

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
SWP files for extension of election campaign exemption
 — PAGES 8–9, 11

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Solidarity is theme of N.Y. event to halt Calero deportation

BY CANDACE WAGNER

NEW YORK—“I am facing a similar case” to that confronting Róger Calero, said Maximo Espinal at a public meeting of 120 people here February 1. Held at St. Mary’s Church in Harlem, the gathering was called to oppose moves by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to deport Calero, who is an editor of *Perspectiva Mundial* and a *Militant* staff writer.

The New York meeting was the latest such event in the 12-city national speaking tour undertaken by Calero following his release from an INS jail in Houston on December 13. Organized by the Róger Calero Defense Committee, the tour has taken him to the Midwest, California, Florida, Texas, New York, and New Jersey. Calero is scheduled to travel to Washington State and Colorado for further meetings in late February.

During the discussion that followed the speakers’ presentations, Espinal said that he faces deportation by the INS after being detained by agents when returning from his native Dominican Republic. The cops held him in connection with a 14-year old conviction for which he had already served time. “It’s not fair to make someone pay again,” he said. “It’s not fair to separate me from my family.”

Espinal’s account paralleled Calero’s
 Continued on Page 6

Point Blank strikers win rehiring of pro-union workers

BY MARK HAMM

OAKLAND PARK, Florida—“This is a major victory that we earned,” said Umberto de la Cruz. The garment worker was speaking about the ruling by a federal judge that Point Blank Body Armor must rehire Isma Sadius, Carlos Briceño, and Midho Cadet.

Point Blank, which makes bulletproof vests for the U.S. military and police agen-

More coverage of labor struggles inside

cies, fired the three workers in an attempt to intimidate workers pushing for representation by the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE).

In addition, the judge ordered the clothing manufacturer to rehire the 175 workers who have been on strike for almost six months in protest at the firings. The workers have picketed the plant since August 9 demanding union representation and im-

Continued on Page 14

Washington and London ready brutal war on Iraq

U.S. military beefs up air forces to threaten north Korea

BY SAM MANUEL

With Britain’s prime minister Anthony Blair at his side, U.S. president George Bush said January 31 that he will give the other governments on the United Nations Security Council a deadline of no more than a few weeks to back an invasion of Iraq. “Saddam Hussein is not disarming,” claimed Bush. “This issue will come to a head in a matter of weeks, not months.”

As Washington steps up what White House spokesman Ari Fleischer called the “final phase” of this political preparation, the war planners have released more details of the coming air assault. Some 3,000 bombs and missiles—touted as being “precision-guided”—will be hurled within the first 48 hours, reported the *New York Times*. The barrage will include the launch of hundreds of cruise missiles and strikes by 500 U.S. and British planes. Many pilots have already put in hours of training in the unrelenting bombing attacks on the “no-fly zones” of northern and southern Iraq.

The U.S. command has acknowledged that Special Operations forces are already operating in northern Iraq. Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Richard Myers told a January 29 press briefing that the troops will work with CIA teams to train volunteers from Kurdish groups opposed to the Iraqi regime.

A key objective of U.S. forces in the area is to secure the abundant oil fields in the northern region. The *Washington Post* report of the press briefing added that Washington warned the Kurdish leaders “not to

Continued on Page 2

UK firefighters oppose gov’t intervention



Militant/Anne Howie

Firefighters rally in Glasgow, Scotland, February 1 during latest in series of strikes. The Labour government has announced that it will ask parliament to impose a settlement on the union in the long-running dispute, and has said the strikes are an obstacle to mobilization for war in Iraq. See report page 15.

Tens of thousands visit international book fair in Havana in opening days

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN AND SCOTT DUNLAP

HAVANA—Tens of thousands of people have attended the initial days of the 12th Havana International Book Fair, which opened here January 30. This large, 11-day cultural festival, taking place at San Carlos de La Cabaña, an 18th-century Spanish colonial fort overlooking Havana Bay, has drawn students, workers, writers, soldiers, and many others. Last year some 300,000 people attended.

At the opening ceremony, Iroel Sánchez, president of the Cuban Book Institute and

chair of the book fair’s organizing committee, reported that this year the event is again being extended geographically. Last year, for the first time, the Havana-based fair was put on the road to 19 other cities around the island. This year it will be more truly countrywide, traveling to 30 cities in coming weeks and winding up March 2 in Guantánamo, near the eastern tip of the island. This expansion, he said, is a response to the growing and seemingly insatiable demand of the Cuban reader.

Abel Prieto, the minister of culture, said the book fair is part of an ongoing “revo-

lution in education and culture” today, one of the real achievements of the Cuban Revolution. He pointed to initiatives in recent years such as expanded use of television—including the popular University for All program—as an educational tool; the increased training of art instructors; and “family libraries.”

The family library is a government-sponsored program to publish boxed sets of 25 classics of world literature, printed on newsprint to make them affordable to working

people. “Our immediate goal is for every household to have one of these sets, and then to move on to produce similar sets of Cuban literature,” Prieto said.

“At a time when the international book market has been contracting,” he said, “when the prices of books have been skyrocketing so that only a minority have access to them, where the economy has been worsening—in this world context, Cuba, a country still blockaded [by Washington], has made advances. Last year 2.5 million

Continued on Page 7



Militant/Martin Koppel

Book fair in Havana has attracted many Cuban publishers and 52 from outside Cuba. The event has drawn tens of thousands of visitors in first days. Above, Pathfinder booth.

Also Inside:

- U.S. officials discuss strike on Korean power plant 3
- Government attacks on school desegregation erode civil rights gains 4
- Locked-out unionists in Wales win court ruling 4
- Israeli elections are overshadowed by economic crisis, Palestinian resistance 5
- Pennsylvania nurses strike over jobs and hours 11

Washington and London ready for brutal war on Iraq

Continued from front page
seize new territory."

The kind of activity the U.S. forces are involved in could be glimpsed in a January report that a U.S. "intelligence" team visited an abandoned airstrip in the north at Bakrajo, only a 30-minute drive from the front lines of Iraqi defenses. The two-mile long airstrip where bunkers are being built is capable of landings by heavily-laden transport aircraft, reported the January 22 *Times*. The Kurdish authority in the autonomous region has no aircraft.

Blair and Bush's statement on January 31 bolstered their campaign to pressure members of the Security Council to approve a resolution authorizing military force.

Blair met with French president Jacques Chirac on February 4. The French president continued to insist that the "inspections" be allowed to go on. "There is still much to be done in the way of disarmament by peaceful means," he said.

Officials in Washington and London have expressed confidence that in the end France will join the war effort. "We don't view anyone on the Council as a lost cause," one administration official said. Advisors to Blair were more blunt, stating that Chirac would back down because the war is now "inevitable."

Due to give a report to the Security Council February 14, leading UN "inspectors" have refused consultations with Baghdad, saying they will proceed only if Iraq agrees to allow the use of U.S.-piloted U-2 spy planes over its territory. They also insist on having the option of interrogating Iraqi scientists outside Iraq, and that the government pass legislation outlawing chemical and biological weapons.

Former secretary of state James Baker indicated the kind of deadline that Washington is imposing on its security "allies" in a February 4 *Wall Street Journal* column.

Baker served under the administration of the first President Bush. A few months ago he expressed modest tactical disagreements with the course of the Bush administration, urging it to press its case more

energetically before the United Nations. This time he said that the "case for military action is...compelling."

Baker endorsed the decision to go before the Security Council February 5, saying that Washington thereby "gains by creating the broadest possible coalition." Such backing would "deflect criticism—false but pervasive—that we are intervening in Iraq from selfish imperialist motives," he wrote.

"Consulting yet again with the Security Council will give its members a last chance to 'do the right thing,'" Baker added. Otherwise, "it risks becoming a toothless debating society."

On January 30 the heads of state of the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Hungary, Poland, Denmark, and the Czech Republic issued a call for "unity" between Europe and the United States, delivering a rebuff to the governments of France and Germany, both of which have expressed disagreement with the U.S.-led drive to war.

Writing in the January 30 *National Post*, Jan Cienski noted that the French "opposition is qualified. The aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle* is heading toward the Gulf and French forces could swiftly be in place if Paris chooses." Cienski also observed that when U.S. troops move "out of Germany, their bases will be protected by German forces and the move will be facilitated by German logistics."

Up to this point, reported the *Post*, "only two [allies] look sure to provide troops that could come into harm's way, Britain and Australia." London has 30,000 troops on the way, and the Australian military is sending a transport ship, special forces, and a dozen fighter jets. "The Czech Republic and Poland have small groups of specialized troops in the area as well," wrote Cienski, adding that the "number may increase if the UN Security Council backs" the attack.

The article also noted that "every Arab nation on the Persian Gulf, including Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman, is either on board politically or has offered use of its bases, crucial for the U.S. military, which needs local staging points to launch



U.S. troops train in Kuwaiti desert February 2. Tens of thousands are stationed in the country as Washington prepares air assault and invasion of Iraq.

an invasion." Of the regional allies, Kuwait and Turkey have both agreed to station tens of thousands of U.S. troops on their soil.

For many government leaders—especially those in the imperialist countries—the decision to join or back the assault will be mixed with resentment over the display of U.S. military predominance, wrote *New York Times* contributing columnist Sergue Shmemann in a February 2 piece entitled, "America's War Train Is Leaving The Station." Shmemann commented, "Most world leaders are thinking less about how best to deal with Mr. Hussein than how to deal with an unstoppable superpower."

While they continue to use Iraq's alleged possession of "weapons of mass destruction" as the principal pretext for their hostile stance toward Iraq, U.S. officers are reportedly preparing for the possible use of nuclear weapons in the assault.

"Military planners have been actively studying lists of potential targets and considering options, including the possible use of so-called bunker-buster nuclear weapons against deeply buried military targets," wrote Paul Richter in the *Los Angeles Times*.

"In the last year, Bush administration officials have repeatedly made clear that they

want to be better prepared to consider the nuclear option against the threat of 'weapons of mass destruction,'" Richter wrote. He noted that "the Pentagon has changed the bureaucratic oversight of nuclear weapons so that they are no longer treated as a special category of arms but are grouped with conventional military options."

Increased pressure on north Korea

Meanwhile, the administration has further ratcheted up the pressure on north Korea. In the latest move, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announced February 3 that 24 long-range bombers had been put on alert for "possible deployment within range" of the workers state, reported the *Times*.

U.S. officials have floated the option of an air strike against the Yongbyon nuclear power plant (see article page 3). The north is restarting the plant to partially compensate for the cutoff in fuel oil shipments by Washington, Tokyo, and Seoul.

In the budget it has just presented to Congress, the Bush administration has cemented this cutoff, eliminating virtually all funding for the 1994 agreement that initiated the supply of fuel, and adding to the economic pressure on Pyongyang.

THE MILITANT

The fight to defend abortion rights

In his State of the Union speech President Bush bolstered the stance of anti-woman forces by calling for an end to late-term abortions. Abortion rights were won as part of the fight by women to overcome centuries of oppression and discrimination. The 'Militant' brings you coverage of this important struggle.



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Contribute to the Books for Cuba Fund

The *Militant* is appealing for contributions to the Books for Cuba Fund. This fund makes it possible to respond to requests by Cuban libraries, schools, and other institutions for titles published by Pathfinder. It also means they can be sold at affordable prices to Cubans at events like the Havana International Book Fair.

