovereignty over East Jerusalem, there is not a ground for an agreement," said Hassan Abdel Rahman, Palestine Liberation Organization



Protesters in East Jerusalem carry signs stating number of years Israeli regime has occupied the city. Palestinians have never accepted Zionist rule over Jerusalem.

(PLO) representative in Washington and spokesperson for Arafat. "We recognize Israeli full sovereignty over West Jerusalem in return for full Palestinian sovereignty over East Jerusalem."

Abdel-Rahman's remarks were the first PLO public statement expressing willingness to recognize 52 years of de facto Israeli control over West Jerusalem—a significant concession.

Five decades of Zionist occupation

In 1948 Zionist military forces assaulted Palestinian villages and drove 3 million Palestinians from their homes and out of Palestine—scattering them throughout the Middle East. The state of Israel was proclaimed on May 15 that year and West Jerusalem was taken over by Tel Aviv. East Jerusalem came under Jordanian government control.

Jerusalem was divided for 20 years until 1967, when the U.S.-backed Zionist regime launched another war, seizing the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, East Jerusalem and the West Bank from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria. In 1980 Tel Aviv declared Jerusalem to be its undivided capital to remain "united for ever under Israeli sovereignty."

After annexing East Jerusalem, the Israeli government enlarged it to about three times its original size by extending the border to maximize the land area, while reducing the number of Palestinians who lived within the city's expanded boundary. The Zionist regime encircled East Jerusalem with Jewish suburbs to set up virtual fortresses between the West Bank and the city. The policy of successive Israeli governments was to increase the population of Israelis in that city until they outnumbered the Arabs. Today, however, there are about 200,000 Palestinians and a similar number of Israelis in East Jerusalem.

By Israeli law, Arab residents of East Jerusalem are entitled to the same benefits as Jewish residents, such as health insurance, but the Palestinians overwhelmingly refuse to claim Israeli citizenship.

"Do you think that because of the few shekels I get from the national insurance, I want to give up my homeland?" said 70-year-old Khader Jabsheh from Shufat, an Arab neighborhood that Israel annexed after the 1967 war. "The insurance I get is my right. It is not a gift from Israel. I have been paying taxes for over 30 years and I am entitled to get some of this money back."

Palestinians have been waging daily dem-

onstrations since the beginning of the Camp David talks, pressing the Palestinian leadership to stiffen its spine in demanding the return of all West Bank and Gaza territory captured in the 1967 war and the right of Palestinian refugees and their descendants to return to their homes in what is now Israel.

About 1,500 people rallied July 22 in Gaza and another 500 held a similar demonstration in the West Bank town of Ramallah that day in actions called by the Palestinian group Hamas.

Announcement of Palestinian state

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Central Council has set September 13 as a date for establishing an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Palestinian National Council first proclaimed statehood in 1988.

The talks at Camp David came after seven years of U.S.-sponsored negotiations. In 1993 Tel Aviv and the PLO held talks in Oslo, Norway, to establish an interim agreement for Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The following year, Tel Aviv withdrew most of its forces from Gaza and Jericho, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was formed, and Arafat was elected president of the Palestinian Authority, which now has administrative and security control over all the major cities in the West Bank and most of the area of the Gaza Strip.

The West Bank territory under Palestinian rule comprises only 2 percent of the land there. Another 14 percent is under joint PNA-Israeli control.

Under the 1998 Wye River Memorandum, signed by then prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel at the Wye River Plantation in Maryland, the jointly controlled areas and another 13 percent of West Bank land was to be placed under Palestinian control and Israeli troops removed from the area.

The Netanyahu coalition government collapsed over implementation of this agreement and Tel Aviv suspended the Wye deal. Even if the Palestinians regained every inch of West Bank land stolen by the Zionist regime, it would only amount to 22 percent of the Palestinian land before the 1948 war.

"We gave already, we gave 78 percent of Palestine," said Afif Ahmad, a Palestinian official. "What more do the Israelis want from us? They should make peace with us while Arafat is still alive."

The various "peace" accords are the product of combined factors, both the failure of the Israeli government to crush the Palestinian struggle for self-determination, and the bourgeoisification of the PLO leadership.