As in previous years, Pathfinder has a booth at this year's fair, which runs from January 30 to February 9 in Havana and from there will go to other cities. During past fairs, librarians, students, workers, soldiers, and others have made requests for Pathfinder titles. In response, the publisher has made a number of donations to libraries and other cultural institutions.

On the final day Pathfinder will make

every title in its booth available in Cuban pesos. Many people who have visited the booth eagerly await the opportunity to read books on the international class struggle, U.S. politics, the fight for women's liberation, and other questions.

This year Pathfinder will organize special presentations on several new titles at the fair. They are: *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*; *Marianas in Combat: Teté Puebla and the Mariana Grajales Women's Platoon in Cuba's Revolutionary War, 1956-58*; and *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba* by Tomás Díez Acosta.

To contribute, please send checks or money orders made out to the *Militant* and earmarked "Books for Cuba Fund" to the *Militant*, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.

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U.S. officials discuss strike on Korean plant

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Washington has turned up the pressure on the north Korean workers state. In addition to their actions taken since the closing months of 2002, which include the cutoff of promised food and fuel supplies and a step-up in hostile propaganda, U.S. officials are publicly discussing the option of sending fighter planes to bomb the Yongbyon nuclear power reactor.

The government in the north explains that far from being part of a weapons development program, the plant is needed for power generation. In particular, the reactor could make up some of the electricity shortfall caused by the cutoff in fuel oil supplies from both the United States and its allies in Japan and south Korea.

Pentagon spokesmen said January 31 that the commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific has asked for reinforcements. The forces could be backup, reported the *New York Times*, "in the event that President Bush ordered any kind of pre-emptive strike against the North's nuclear complex at Yongbyon." The paper reported that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld "appeared inclined to grant Adm. [Thomas] Fargo's request to send the aircraft carrier Carl Vinson to the area."

"Pentagon officials say the North Korean program could be set back for years with a precision strike on the reprocessing plant," reported the *Times* the previous day. "But such a strike would be enormously risky," continued the article, citing the north's capacity to defend itself militarily.

Spy satellite pictures of the movement of trucks around Yongbyon—not surprising given the plans to restart it—were given sensational treatment by administration officials. The pictures had prompted "fears within the Bush administration that North Korea is preparing to produce roughly a half dozen nuclear weapons," reported the *Times*. The report also noted that "the satellites could not see exactly what was being put into the trucks."

Amidst the dire speculation one official admitted that the north Koreans "made no real effort to hide this from us."

Another U.S. spying mission came to a sudden end on January 26 when a U-2 reconnaissance aircraft crashed 35 miles south of Seoul in south Korea—the third crash involving these high-altitude spy

planes since 1984. Air force officials would not reveal the plane's mission. The north has frequently protested U-2 spy flights over its territory.

Sin Yong Song, the vice-minister of Power and Coal Industries for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), explained the north Korean government's decision to restart the reactor in an interview with *People's Korea* published January 27.

Recover loss of electricity

Sin said that the startup will take several weeks. "We are speeding up our preparations," he said, explaining that "we have to immediately recover the loss of electricity caused by the stop of the supply of heavy oil" from the United States. The cutoff resulted in an "annual shortage of electricity at hundreds of thousands of kilowatts," he said.

The claim that the facility is for nuclear weapons production is "nonsense," Sin said.

North Korean representatives have rejected Washington's claims that their government admitted undertaking a uranium enrichment program as part of nuclear weapons development. State Department officials made the accusations last fall after a visit to the northern capital of Pyongyang.

Shortly after it leveled these charges, the Bush administration cut off heavy oil and food shipments guaranteed by the Clinton administration in 1994.

A U.S. official "arrogantly demanded we admit to a uranium enrichment program, without presenting any evidence at all," a January 28 DPRK Foreign Ministry statement said. "We had no reason to admit it as he demanded and saw no reason to refute his claim."

Editorials in the north Korean press have called on the U.S. to withdraw nuclear weapons stationed in the south of Korea. While Washington says that it withdrew its nuclear arms from the peninsula in the 1970s, it maintains its official "neither confirm nor deny" stance toward such demands. U.S. Navy ships and submarines of the Seventh Fleet carry nuclear arms, however—part of a military presence that includes 37,000 troops in south Korea.

U.S. president George Bush set the tone for the step-up in threats toward the north



U.S. soldiers at the wreckage of a U-2 spy plane that crashed in south Korea on January 26. Washington has increased military threats against north Korea.

in his January 28 State of the Union address. "On the Korean Peninsula, an oppressive regime rules a people living in fear and starvation," he said. The north Korean government "is using its nuclear program to incite fear and seek concessions. America and the world will not be blackmailed."

Democrats back Bush

Democratic Party representatives backed Bush's stand. In his official response Governor Gary Locke of Washington declared support for the president "in working with our allies and the United Nations to eliminate the threat posed by Saddam Hussein and [north Korean president] Kim Jong Il."

One week earlier Massachusetts senator Edward Kennedy, a well-known Democratic Party liberal, told the National Press Club that the White House should slow down its drive to war on Iraq and allow more time for weapons inspections. "The threat from Iraq is not imminent," he said, "and it will distract American from the two more immediate threats to our security—

the clear and present danger of terrorism and the crisis with North Korea."

The air attack now under open discussion picks up where the administration of President William Clinton left off in 1994. The BBC reported in December that Clinton told a business dinner in the Netherlands, "We actually drew up plans to attack north Korea and to destroy their reactors and we told them we would attack unless they ended their nuclear program."

The 1994 agreement followed shortly after the threats were issued. In it the north agreed to shut down the Yongbyon reactor and two others under construction. In return, Washington agreed to lead a consortium of countries and companies to build two light-water reactors for electrical power, with a completion date of this year. U.S. officials argued that these reactors produced a smaller quantity of weapons-suitable by-products than those at the Yongbyon complex.

Annual shipments of 500,000 tons of heavy oil were guaranteed to enable north Korea to offset lost power generation capacity.

Food shipments to help it respond to natural disasters were also promised.

In an article reviewing the lack of progress in constructing the reactors, the January 30 *Wall Street Journal* noted that Pyongyang also understood that the World Bank and Asian Development Bank would help finance the modification and upgrade of its nationwide electrical grids to make them compatible with the new reactors.

However, stated the *Journal*, "U.S. officials last week gave their most explicit signal that the agreement underpinning the \$4.6 billion nuclear-power project has been irreparably damaged." So far, it continued, the project "mostly has consisted of taking down a mountain and digging the huge hole where the nuclear plant will reside."

North-south talks

Meanwhile, talks between the governments of north and south Korea were held at the end of January. The two sides agreed to complete rail links between north and south, and to open roads on the west side of the peninsula.

A south Korean government official said the south would not object to referring the crisis to the UN Security Council—a proposal put forward by the Bush administration—but "will not support the idea of sanctions on North Korea and will continue to ask the United States, Japan, and other countries to extend their efforts through dialogue."

Among the factors behind Seoul taking some distance from Washington's actions and threats has been the large-scale and widespread protests in south Korea at the end of last year. Sparked by the acquittal of two soldiers who were court-martialed after their mine-clearing vehicle ran over and killed two south Korean girls, the demonstrations revealed the widespread opposition to the presence of U.S. troops. Protesters have explained that they consider the U.S. government a greater threat of war than the workers state in the north.

Socialist joins Tampa mayoral debate

BY HENRY HILLENBRAND

TAMPA, Florida—"Congratulations, I wish you well," was the first message left at the campaign office of Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Tampa, after a 20-minute interview was aired on WMNF 88.5 FM radio January 30.

The interview capped a week of campaigning that included a TV debate among the mayoral candidates and a protest at the University of South Florida demanding the reinstatement of Sami Al-Arian. A Militant Labor Forum featuring the candidate launched the fundraising effort for the five-week campaign.

The debate will be broadcast on public television Channel 16 and on City of Tampa cable TV throughout February. Campaign supporters are planning to go out street campaigning on February 2—the first day it airs.

The debate was taped on January 24. Upon being introduced to Fruit at the TV studio, Pam Iorio, Supervisor of Elections for the past 10 years and herself a candidate for mayor, acknowledged, "You made history with this campaign." Iorio was referring to the successful effort the socialist made to force Tampa city officials to open the electoral process to include write-in candidates, thereby making it possible for a working-class voice to be heard.

In the 30 seconds Fruit had to introduce herself, she said, "I am a meat packer and a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union. I have been active in working-class politics for more than 30 years defending workers' rights, which are under severe attack today as part of the war drive both at home and abroad by the U.S. rulers and their government in Washington.

"There will be no economic recovery for the working class," she continued, "and there will be no end to the horrors of war

until the working class takes political power in this country and establishes a government of the producers—workers and farmers."

The protest supporting Al-Arian coincided with a January 24 grievance hearing between the university administration and the United Faculty of Florida, the union that has supported Al-Arian. Fourteen months ago the USF president banned Al-Arian from campus and began the attempt



Militant/Sonja Swanson

Candidate Rachele Fruit talks to participants in January 24 rally in solidarity with Sami Al-Arian.

to fire him from his teaching position.

A number of speakers referred to the war and protested the attacks on civil liberties. Addressing the protest, Fruit said that "what is happening to Sami, an outspoken defender of Palestinian rights, is one important example of the attacks on workers' rights that are part of the drive toward war."

She went on to say, "Much as we do not want to see this war happen, we must be prepared for the fact that it will happen."

An angry participant in the crowd yelled out, "No it won't! Some of us were in Washington last weekend. Where were you?"

Fruit replied that she had participated in the demonstration against the war outside MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, and that it is important to protest. "But we must also understand why the rulers are driven to war," she said—"that it is not a war on terrorism, and it is not about weapons of mass destruction, as they claim; but that they need to redivide the resources of the world."

One Arab-American man participating in the protest bought a subscription to the *Militant*, the pamphlet *Palestine and the Arab Fight for Liberation*, and donated \$25 to the campaign.

The next evening Fruit spoke at the weekly Militant Labor Forum in Tampa. She was introduced by Young Socialists member Sonja Swanson, who said, "The goals of Fruit's campaign reach far beyond the opportunist politicians opposing her. Fruit, along with the Socialist Workers Party, seeks to build a movement in the interests of working people, youth and farmers everywhere." Around \$400 was raised at the meeting.

Fruit said that she would take her campaign to labor struggles, social protests, and into the arena of the antiwar demonstrations.

"We have seen some victories in the struggle against the death penalty, which is nothing more than one form of legal lynching in the U.S.," the candidate said. She pointed to the fight against the death penalty in Illinois that prompted Governor Ryan's decision to empty death row in that state, and to the January 24 release, for lack of evidence, of Rudolph Holton from prison and death row. He is the 25th prisoner to be released from Florida's death row since 1972.

Attacks on school desegregation erode civil rights gains

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Advances in overcoming racist discrimination in education have eroded over the past decade, according to a report from Harvard University. The study, released January 16, notes the dismantling of desegregation programs that grew out of the mass struggle for civil rights in the 1950s and 60s.

The study found that Black students are increasingly concentrated in the same schools—schools that receive a lower proportion of funds and resources. Latino students face a similar situation. The blows to desegregation reflect the growing class divide and inequality, and the persistent racial discrimination, built into the education system.

The researchers at the Harvard University Civil Rights Project state that these students today face more segregation than their forebears did 30 years ago when the first court-ordered desegregation plans were announced.

The average Black student sits in a classroom in which the proportion of Blacks is many times higher than their percentage in the population, which stands at 12 percent. The study indicates that this is a continuing trend. During the 1990s the enrollment of Black students in majority-white schools declined by 13 percent, to a lower level than in any year since 1968.

The report documents this reversal by listing the percentage of white students in schools in cities such as Chicago, where the figure is 10 percent, Birmingham (7 percent), and Atlanta (3 percent), and their enrollment in public schools, which dropped from 35 million in 1968 to 29 million in 2000.

The number in public schools has declined from 80 percent to 62 percent in the same period.

In most large urban school districts, says the study, white students make up less than 25 percent of the school population.

In the nation's five largest districts the figure ranges from 10 percent to 15 percent.

The same trends affect Latino students who, along with Blacks and Asians, make up the majority of the student population in California and Texas, the country's two largest states. Immigration has resulted in steadily growing Latino school enrollment, now 7.5 million and rapidly approaching Black public school attendance of about 8 million students.

Latinos were not included in most desegregation court orders in southern districts. Today the average Latino student goes to a school where less than 30 percent of their classmates are white. The only state where substantial measures were taken to counter this was Colorado. There, a 1973 court ruling paralleling the 1960s desegregation orders was a result of pressure exerted by the mass protests against discrimination by the Chicano people in

the southwestern states.

The termination of desegregation plans that began in the 1990s has been the major factor in these reversals. The 1991 *Board of Education Oklahoma v. Dowell* ruling, for example, said that school districts could be released from court-ordered busing if a federal district court deemed that they had sufficiently implemented government mandates.

Busing programs terminated

Busing programs—a gain of struggles against racism—enforced desegregation of schools by instructing authorities to bus students into schools they would otherwise have avoided or been excluded from.

The 1991 ruling opened the way for officials to be released from this obligation. Without the busing programs, the class- and race-determined patterns of housing put their stamp on the composition of student bodies.

Desegregation programs still exist in many cities. However, court decisions have ended such plans in at least 36 school districts over the past decade. This growing list includes Little Rock, Arkansas; San Diego, California; Miami; and Denver.

The study reports that in Charlotte, North Carolina, the site of the country's first court-ordered busing plan, schools have become more segregated. This trend was reinforced by a federal appeals court decision in 2001, which ended 30 years of federal oversight.

Dozens of Charlotte schools became nearly all Black virtually overnight. New schools with modern equipment have been built in the outer edges of the Mecklenburg County suburbs, while schools in the more working-class areas of central Charlotte—home to many Black residents—are falling apart.

The impact of these developments has been magnified by cuts in spending on education, which have hit schools in work-

Strikers at Libro Shirt in Pennsylvania picket in defense of health benefits



Militant/Janet Post

Striking workers at Libro Shirt in Lykens, Pennsylvania, picket the plant in late January. The strike began January 7, as workers rejected company demands that they pay half their health insurance costs. The 89 strikers, members of Local 317-C of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE), have maintained their fight in face of company threats to close the plant. "We can't give up any more," said Brenda Dauberman, a sewer for 23 years. "We are putting our blood and guts into this and we are doing it together."

ing-class areas the hardest. State governments have begun laying off teachers, bus drivers, and janitors, while schools are shortening the calendar year.

The attacks on school desegregation are part of the bipartisan drive to chip away at affirmative action programs. The Bush administration has lent its support to the legal challenge to the University of Michigan admissions policies, backing two lawsuits against the university's law school and its undergraduate college.

The programs that enforced progress in overcoming inequality and segregation were a product of mass struggles. Under the pressure of the protests and battles that unfolded in the 1950s and earlier against the Jim Crow system of legal segregation across the South, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Edu-*

cation of Topeka, Kansas, that supposedly "separate but equal" schools were unconstitutional.

Through these battles the South became the "most integrated region of the country," in the words of the Harvard study.

The Civil Rights Project noted two years ago that "the period of growing desegregation coincided with the period of the most dramatic narrowing of the test score gap ever recorded" for Black and white students. Access to better facilities, including new textbooks and usable desks, and well-constructed buildings help account for these improvements.

"School systems are actually being ordered to end successful desegregation plans," the Harvard researchers concluded, "just as more and more convincing evidence of those gains is accumulating."

Locked-out unionists in Wales win court ruling

BY ROSE KNIGHT

CAERNARFON, North Wales—Locked-out workers at Friction Dynamics, an auto parts plant in Caernarfon, led a January 25 march and rally of 500 people here to celebrate winning an unfair dismissal ruling from an industrial tribunal.

Craig Smith, the boss at Friction Dynamics, "underestimated us, the local community, and our union," said Gerald Parry, chair of Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) branch 4/550, in his remarks to the rally. "There has been a union on our site since the 1960s and we have a proud history going back to the unions in the slate quarries in North Wales."

Parry, who spoke in Welsh and English, reported that vendors from London brought

a truckload of turkeys, fresh fruit, and vegetables a few days before Christmas for the strikers and their families.

The battle with Friction Dynamics bosses burst into the open when workers held a one-week strike in April 2001. They protested the company's drive to impose a 15 percent wage cut, end shift pay, and introduce a longer working day without overtime pay.

The company also sought to restrict union meetings and reduce the number of shop stewards on the premises.

At the end of the strike, the company effectively locked out the workers by imposing an unscheduled holiday. When picket lines were set up, the bosses sacked 87 workers and laid off 24 others.

"He offered our jobs back after eight weeks, but with a 15 percent pay cut and a 'no strike' clause," said Emlyn Jones, a grinder at the plant for 38 years. "He thought after an eight-week lockout we would go back."

With the company appealing the tribunal ruling, workers have decided to continue picketing. "I'll be picketing every other day until we decide to stop," said Pat Jones, an examiner for 33 years, who has been on the picket line for 21 months.

"We've been able to stay on the picket line for 21 months because of the support from local people and unions around the UK," said Gwylm Williams, the union branch secretary. Bill Morris, General Secretary TGWU, also spoke and pledged the national union's continued support.

Six of 18 firefighters at the Caernarfon fire station joined the march with their banner. "On the first day of our first strike, locked-out workers from Friction Dynamics were on our picket line," said firefighter Rob Pool. Firefighters across the United Kingdom have held several strikes in their battle to defend jobs and fire services.

Workers locked out at William Cooks in

Sheffield also joined the march and rally. "We took strike action for one day to oppose a pay cut, and when we got back, we were locked out," said Eddie Grimes. Workers at Friction Dynamics collected £1000 (\$1,650) worth of food last December for the Sheffield workers.

Car workers from IBC, Luton, and the Rover plant at Solihull joined the rally, as did workers from Goodyear Tires, Wolverhampton, where the company is closing the plant and is pulling out of the UK. The tire workers union branch has made regular contributions of about £100 (\$165) a month to the workers at Friction Dynamics.

Unison, Amicus, the Communication Workers Union, and the General Municipal and Boilermakers Union also participated.

Members and leaders of Plaid Cymru, the Welsh Nationalist Party, came with their banner. The local branch of Plaid Cymru held a January 19 benefit in a local chapel, which raised £1,500 (\$2,475) for the locked-out workers. The Welsh national anthem was sung in Welsh at the end of the rally.

From Pathfinder

CUBA and the Coming American Revolution

by Jack Barnes

There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba

— Fidel Castro, March 1961

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution is about the struggles of working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth who are attracted to them, and the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made. Preface by Mary-Alice Waters. **In English, Spanish, and French. \$13**

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Israeli troops clamp down as elections held

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

The January 28 elections in Israel were overshadowed by the country's long-running and deep recession and the continuing Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The final tally saw the Likud Party of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon win twice the seats of its Labour Party rival, putting it in a position to form another coalition government.

In the runup to the vote, Sharon ordered the military closure of the occupied territories, deploying 30,000 police and soldiers. Israeli forces killed 12 Palestinians in Gaza City in fighting on January 26.

In the days after the voting, Tel Aviv reinforced the offensive as Israeli forces blocked major roads, destroyed markets and machine shops, and closed Palestinian television stations.

Likud's 38 seats—less than one-third of the 120-member Knesset, or parliament—was nearly double its previous holding. Under new leader Amram Mitzna the Labour Party captured 19 seats, its lowest share in the half-century existence of the colonial-settler state. The Labour leader had advocated a combination of harsh military measures against Palestinians and negotiations with their leaders.

Mitzna refused Sharon's immediate offer of a share in a new coalition government.

The Shinui party, a secular opponent of the ultra-orthodox parties that had joined the previous government, more than doubled its tally, ending up with 15 seats. Party leader Yosef Lapid pitched his appeal to Jews from Western Europe as distinct from those from the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Russia. He welded his call for a "secular unity government" to an appeal to "westernism," saying that "if we let the east European ghetto and the north African ghetto take over, we will...be lost within a terrible Levantine dunghill."

The coalition government of Likud-Labour and smaller parties broke apart last October when the then-Labour leader and defense minister, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, refused to endorse a budget by Sharon that included substantial cuts in pensions and

benefits for university students and single-parent families—a growing proportion of the population. Ben-Eliezer proposed a series of alternative spending cuts aimed at the subsidies provided to Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

The average life span of an Israeli government in the past decade has been less than two years, although the official electoral term is four years.

The Palestinian resistance and the economic crisis were both weighty factors in the breakup of Sharon's previous government and still confront the one he is now forming.

Israeli unemployment stands at 10.5 percent, a figure that has steadily risen for more than four years. The government projects the number to reach 12 percent by the end of the year. The gross domestic product declined by 1 percent in 2002, the second year of decline in a row—a first for Israel—and a similar performance is forecast for 2003.

Likud's campaign platform included the promise to obtain a \$4 billion grant and \$10 billion in loan guarantees from the United States to keep the economy afloat.

Israeli assaults, Palestinian resistance

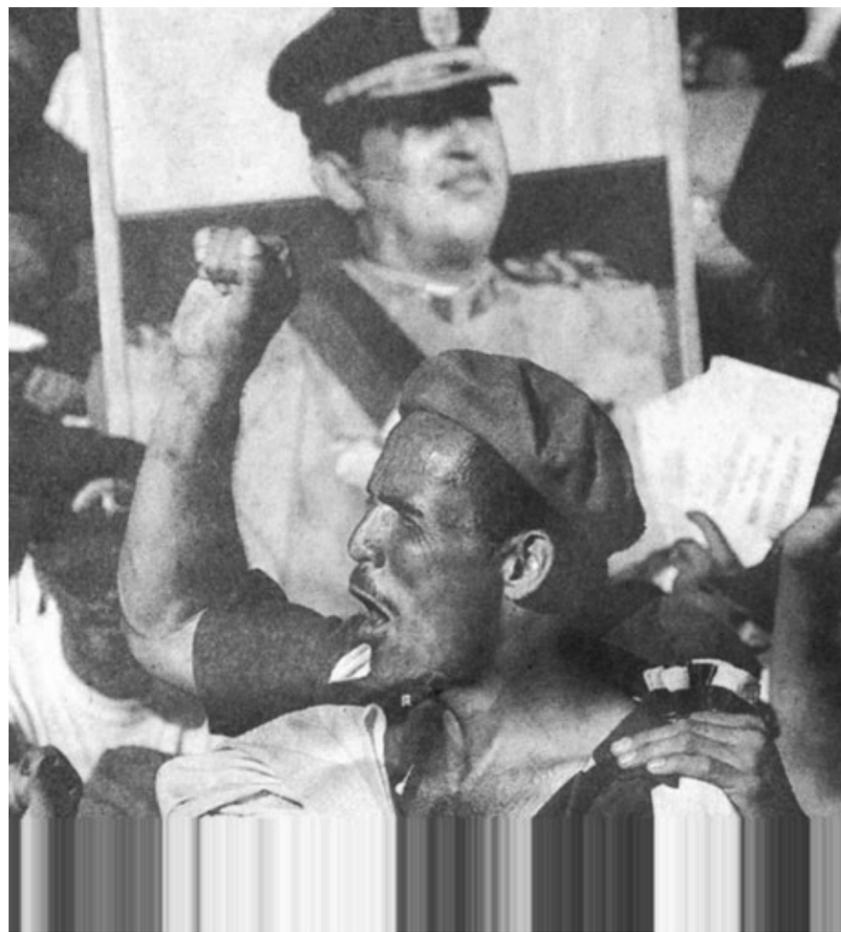
In the period leading up to the election, Israeli tanks, troops, and helicopters struck deeper into Gaza City than at any time in the past two years of fighting, the *New York Times* reported January 26.