Since the Oslo and Wye accords, the PLO leadership has continued to turn its eyes away from the ranks of the Palestinian workers and farmers, and to rely more and more on the bourgeois regimes in the region and on reaching an accommodation with Washington in the struggle for a Palestinian nation.

"This is the most important thing to us, the strategic friendship of the United States," an unnamed Palestinian official told the *Washington Post*. "Without that we have nothing."

Meanwhile, Palestinians' living standards have deteriorated since the 1993 Oslo agreement. Last year unemployment topped 40 percent in the West Bank and 55 percent in Gaza. Tel Aviv still retains tight control over borders, economic arrangements, and most trade that reaches the two areas. Many Palestinians, blaming the Israeli government for the social crisis, are skeptical about the latest negotiations.

"In 1993 we said 'O.K. the Oslo deal is not good, but if it does something for the economy, then all right,'" said Bassem Tannous, a worker in the West Bank town of Ramallah. "But we've lost so much. We can't travel without restrictions; nothing moves without Israel's permission. My private opinion? There won't be a good deal with the Israelis."

FBI unleashes 'antiterror' raid in N. Carolina

BY LAUREN HART

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—More than 200 FBI agents and other cops raided homes and businesses throughout this area July 21, arresting 17 people who authorities are attempting to smear as "terrorists." The majority of those arrested are of Lebanese origin. An 18th person is being held in the Detroit area.

Most of the formal charges against the 18 center on an alleged conspiracy to buy cigarettes cheaply in North Carolina and sell them in Michigan, where tobacco taxes make the price much higher. Nearly all of them are also accused of "fraudulent marriage" to gain immigration papers. None has been charged with any act of terrorism or violence.

But the police are looking to cook up further charges. In morning raids on 18 homes and businesses owned by the North Carolina defendants, the FBI carted off computers, documents, and other property. Several cars and homes were confiscated, and at least three businesses owned by some of the defendants were shuttered.

A lengthy affidavit filed in court by the federal cops July 21 asserts that profits from the alleged cigarette smuggling operation may have been given to Hezbollah, a group in Lebanon that fought against the 22-year Israeli occupation of the southern part of that

country. Tel Aviv was finally forced to pull out of southern Lebanon just two months ago. Washington portrays Hezbollah as a "terrorist" group.

The government's affidavit presents as sinister the claim that those arrested met in each other's homes on Thursday evenings. It cites reports by an anonymous informer that those evenings included reading speeches by Hezbollah leaders and others.

The document also asserts that Mohamad Youssef Hammoud—whom the cops and big-business media label the "ring-leader"—downloaded songs and speeches from a Hezbollah web site and communicated by e-mail with individuals in Lebanon. The affidavit includes vague references to supposed military training in the Charlotte area.

Sensational press reports aim to paint the 18 defendants as guilty, even of things they have not been charged with. "Terrorist raid in Concord," screamed the July 22 banner headline of the *Independent Tribune*, the local daily for the towns of Concord and Kannapolis, just north of Charlotte. Hammoud and his wife Angela Tsiousas, who was also arrested, owned a gas station in Concord.

Nearly every report in the capitalist press has repeated the inflammatory quote from

the FBI affidavit that the government stool pigeon "believes that if [Hezbollah] issued an authorization to execute a terrorist act in the United States, Mohamad Hammoud would not hesitate in carrying it out."

Several Lebanese residents of Charlotte interviewed by this reporter two days after the raids expressed anger at the government's attempt to smear those arrested and the entire Arab community as terrorists. A couple of people pointed out that web sites such as the one Hammoud is accused of accessing are often the only source of information on events in southern Lebanon.

One man who stopped by a now-closed restaurant and grocery owned by some of the defendants noted that many Lebanese immigrants sympathize with an organization that has fought the occupation of their country. What's wrong with that? he asked. He also said it is common for Muslims from Lebanon to gather on Thursday evenings for prayers, and it's their right to do so.

Six of the 18 people arrested were released on bond the afternoon of July 21. Hearings for the others have been scheduled, but authorities have made clear they will try to hold some of the defendants without bond if they can come up with enough "evidence" to lay "terrorism" charges.