The Israeli assault on the city of 300,000 met with fierce resistance. Defenders fired antitank missiles and rifles at Israeli forces. The heaviest fighting occurred in the central market.

Two days before the elections the Israeli rulers halted all Palestinian travel between Palestinian cities and across the boundaries of the West Bank and Gaza. In Gaza City Israeli soldiers dynamited more than a dozen metal shops, destroying some 100 metalworking lathes, claiming that they were used to produce rockets and mortar bombs. Israeli forces killed at least a dozen Palestinians in the raid.

In the West Bank city of Jenin, Palestinian fighters went into action in response to an assault by 20 Israeli tanks and jeeps in

Workers in Venezuela oppose boss 'strike'



Hundreds of thousands march in Caracas, Venezuela, January 23 to denounce two-month-old boss "strike," centered on export oil industry, aimed at toppling government of Hugo Chávez. A land law and other measures that impede prerogatives of big business are behind capitalist opposition to government. In recent weeks the anti-Chávez mobilization has shown signs of flagging. Oil production has increased to 50 percent of pre-strike levels, and on February 3 most other factories, businesses, and schools reopened.

one neighborhood on January 27, witnesses told the Associated Press. In the exchange Israeli troops killed Rashad Arabi, a member of a militia associated with Yasir Arafat's Fatah movement. An-

other Palestinian was shot as he approached Arabi's body. The army called it a "routine operation."

Israel's January 30 raids on the West Bank cities of Hebron and Tulkarm included a search for "incitement material" at television stations, according to the army. Soldiers confiscated videotapes, audiotapes, and literature that Israeli officials labeled as "terrorist." Ahmad Taradeh, a 20-year-old Hebron University student, said the army assault on the occupied territories was "the real result of the election." Among the Palestinian people, he said, "resistance will increase."

Israeli human rights group B'tselem announced in early January that the government is holding more than 1,000 Palestinians in "indefinite detention," without charges or trial, the most since the period prior to the 1993 Oslo Accords. The police routinely renew the six-month detention orders, and the Israeli Supreme Court has rejected most petitions to release prisoners.

The majority are held in southern Israel's Negev Desert at the Ketziot tent camp. Notorious for its overcrowded tents, extreme heat in summer, and freezing cold in winter, the prison closed in 1996 but was reopened last April.

U.S. troops stationed in Israel

Meanwhile, the Pentagon has stationed 600 troops in Israel in preparation for the assault on Iraq. The soldiers will help set up the Patriot missile systems supplied to the settler state as a shield against Iraqi Scud missiles.

The missiles have been supplied as Washington repeats its Gulf War demand that the Israeli air force stay out of the coming war. Israeli officials delivered a thumbs-down verdict on the missile batteries supplied a decade ago. The new Patriots have undergone further development, and are supplemented by the Israeli-developed Arrow missile.

New Zealand rulers press war drive

Continued from Page 16

agricultural commodities that are a mainstay of the New Zealand capitalist economy. "It's hard to envisage any significant further progress in trade liberalization occurring without an accommodation occurring between the European Union and the U.S.," he told the *Sunday Star Times*.

Referring to factors that helped to speed up the global spread of the 1930s depression, Sutton said, "U.S. protectionism spread the economic catastrophe pretty effectively around the world then and I think war in Iraq would be in a way a manifestation of a similar response."

Sutton also pointed to the impact of a war in Iraq on New Zealand's markets in the region. "If there's war in the Middle

East then Middle Eastern countries will reduce spending on butter and increase spending on guns—and we don't sell guns and we do sell butter," he said.

Sheepmeat sales from New Zealand to the Middle East are substantial, bringing in around \$NZ100 million a year (\$NZ1 = US\$54). The 120,000 tons of milk products sent there total 5 percent to 6 percent of the dairy industry's total production for export.

Sutton accused Washington of "arm-twisting" other nations into backing its war on Iraq. The next day he backed off this, saying that he had merely meant to note that "an energetic diplomatic campaign was under way."

Government ministers have been less circumspect about identifying with

Washington's stepped-up propaganda and actions against north Korea. "Our voice will be part of the pressure" against Pyongyang's alleged development of nuclear weapons, said Foreign Minister Goff.

The New Zealand government sent funds to north Korea after the signing of the 1994 Agreed Framework, the accord under which Washington, Tokyo, and Seoul agreed to provide fuel, food, and assistance in the construction of nuclear power plants, in exchange for a freeze on the north's development of nuclear weapons.

Intervention in the South Pacific

While they participate in the preparations for war in the Middle East, the imperialist governments of Australia and New Zealand have stepped up their interference and intervention in the nations of the South Pacific on the pretext that after September 11 they face an increased danger of destabilization by terrorist groups.

Referring to the alleged need to prevent the Solomon Islands from becoming a "failed state," Goff said, "The problem with Afghanistan was you had a failed state in a vacuum and that vacuum was filled by al Qaeda."

This follows the occupation of East Timor in September 1999 by a predominantly Australian and New Zealand force acting under the auspices of the United Nations. This was the biggest operation by the New Zealand armed forces since the Korean War, with some 5,000 personnel being deployed over three years, many soldiers sent twice or more, and territorial reservists called up.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Clark has used the preparations for war as justification for holding down government spending on social entitlements. Her first major interview of the year, published in the January 18 *New Zealand Herald*, was headlined, "War clouds keep spending on leash."

Pittsburgh inquest says cop killing of 12-year-old youth was 'justifiable'

BY MARTY RESSLER

UNIONTOWN, Pennsylvania—A dozen protesters stood outside the courtroom here on January 27 as a jury ruled that the killing of 12-year-old Michael Ellerbe by two cops was "justifiable homicide."

State troopers Juan Curry and Samuel Nassan had "acted in a reasonable manner based on their training and Pennsylvania state law" in shooting the youth on December 24, said the six-person, all-white jury in a unanimous decision that serves as an advisory opinion for the district attorney.

Ellerbe died after being shot through the heart from the back. He was one of three Black individuals killed by cops in Pittsburgh in November and December. Some 170 people joined a rally and march in Mt. Oliver on January 20 to protest the killings and other incidents of police brutality.

In his courtroom testimony Nassan said

he chased the unarmed youth, thinking he was older, as he ran away from an allegedly stolen vehicle, and shot him after he saw Curry fall as if shot.

Curry denied that he had fired, although his gun had been discharged. His attorney suggested that the trigger had caught on fence wire during the chase.

Tracy Calloway, who helped to lead the protesters outside the courtroom, said she was "shocked" by the verdict. "Everyone is angry. We are not going to let it stand," she said. "There are too many complaints about the police officers in Uniontown. I don't feel it was right."

The group of protesters included 10-year-old Melvin Duley, who witnessed the killing from the window of his home and has disputed the police account.

Fayette County district attorney Nancy Vernon will now decide whether or not to file charges against the two cops.

THE MILITANT

online at

www.themilitant.com

Solidarity is theme at New York event

Continued from front page

story. On December 3 the journalist was detained and jailed by INS agents at Houston's Intercontinental Airport as he entered the United States. Calero had just completed a reporting assignment at an international conference of trade unionists in Cuba, and a student conference and book fair in Mexico.

The INS jailed Calero on the grounds of a 1988 high school conviction on a charge of selling an ounce of marijuana to an undercover cop. Calero had included this information when he had successfully applied for permanent residency in 1989. He received his green card the following year, after the INS waived the conviction, which was confirmed when he renewed it in 2000.

Ten days after Calero's jailing, INS officials in Houston released him as protest letters poured into their office. They have set up a deportation hearing for March 25.

The February 1 meeting drew people from New Jersey and Philadelphia as well as New York. Participants in a number of campaigns against deportations, fighters against police brutality, students at local schools, and workers from factories in New York were among those attending.

"I'm honored to have Mr. Calero here," said the Rev. Earl Kooperkamp, the pastor at St. Mary's, in opening the event. Calero, he said, "is a man who has stood up to tell the truth."

Nonpartisan defense campaign

Pamela Vossen, a co-chair of the Róger Calero Defense Committee, chaired the program. "Our mission is to build a non-partisan committee," she said. "First, to make the INS pay the highest price possible for their acts against Róger Calero. Second, to stop the deportation, to defend his right to live and work in this country without fear of arrest. We are also here to set an example that it is possible to fight



Militant/Angel Lariscy
Above, Luis Miranda, director of Casa de las Américas, speaks at February 1 New York meeting opposing INS attempts to deport Róger Calero. Inset, Calero talks with other participants.

back."

The speakers panel included Kathy Chang of the Committee to Defend Farouk Abdel-Muhti; Margarita Rosario of Parents against Police Brutality; Ray La Forrest, an organizer in Local DC1707 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); Jane Guskin of the Coalition for the Human Rights of Immigrants; Luis Miranda, director of Casa de las Américas; Bobby Khan of the Coney Island Avenue Project; Kathy Andrade of the Salvadoran Social and Cultural Circle; John Studer of the Róger Calero Defense Committee; and Calero himself.

The meeting gave a warm welcome to

Margarita Rosario and Juanita Young, who have become leaders in the fight against police brutality following the killings of their sons by New York cops.

Rosario, the founder of Parents Against Police Brutality, described the execution-style murder of her son and nephew in 1995. "They put 14 shots into my son's back as he lay down on the floor and 8 shots into my nephew's back," she said.

When an independent autopsy on the bodies contradicted the police account, "I decided to fight," Rosario said.

"The U.S. government has tried to silence people of color," she said, "like Martin Luther King and [Puerto Rican independence fighter Pedro] Albisu Campos.

We must take up the fight of Mr. Calero."

Kathy Chang of the Committee to Defend Farouk Abdel-Muhti read a statement from the Palestinian activist, who is threatened with deportation and is currently in the Passaic County Jail in New Jersey. "All people in my situation are on your side, and I appeal to you to go on struggling on the outside to defend those of us inside," Abdel-Muhti wrote to Calero.

The meeting also heard a letter of solidarity from Lynne Stewart, a New York attorney who has been accused of delivering messages to a so-called "terrorist" group. The charges follow her defense of Omar Abdel Rahman, the Egyptian Sheik who was railroaded to prison on frame-up charges of conspiring to blow up New York landmarks.

"Calero and I are current targets of repression. We stand and defend our cases," said Stewart. "I am proud to support him and respect his outreach to the people, to guarantee his victory."

Ray La Forrest and Jane Guskin both emphasized the importance of waging a public defense effort. "Unless we fight intelligently, unless we use all of our resources, we lose," said La Forrest.

Thousands in similar situations

"There are many thousands of people in similar situations," said Guskin. She urged participants to keep sending protest letters to the INS. The authorities are "susceptible to pressure," she said. "It is with the public campaign, not with the legal strategy, that these cases are won."

Luis Miranda from Casa de las Américas, which defends the Cuban Revolution, described how Washington's immigration policies are applied unequally to immigrants from Haiti and Cuba. He advocated support for the five Cuban patriots serving long sentences in U.S. jails on frame-up charges of "conspiracy" to commit espionage.

"Today Róger Calero, tomorrow anyone else," he said, urging support for the anti-deportation fight.

Bobby Khan also emphasized the widespread abuses by the INS, which rounded up hundreds of immigrants from South Asia and the Middle East following the September 11 attacks. The organization in which he is active, the Coney Island Avenue Project, is named after a neighborhood in Brooklyn—home to many Pakistanis and other immigrants—that is "under attack," he said. "More than 1,000 have been arrested, many deported."

Khan saluted Calero and others who have said "no" to such treatment. "The more they oppress us, the more energy we feel to fight back," he said. "Justice is not going to be given. We'll have to earn it."

Kathy Andrade of the Salvadoran Social and Cultural Circle also brought her support and encouraged participants to join

Continued on Page 7

Spanish-language daily interviews Calero

The following article appeared in the January 30 issue of *Hoy*, a Spanish-language daily published in New York City. It was headlined "A fight against deportation; Nicaraguan Róger Calero gets aid from various organizations in order to confront the immigration service." The author, Rudolfo Castillo, interviewed Calero in Hempstead, New York. Translation is by the Militant.

BY RUDOLFO CASTILLO

"Although this case is not unique, it does present a good opportunity to demand that



the INS stop its deportation campaign against thousands of Latinos," said Nicaraguan journalist Róger Calero on Wednesday during a visit to Hempstead.

Calero, who has lived in the United States for 15 years, says that his deportation would be a big blow, since his whole family lives in this country. "My mother, my aunt, and my wife are all U.S. citizens and I have been a permanent resident for 12 years."

Besides his work as associate editor of *Perspectiva Mundial* magazine, Calero is a writer for the *Militant*, an English-language weekly in New York—a job that has allowed him to travel to different places in the United States and Latin America, writing about politics and issues in the labor movement. Last year he traveled to Havana to cover a conference on the Free Trade Act of the Americas in which unionists and other delegates from Latin America, the United States, and Canada participated.

On December 3 Calero was held at the Houston airport when he returned to the country from carrying out a writing assignment in Guadalajara, Mexico, reporting on the International Book Fair and an international student conference.

"After holding me for three hours, they told me they were beginning deportation proceedings," said Calero, who says that he was arrested for selling marijuana to an undercover cop in 1988, when he was a high school student in Los Angeles. "At that time, facing the danger of going to jail, I decided to plead guilty because they told me it would not affect me in the future.

"The immigration service is trying to deport me now on the grounds of a 14-year-old conviction, basing this on a law enacted in 1996, just as they are doing to thousands of immi-

grant workers," Calero said.

The campaign against his deportation includes numerous organizations and individual defenders of freedom of the press, immigrant rights activists, and hundreds of unionists, who compelled the INS to parole him.

On the first Saturday in February, beginning at 7:00 p.m., a public meeting will be held. Organized by Calero's defense committee it will take place at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 521 W. 126th St. in Manhattan. The organizers invite "supporters of this cause to join the fight to support his right to live and work in the United States."



Hoy/Rudolfo Castillo
Róger Calero with, left, Pamela Vossen, a co-chair of defense committee, and right, Sarah Katz, a volunteer for the defense campaign and Calero's wife. Photo appeared in *Hoy* with article that announced February 1 public meeting in New York.

Support the Róger Calero Defense Committee

- Send messages to INS district director Hipolito Acosta demanding the exclusion moves against Calero be dropped. Messages can be faxed to (281) 774-5989 or mailed to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 126 Northpoint Drive, Houston, TX 77060. Copies should be sent to the Róger Calero Defense Committee, c/o PRDF, Box 761, Church St. Station, New York, NY 10007; fax (212) 563-0585.

- Sign and distribute petitions demanding the INS drop the exclusion of Calero. A brochure and petition are available from the defense committee (e-mail: calerodefense@yahoo.com).

- Funds are urgently needed to meet rapidly mounting legal and other expenses. Defense campaign backers in every city need to raise thousands of dollars for these needs. Organize phone calling for donations, seek honoraria for speaking engagements, and take collections at public meetings. The goal is to raise over \$50,000 by the end of January. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Tens of thousands visit international book fair in Havana

Continued from front page
books were sold at the book fair nationwide; this year we expect between 3 and 4 million copies to be sold."

Through these educational efforts, Prieto said, we are placing Cuba in the "vanguard of cultural resistance" in the world.

Also speaking were Cuban poet and essayist Pablo Armando Fernández, the fair's honored author this year, and Francisco Pareja, representing the Andean countries—Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela—to whom the 12th international book fair is dedicated. Cuban president Fidel Castro and other government leaders were present at the opening.

The first weekend the fair was jammed with visitors of all ages interested in books. They browsed the stands, attended book launchings, went to poetry readings, and lined up at stalls selling affordable titles in Cuban pesos. Thousands of children with parents in tow thronged the children's pa-

vilion, snapping up a wide array of titles.

Every evening the fair hosts concerts by Cuban musicians. Throughout Havana, art and photo exhibitions, film showings, and theatrical productions are being held to coincide with the fair.

This year fair organizers have also scheduled a series of forums on various themes. One is on the work of Cuban national hero José Martí, the anti-imperialist leader and outstanding writer, the 150th anniversary of whose birth is being marked this year. Other topics include the world economy, education, and the expansion of access to culture in Cuba. The first forum, "The World After September 11," featured U.S. academic James Petras. A lively discussion on the floor followed the panel presentation.

Among the first books to be launched at the fair is *Cicatrices en la memoria* (Scarred Memories), just released by the Capitán San Luis publishing house of the Ministry of the Interior. It is a collection



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Volunteers from Iceland and Australia discuss titles with visitor to Pathfinder booth at book fair. Festival will travel to 30 cities after 11-day stay in Havana.

of 18 short stories and poems by prominent Cuban writers and illustrations by 18 well-known artists. The contents have as their common theme the Cuban people's struggle to defend their revolution from U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary organizations, which for more than four decades have carried out acts of terror against the revolution. The featured speakers were Roberto Fernández Retamar, president of Cuba's Casa de las Américas cultural center and author of the book's foreword, and Ricardo Alarcón, president of the National Assembly, who wrote the epilogue.

Other books being presented here range from collections of poetry by contemporary Ecuadorean writer Jorge Enrique Adoum to works by German novelist Heinrich Böll to classics such as *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.

One featured launching is for the Spanish-language edition of *Conflicting Missions* by Piero Gleijeses. The book, published in English in the United States last year, documents revolutionary Cuba's internationalist support for and participation in national liberation struggles from Algeria to Angola, and Washington's efforts to crush these freedom struggles. Other books on political topics range from *El Partido de los Independientes de Color* (The Party of Independents of Color) by Sivio Castro, the history of an independent Black political party in Cuba in the early 20th century; to *Ten Days That Shook The World* by John Reed, an eyewitness narrative of the October 1917 Russian Revolution. Several new

titles are firsthand accounts by combatants in Cuba's revolutionary war in the 1950s to overthrow the Batista dictatorship.

A popular title this year is a collection of cartoons by Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, one of five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in the United States on frame-up charges because of their work infiltrating and gathering information on U.S.-based counterrevolutionary groups organizing attacks on Cuba. Hernández is serving two life terms.

Interest in Pathfinder titles

Pathfinder Press, one of 52 non-Cuban publishers at this year's Havana book fair, is organizing presentations of three new titles. One is *Marianas in Combat: Teté Puebla and the Mariana Grajales Women's Platoon in Cuba's Revolutionary War, 1956-58*, in both English and Spanish editions. The book is an interview with Puebla, who was second in command of the women's platoon in the Rebel Army, which was led by Fidel Castro. She is currently a general in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces.

A second title is *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, also both in English and Spanish. The launching is being organized jointly with Casa Editora Abril, publishing house of the Union of Young Communists, which has just released a Cuban edition of *Malcolm X habla a la juventud*.

Pathfinder is also presenting *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba* by Tomás Diez Acosta. The Spanish edition is published by Editora Política of Havana.

Pathfinder's booth has been a hive of activity each day from the moment the fair's doors open at 10:00 a.m. to when they close at 8:00 p.m. Many who visit to look at Pathfinder's range of titles also take the opportunity to discuss politics with the volunteers staffing the stand, who include communist workers and youth from Australia, Canada, Iceland, Sweden, and the UK.

Many Cubans stopping at the booth go straight for the new *Malcolm X habla a la juventud*. Dennis Rodríguez, who works for the electrical company in East Havana, said he'd previously read *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, published in Cuba in 1974 and long out of print, and had seen the Hollywood film by Spike Lee. He was eager to read what Malcolm had to say in speeches and interviews during the last year of his life. Browsing through the book, he commented on a February 1965 interview in which Malcolm argued that capitalism is getting weaker, and enjoyed the U.S.-born revolutionary's metaphor of U.S. imperialism evolving from an eagle to a scavenging vulture that can be defeated in struggle.

Adriana Bernales, a student at the University of Havana, was one of many who came seeking an explanation of the impending U.S.-led war in the Mideast. "Do you think it's because of Bush's oil interests?" she asked. She was interested in getting the issue of the magazine *Nueva Internacional* featuring "The Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq" by Jack Barnes, an analysis of the 1991 Gulf War and its outcome.

A number of people who had visited the Pathfinder booth in previous years returned to pick up on unfinished discussions and to address new questions uppermost in their minds, from the employer-led efforts to overthrow the government of Venezuela to new developments in the class struggle in the United States.



Militant/Martín Koppel

Students at military medicine school in Havana look over display on Róger Calero defense campaign—a feature of the Pathfinder booth at book fair.

Solidarity is theme at meeting in New York

Continued from Page 6

a February 14 protest for immigrant rights outside the Federal Building in downtown Manhattan.

The defense committee organized a collection to cover costs and contribute to the national fund-raising goal of \$50,000 by the time of the INS hearing on March 25. Committee coordinator John Studer gave the fund pitch.

"Like many others," Studer said, "Róger was snared for a past offense, as the INS has poured the names and records of millions of immigrants, residents, and citizens into its database." It has done this, he explained, under retroactive powers granted it under the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. The law expanded the list of offenses con-

sidered grounds for deportation and directs the INS to expel immigrants convicted of crimes, even if they are legal residents of the United States.

Calero has an advantage over many others caught in the net, said Studer. "He has political comrades and has won respect in the labor movement, including as a meat packer in Des Moines, Iowa, and St. Paul, Minnesota, where he was involved in a successful union-organizing drive at the Dakota Premium plant.

"A lot of people see themselves in this fight," Studer said.

Through donations at the door, the collection, and further contributions at the lively social that followed the meeting, more than \$2,800 was raised.

Another volunteer with the committee,

Nyssa Chow, a student at Sarah Lawrence College, introduced Calero. "I am from Trinidad," she said, "but I have not joined this fight because I am an immigrant. I have not joined because of my race, my gender, my political or religious affiliation. And not because I could be next. I am a part of this struggle because my conscience will not allow otherwise."

Calero reviewed the facts of his case and then encouraged those present to get involved in this and other struggles. "As such abuses get exposed," he said, "more and more people will step forward as we see it's possible to push the government and their cops back."

The INS use of a prior conviction rings "alarm bells among many who have had contact with the 'justice' system," Calero said. "Many object to the idea that you can be made to pay twice for the same conviction."

In the discussion, Maximo Espinal was not the only participant who saw the meeting as an opportunity to speak out about their treatment at the hands of the INS.

Omar Arango, who lives in Elizabeth, New Jersey, told the meeting that he faces a final deportation hearing in June. A truck driver and U.S. resident for 22 years, Arango is threatened under the same 1996 law. He attended the meeting with his wife and three children. "We knew that there are organizations working on cases like ours but didn't know how to contact them," said Sandra Roldan-Arango.

Both Arango and Espinal found out about the meeting through reading an interview with Calero run in *Hoy*, a Spanish-language daily published in New York (see article on page 6.) The article included de-

Continued on Page 14

Róger Calero defense campaign tour

The Róger Calero Defense Committee has launched a speaking tour for Calero in cities around the country to broaden the fight to stop his deportation by the INS. Below is the schedule for the next steps in the tour. Requests for additional tour dates can be made to the committee.

New Jersey Feb. 9

Seattle Feb. 20–22

Colorado Feb. 23–25

For more information or to send a contribution, contact the Róger Calero Defense Committee. See details in box on page 6.



Socialists defend right to campaign

SWP files for six-year extension of exemption from federal requirement to pr

BY PAUL PEDERSON

The Socialist Workers National Campaign Committee has filed a request with the Federal Election Commission for a six-year extension of the party's exemption from requirements to report the names of financial contributors. The letter was filed on the party's behalf by attorney Michael Krinsky, a senior partner at the New York firm of Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman. The FEC is expected to decide on the request in the first few months of this year.

The party's fight for the exemption is part of its decades-long support for the right of workers, farmers, and their organizations to engage in political activity, including elections, free from government and right-wing harassment. The communist movement has consistently opposed every measure by the capitalist rulers and their hired thugs to assert a monopoly over the right to organize, the ability to carry out political action, and the possibility to be heard by the working population.

The Socialist Workers Party (SWP) has run candidates for office since 1938 and fielded candidates for president and vice president in every election since 1948. These socialist campaigns serve as a platform to reach out with revolutionary ideas to a broad working-class audience, as well as to defend the party's ability to function on the same footing as any other political organization in the United States.

First Amendment rights

Under a 1979 Federal Elections Commission (FEC) ruling, which has been extended several times since then, the Socialist Workers Party has won an exemption from a federal requirement to report the names of contributors to its election campaigns, as well as the names of vendors with whom campaign committees do business.

The 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act required candidates and campaign committees to file detailed reports listing all those who contribute more than \$200 to its campaigns—names, addresses, and occupations, as well as amounts contrib-



Militant/Sarah Katz (above)
Above, Martín Koppel, Socialist Workers 2002 candidate for governor of New York campaigns in Brooklyn. The party has a long record of support for working people's right to engage in political activity. Left, cop photographs protesters against U.S. bombing of Iraq in Birmingham in 1998—a protest that included Socialist Workers campaign supporters. The incident is included in the list of examples showing case for exemption from filing contributors' names.

uted. These reports are open to the public, making them a convenient "enemies list" for government agencies, employers, private spy agencies, and right-wing groups and individuals.

The SWP won the exemption on the basis of the threat to First Amendment rights to free association posed by the dis-

closure of campaign contributors' names. The party's recent request for extension of this protection cites 74 examples of harassment and threats—all since the previous extension was granted in 1996—directed at supporters of the Socialist Workers Party by right-wing individuals and groups, employers, and city, state, and federal police. It includes corroborating newspaper clippings, police reports, citations, and individual declarations.

The examples of harassment include 28 cases of police interference with election campaign activities, such as stopping campaign supporters from distributing literature, threatening to arrest campaign workers, photographing participants in an antiwar demonstration, issuing citations, and in many cases expressing hostility to the views of the socialists and their right to present them publicly.

Dozens of other examples are cited of threats and disruption, such as office break-ins and vandalism, threats by bosses, death threats, and physical assaults such as the overturning of campaign tables by right-wing or racist individuals.

In each case supporters of the party were carrying out constitutionally protected activities such as distributing campaign materials and political literature on street corners, plant gates, or mine portals; organizing meetings on campuses; or engaging in protest activity.

Since the 1971 FEC Act was passed, the Socialist Workers campaign committees have refused to turn over the names of campaign contributors on the grounds that this would open these individuals up to victimization by government and private sources.

In 1974 a lawsuit was filed in federal court on behalf of the Socialist Workers National Campaign Committee challenging the law as unconstitutional. Two years later, in a 1976 ruling on a case filed by another plaintiff (*Buckley v. Valeo*), the U. S. Supreme Court recognized that for particular

parties "the threat to the exercise of First Amendment rights is so serious...that the Act's requirements cannot be constitutionally applied."

In 1979, after a five-year public campaign, the SWP won a federal court ruling that it was covered by the *Buckley* criteria and was exempt from federal reporting requirements. The FEC signed a consent decree requiring the Socialist Workers campaign committees to keep records of contributors and file reports with the election commission but without identifying contributors.

Then, in 1982 the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Brown v. Socialist Workers '74 Campaign Committee*, granted the SWP an exemption from state disclosure requirements in Ohio. That same year the court also exempted candidates of the Communist Party from federal reporting guidelines.

Since 1979 the party has fought for and won extensions of the federal ruling, as well as parallel exemptions from state disclosure laws. In 1996, however, the FEC imposed a restriction on the exemption, ruling that the SWP campaign committee must assign a code number for each contributor and report those numbers.

In the recent letter to the FEC on behalf of the SWP, attorney Michael Krinsky cited three further court rulings just from the past few years underlining the justice of the party's request to extend its exemption. A 1995 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the principles of both the *Buckley* and *Brown* decisions, as did another of its decisions four years later. Krinsky also called special attention to a 1998 Texas Supreme Court decision holding that associations should be exempt even if the potential consequences of disclosure are much less serious than those documented by the Socialist Workers Party.

In the *Brown v. Socialist Workers* case, for example, the Texas court ruled, "the campaign committee introduced evidence of harassment including threatening phone calls, hate mail, destruction of property, and physical violence.... However, such a factual record of violent past harassment is not the only situation in which courts have recognized a political infringement of an association's First Amendment rights."

FBI disruption campaign

Another of the central arguments presented by Krinsky in the recent letter to the FEC is the findings from a landmark 15-year legal battle, won by the SWP in 1986, that revealed a decades-long campaign of harassment, spying, and disruption by the FBI and other political police agencies. The ruling in that lawsuit, *Socialist Workers Party v. Attorney General*, placed an injunction on the FBI against using the files it collected through burglary, infiltration, surveillance, and other such methods used against the SWP.

This systematic harassment and victimization by the federal government goes back to the late 1930s, as the U.S. government was preparing for its entry into World War II. At that time, the Democratic Party administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt strengthened the FBI as a national political police force to crack down on labor militancy and opposition to U.S. war moves among the working-class vanguard that had emerged from the class battles of the 1930s. In 1941, 18 leaders of the Teamsters union and Socialist Workers Party were prosecuted and convicted on frame-up conspiracy charges for their opposition to the imperialist war campaign; they were imprisoned in 1944-45.

By 1942, the FBI had nearly 24,000 FBI informers reporting on union and political activities in almost 4,000 factories, mines, and mills. The disruption campaign was also aimed at the rising movement for Black rights, with agents infiltrating the NAACP and other civil rights organizations. These activities of the secret po-

Recommended reading from Pathfinder



• FBI on Trial: The Victory in the Socialist Workers Party Suit Against Government Spying

Edited By Margaret Jayko
Record of SWP's landmark 1987 court victory against government spying. \$18.95

• Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom

By Nelson Blackstock \$15.95

• Teamster Bureaucracy

By Farrell Dobbs
How the rank and file Teamsters leadership organized to oppose World War II, racism, and government efforts to gag class-struggle-minded workers. \$18.95

• Socialism on Trial

By James P. Cannon
Testimony at trial of 18 leaders of the Minneapolis Teamsters Union and the Socialist Workers Party framed up and imprisoned during World War II. \$15.95

• Revelations Concerning the Communist trial in Cologne

By Karl Marx
Classic 1853 booklet exposing the Prussian police spying and frame-up campaign against the communist movement. Marx and Engels *Collected Works* Vol. 11. \$25.00

• Lenin as Election Campaign Manager

By Doug Jenness
Lessons from election campaigns organized by the Bolsheviks in Russia under the tsar. \$3.50

• "Washington's 50-year Domestic Contra Operation" in

issue no. 6 of *New Internationalist*
By Larry Seigle \$15.00



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ign in elections

Provide names of campaign contributors

lice continued after the war and expanded with the rising civil rights battles and movement against the Vietnam War in the 1960s and '70s. The FBI labeled these operations the Counterintelligence Program, or Cointelpro.

Krinsky points out that the FBI amassed 8 million documents on the SWP. Over the period 1960-76, it employed a total of about 1,300 informers—including 300 who entered the party—and paid them \$1.6 million for their spying and disruption work. The federal cops conducted more than 200 burglaries of the party's offices.

In 1948, the Socialist Workers Party was put on the Attorney General's list of "subversive" organizations, a blacklist used to bar from federal employment any members or supporters of targeted organizations. The list was officially ended in 1974, as public outrage against such practices increased in the wake of the Watergate scandal during the administration of president Richard Nixon.

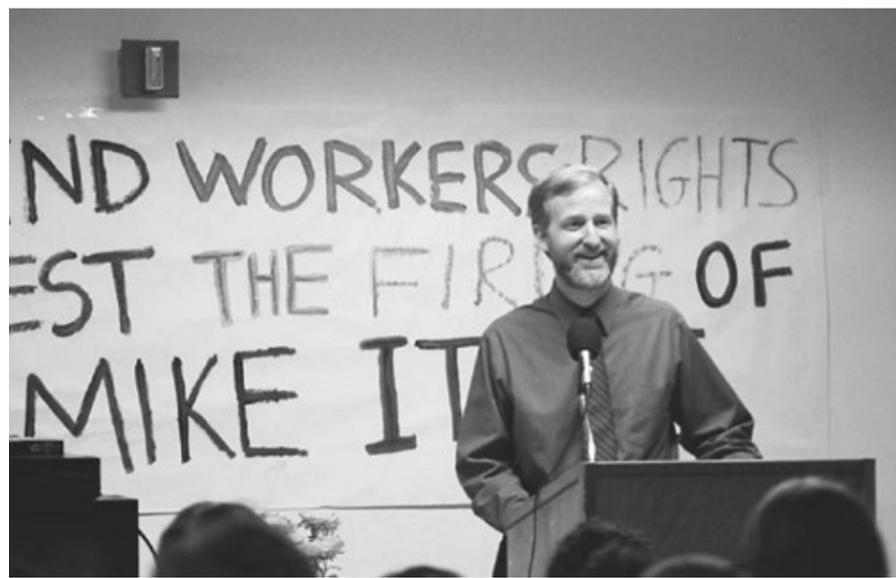
A record of this political battle and court victory against government disruption and harassment can be found in several books and pamphlets published by

Pathfinder Press: *FBI on Trial: The Victory in the Socialist Workers Party Suit against Government Spying*; *Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom*; *Workers' Rights vs. the Secret Police*; and "Washington's 50-year Domestic Contra Operation" in issue no. 6 of *New Internationalist*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory.

The victory in the lawsuit against the government was made possible by the political space opened up through the battles for civil rights, women's rights, and against the U.S. war in Vietnam that took place from the 1950s to 1970s.

One case Krinsky points to is a historic victory won in the 1950s by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) against the government of Alabama, which had demanded it turn over a list of its members. At the time the local and state authorities in Alabama were part of the forces using police repression and lynch-mob terror to attack the rising movement against Jim Crow segregation that the NAACP was helping to lead.

As cops and sheriffs doffed their uniforms at the end of the workday, many



Militant/Eric Simpson

Michael Italie, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Miami in 2001, speaking at Nov. 2, 2001, event to oppose his firing. Italie was dismissed from sewing plant for political views he expressed as candidate. His case is cited in request filed with FEC.

donned their Ku Klux Klan robes or reported for duty as night riders for the White Citizens Council. The Alabama NAACP refused to turn over the names of its members and won a victory in the Supreme Court in 1958.

The Court ruling stated, "We hold that the immunity from state scrutiny of membership lists which the [NAACP] claims on behalf of its members is here so related to the right of the members to pursue their lawful private interests privately

and to associate freely with others in so doing as to come within the protection of the Fourteenth Amendment."

74 incidents of harassment

After describing the "long history of governmental harassment" against the Socialist Workers Party, Krinsky points out that "the federal animus against the SWP continues." The 74 incidents cited for the years 1996-2002 make a strong

Continued on Page 11

No 'equal time' in coverage of working-class campaigns

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

In presenting a working-class perspective through election campaigns, socialist candidates not only must stand up to government harassment. They also face systematic efforts by the twin parties of big business to limit their ability to have their program and their candidates become known to the majority of workers and farmers. The capitalist two-party system is structured to keep independent working-class candidates off the ballot by imposing what are often onerous petitioning requirements, and sometimes nonrefundable financial "deposits" or "filing fees" as well.

Even when working-class candidates succeed in gaining a spot on the ballot, the U.S. billionaire class has used its courts, laws, and regulatory agencies to maintain the Democratic-Republican monopoly on access to radio, television, and mass-circulation newspapers and magazines.

Through the 1940s and even 1950s, candidates of working-class parties often received coverage on national radio news broadcasts. Over the past decades, however, provisions such as the so-called Equal Time Rule and the Fairness Doctrine, supposedly guaranteeing airtime to "minor" candidates, have been stripped of content or used—often cynically, in the name of "fairness"—to impose a virtual media blackout on all but the bosses' candidates.

In 1934 Congress adopted the Communications Act, establishing the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), to regulate the broadcast industry. One provision of the law, Section 315, known as the "Equal Time Rule," deals with access to the broadcast media. It states, "If any licensee shall permit any person who is a legally qualified candidate for any public office to use a broadcasting station, he shall afford equal opportunities to all other such candidates for that office in the use of such broadcasting station."

The Equal Time Rule applies to paid airtime for candidates on radio and TV and to some free spots for candidates. It initially applied to news coverage.

In 1948, at the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) convention where Farrell Dobbs and Grace Carlson were nominated as the SWP candidates for president and vice president, respectively, their acceptance speeches were broadcast nationwide by ABC and other radio networks. Over the course of the election campaign Dobbs gave at least five nationally broadcast speeches on the four main networks: NBC, ABC, CBS, and the Mutual Broadcasting System. He also took part in 15 nightly radio forums on a New York station.

In 1959, however, Congress amended Section 315 to exempt TV and radio stations from giving "equal time" to other candidates on "bona fide news events." It did so after an opponent of Democratic mayor Richard Daley of Chicago requested free airtime from a TV station after Daley was covered on the evening news. The FCC has systematically expanded the category of programs exempted from political access requirements.

In particular, the Democrats and Republicans have worked hard to restrict access to televised presidential debates. When the first televised presidential debates were held in 1960, Congress suspended the rules to allow the Kennedy-Nixon debate to proceed without the networks having to grant airtime to the "minor" candidates. These were Farrell Dobbs of the SWP, Eric Hass of the Socialist Labor Party, Orval Faubus of the segregationist States' Rights Party, and the Constitution and Prohibition candidates.

No more presidential debates were organized until 1976 because the incum-

bents refused to debate and because of the possibility of third candidates demanding equal time.

In 1975 the 1960 exemption was formalized and broadened when the FCC defined candidate debates as "bona fide news events." To pull it off, they got the willing agreement of the League of Women Voters to sponsor the debates, allowing the networks to cover them as a "news event." In 1988 the job of sponsoring debates was taken over by the Commission on Presidential Debates.

'Fairness Doctrine' limits access

A separate provision was the Fairness Doctrine, which the FCC instituted in 1949. It required that broadcasters "operate in the public interest and afford reasonable opportunity for the discussion of conflicting views on issues of public interest." This made it possible for candidates and others to be granted airtime to offer opposing views to those broadcast by the networks.

The networks, however, often used the

Fairness Doctrine as a pretext for *limiting* equal access. For example, they would refuse to cover "minor" candidates by arguing that if they did so, they would then be required by the Fairness Doctrine to give equal time to others.

The major TV networks campaigned to abolish the Fairness Doctrine altogether, insisting that, if newspapers were not covered by such a provision, TV programs shouldn't be either. The FCC dropped the Fairness Doctrine from its statutes in 1987.

Although there have not been similar federal regulations covering newspapers and magazines, the owners of the big-business dailies, weeklies, and monthlies have generally followed in the footsteps of the major radio and TV networks and stations. Over the past quarter century, the editors of these publications have given less and less coverage—often none at all—to candidates other than those running on the Democratic or Republican party lines or various bourgeois "third party" candidates of left or right, such as Patrick Buchanan, Ross Perot, or Ralph Nader.

SWP presidential ticket of Dobbs-Carlson broadcast nationwide in 1948 campaign

BY PAUL PEDERSON

In the Socialist Workers Party's 1948 election campaign—the first presidential campaign run by the party—candidate Farrell Dobbs and his running mate Grace Carlson made full use of the access to ra-

dio time granted under the Equal Time Rule of the 1934 Communications Act.

They presented a revolutionary working-class alternative to the campaigns of the Republican Party, which ran Thomas Dewey, and the Democrats, who put for-

ward incumbent Harry Truman, the eventual winner. Strom Thurmond of the segregationist States' Rights Democratic Party and Henry Wallace of the Progressive Party were among the other candidates.

Dobbs delivered at least five nationwide speeches over NBC, ABC, CBS, and the Mutual Broadcasting System. The first was broadcast on May 15 under the title, "End Capitalism to Stop War." The candidate declared, "There can be no effective struggle against war unless it is directed towards the elimination of the war-breeding capitalist system."

Two weeks later Dobbs spoke over ABC radio on "Capital and Labor in 1948." He described the ruling-class offensive against the labor movement, exemplified by the growing use of the Taft-Hartley "Slave Labor" Act. Taft-Hartley, still in use today, authorized the federal government to end strikes through court orders. (Truman had vetoed the bill as a demagogic sop to ensure backing by the labor officialdom in the 1948 election. Then, after the act was passed over his veto, Truman invoked it repeatedly against

Continued on Page 11



1948 SWP presidential candidate Farrell Dobbs giving acceptance speech at party convention broadcast nationwide over several radio networks.

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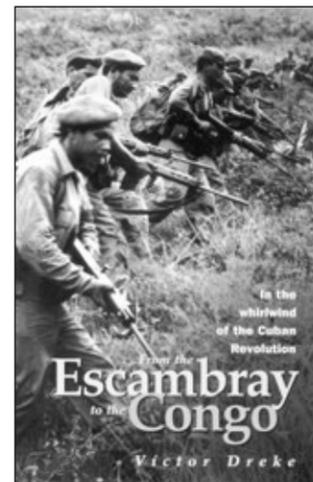


Malcolm X Talks to Young People/ Malcolm X habla a la juventud by Malcolm X

New, expanded edition includes, for the first time in print, the entire December 1964 debate presentation by Malcolm X at the Oxford Union and February 1965 speech at the London School of Economics. The 2002 edition contains other new material complementing four talks by Malcolm X given to young people in Ghana, the United Kingdom, and the United States in the last months of Malcolm's life. The collection concludes with two memorial tributes by a young socialist leader to this great revolutionary, whose example and words continue to speak the truth to generation after generation of youth. Expanded 17-page photo display. Also available in Spanish. \$15.00

From the Escambray to the Congo In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution by Victor Dreke

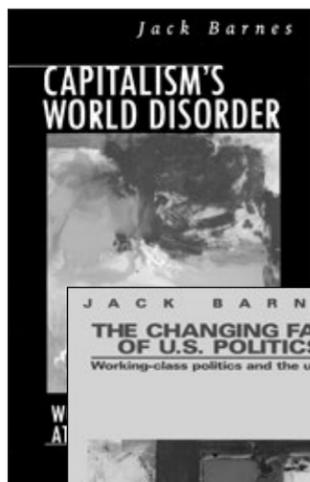
In this participant's account, Victor Dreke describes how easy it became to 'take down the rope' segregating Blacks from whites at town dances, yet how enormous was the battle to transform the social relations underlying all the 'ropes' inherited from capitalism and Yankee domination. Dreke recounts the determination, internationalism, and creative joy with which working people have defended their revolutionary course against U.S. imperialism—from Cuba's own Escambray mountains to the Americas, Africa and beyond. Also available in Spanish. \$17.00



Capitalism's World Disorder

Working-Class Politics at the Millennium
by Jack Barnes

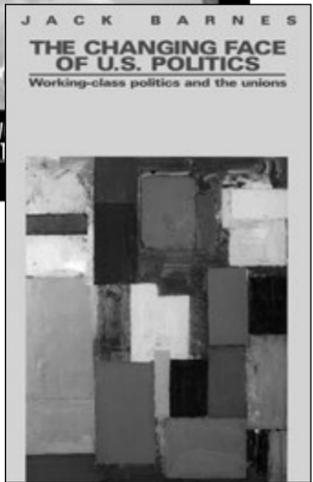
Today's spreading economic and social crisis and acts of imperialist aggression are not the product of something gone wrong, Barnes explains, but the lawful workings of capitalism. Yet the future can be changed by the united struggle and selfless action of workers and farmers conscious of their power to transform the world. Also available in French and Spanish. \$23.95



The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions
by Jack Barnes

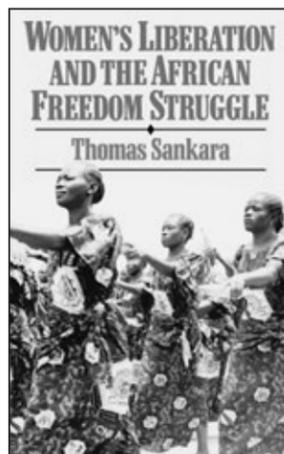
This is a handbook for young people who, in growing numbers, are repelled by the racism, women's inequality, and other intolerable social relations reproduced every day by the normal operation of capitalism on a world scale. It explains that the oppression of Blacks and other national minorities, and the racism used to justify it are deeply rooted in the historical development of American capitalism. In today's world of deepening capitalist social crisis, struggles against racist discrimination, police brutality, and attacks on hard-won civil and political rights increasingly intertwine with the resistance by workers and farmers to economic devastation and imperialist war. Also available in French and Spanish. \$23.00



Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle

by Thomas Sankara

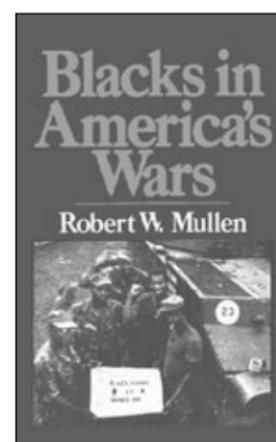
"There is no true social revolution without the liberation of women," explains the leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso. Workers and peasants in that West African country established a popular revolutionary government and began to combat the hunger, illiteracy, and economic backwardness imposed by imperialist domination. Also available in Spanish, French, and Farsi. \$5.00



Blacks in America's Wars The Shift in Attitudes from the Revolutionary War to Vietnam

By Richard Mullen

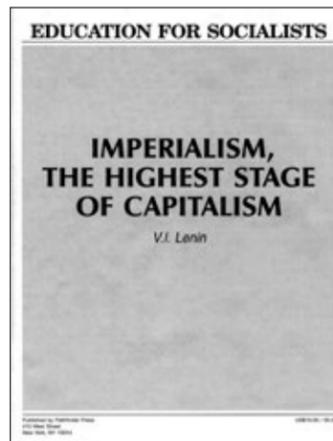
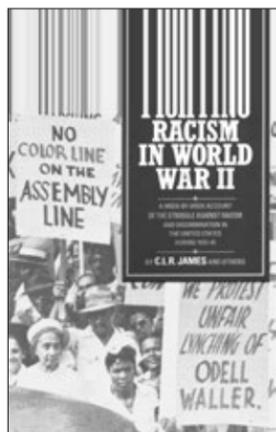
"Reveals many little-known facts about the role and treatment of the Black GI's"—*Publishers Weekly*
\$9.95



Fighting Racism in World War II

by C.L.R. James, George Breitman, Edgar Keemer, and others

A week-by-week account of the struggle against racism and racial discrimination in the United States from 1939 to 1945, taken from the pages of the socialist newsweekly, the *Militant*. \$21.95



Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism

by V.I. Lenin

"I trust that this pamphlet will help the reader to understand the fundamental economic question, that of the economic essence of imperialism," Lenin wrote in 1917. "For unless this is studied, it will be impossible to understand and appraise modern war and modern politics." Also available in Spanish. \$10.00

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Pennsylvania nurses strike over jobs, hours

BY JACK WARD

WILKES-BARRE, Pennsylvania—Hundreds of registered nurses and their supporters rallied and marched here February 1 to demand that Wilkes-Barre General Hospital hire more staff and eliminate most mandatory overtime.

The action followed on the heels of a January 30-31 strike that had involved more than 400 nurses. Ninety-seven percent of members of the union voted for the stoppage. The nurses are organized by the Wyoming Valley Nurses Association, the local affiliate of the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals.

The administration kept the hospital running by enlisting a Denver firm that specializes in strike-breaking operations. It has now locked the nurses out. The 200 replacement nurses will work for at least another eight days, said William Host, president of Wyoming Valley Health Care System, the company that owns the hospital.

The workers have established a picket line. About 25 registered nurses have crossed it.

Several nurses spoke at the rally. "We demand they hire more nurses and other staff to care for the patients," said Brenda Philips, an emergency room nurse who has worked at the hospital since 1971. "The

patients deserve it, and I will fight for it."

Since 2000 some 400 nurses have been laid off. Nurses told *Militant* reporters that on some floors one worker will have to care for as many as 10 patients. Because of short-staffing, said Rose Papi, "some patients don't see a nurse for hours."

Papi added, "We knew when we went into the profession that we would work holidays and weekends, but we were not told we would be understaffed and overworked."

Overtime is a key issue in the dispute. Nurses can end up working up to 16 hours straight. Host claims that only 1 percent of this overtime is mandatory. Papi and others pointed out, however, that nurses often volunteer to work extra hours to cover for a coworker who is pressed to work over but has other obligations.

Nurses have also demanded a wage increase to bring them up to parity with workers at Mercy Hospital, also in Wilkes-Barre, improved pensions, and a closed union shop. Sick leave is also an issue, since they are not paid for the final six of their 12 sick days a year.

Support from other hospital staff

Following their rally, the nurses marched to the hospital. Many brought their families along. Some doctors, emergency medi-



Militant/Jack Ward

Nurses at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital picket on February 1. After striking for two days, 400 unionists were locked out in dispute over working hours and staffing levels.

cal workers, and other hospital staff also joined in. Most cars that passed blared their horns in support.

Members of nearly 30 other unions were present. Speakers included nurses union

presidents from three area hospitals, the firefighters union president, and several Pennsylvania state representatives.

Bob Smith, a local branch president of the National Postal Mailhandlers Union, came with others from his local. "I support the nurses' demand for adequate staffing and an end to forced overtime 100 percent," he said. "There's no way they can take care of patients properly if they're forced to work so many hours."

Hospital officials are using private security firms as well as relying on the police to try to intimidate nurses and cut across the widespread support for their fight. Two days before the strike, three union members were removed from the lobby by cops and security as they handed out union literature.

"They told us to leave now or be terminated," said Sandra Solovey, local union president. The administration has since posted police and security officers inside the lobby and has hired a security agency that films workers on the picket line.

Summing up the nurses' stance, Solovey told the rally, "We are not going back in there without safe staffing, language on limited mandatory overtime, and a closed shop."

Socialists defend right to campaign

Continued from Page 9

case for this argument.

One example that received significant publicity is the case of Michael Italie, the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Miami in 2001, who was fired from his job as a sewing machine operator at Goodwill Industries, a U.S. government contractor, for views he expressed during his campaign.

Italie spoke in a televised mayoral debate against the U.S. assault on Afghanistan, in support of the Cuban Revolution, and in favor of unions. His employer fired him telling him his "views on the U.S. government are contrary to those of this agency." Italie waged a nationwide fight against this political firing and gained considerable support and media coverage.

In Des Moines, Iowa, the Socialist Workers campaign headquarters was defaced in September 2000. Pigs feet were shoved through the mail slot, chicken livers were thrown at the front and side walls, and the front windows were pelted with eggs. An article on the attack in the *Des Moines Register* quoted SWP spokesperson Joe Swanson, who pointed out that the city police were not doing a serious investigation of the incident.

In February 2002, a break-in occurred at the Socialist Workers campaign office in Houston. A window was smashed, a computer table broken, and a scanner destroyed. A flyer in the window announcing a Militant Labor Forum on the Palestinian struggle was defaced, with a knife slit across the picture of a Palestinian child. The next day, Socialist Workers congressional candidate Anthony Dutrow denounced the attack in an interview on KPFT radio.

The 74 reports also show that Socialist Workers campaign supporters have continued to exercise their right to engage in political activity despite such harassment. They give a picture of the breadth of this activity, as socialist workers and youth have spoken out against Washington's war drive in the Mideast, participated in protests and public meetings, run in election campaigns, and distributed political literature at factory plant gates, door-to-door, on street corners, and on campuses in cities across the United States.

The fight for workers rights today

The socialists' fight to maintain the protection against disclosure of contributors to their election campaigns takes place at a time of stepped-up attacks on workers rights by the employers and government. The 2001 USA Patriot Act, for example, gives wider latitude to the FBI and other political police agencies to conduct wiretapping and carry out arbitrary searches and seizures in private homes and businesses.

Attorney General John Ashcroft has an-

nounced new rules allowing FBI agents to snoop on public meetings, churches and mosques, and political and civic organizations.

In New York and other cities, local police and government officials are seeking to rehabilitate political police units known as "red squads," which had been officially curtailed during the 1970s and '80s. In Chicago, for example, a court last year reversed a consent decree limiting the spying powers of the local cops. The 1974 lawsuit resulting in that decree revealed that the red squad had routinely engaged in burglaries, blackmail, warrantless wiretaps, illegal arrests, and provocations. In New York the police department is seeking to reverse a 1985 consent decree curbing the legal ability of the cops to gather files on

individuals and organizations.

These and other moves today are probes by the U.S. rulers to see how far they can roll back earlier gains. The outcome will be determined in struggle.

In that context, the current request by the Socialist Workers National Campaign Committee for exemption from the federal disclosure requirement is part of the fight today to defend the political rights of workers, farmers, and others exercising their constitutional rights.

Messages urging the FEC to extend the exemption can be sent to the Federal Election Commission in Washington, D.C. Contributions earmarked for this fight can be sent to the Socialist Workers National Campaign Committee, P.O. Box 2652, New York, NY 10009.

1948 candidates broadcast nationwide

Continued from Page 9

union struggles).

Despite the employers' attacks, Dobbs explained, the working class has shown it has the capacity to fight. He pointed to the example of the "Bring the Troops Home" movement organized by U.S. troops at the end of World War II, which helped force the U.S. government to retreat from its plans to invade China and crush the Chinese revolution.

The networks also covered the July Socialist Workers Party (SWP) national convention, broadcasting speeches by Dobbs, Carlson, and SWP National Secretary James P. Cannon in six 15-minute slots.

"We stand for full social, political and economic equality for the Negro people and all other minority groups," said Grace Carlson in her speech accepting the vice-presidential nomination. "We are fighting to put an end to the whole shameful system of Jim Crow—to abolish the poll tax; to end discrimination in employment and housing; to put a stop to police brutality and outlaw lynching.

"We are enlisted in the war against Jim Crow for the duration," she said. The speech was aired nationally over ABC.

"Working people need to build their own political party, armed with a program to serve the class interests of the men and women who toil," Dobbs said in a convention speech entitled, "For a Workers and Farmers Government."

Washington steps up witch-hunt

Through the months of the 1948 campaign the government stepped up its anti-communist witch-hunt. The SWP was included on a list of "subversive" organizations. In a speech aired over a Philadelphia radio station, Dobbs demanded the government end the blacklisting of orga-



Cartoon: Laura Gray; Photo: Militant

Left, cartoon in *Militant*, May 1948, after nationally broadcast speech by Farrell Dobbs. Right, banner announcing SWP presidential ticket hangs outside the national campaign headquarters at 116 University Place in New York City.

nizations and denounced the arrest and indictment of 12 leaders of the Communist Party under the Smith "Gag" Act.

On another occasion Dobbs debated Socialist Party leader Norman Thomas, opposing his stance of support for the U.S. ruling class's aggression in World War II—one of 15 radio forums in which he debated candidates from the Socialist Party and the Socialist Labor Party.

The campaign had a big impact at a time when the U.S. government was pressing hard to weaken the unions and undercut workers' rights, and preparing to step up its military aggression abroad. During that year, the United Mine Workers refused to bow to a government order to end a strike.

Following Dobbs's May 15 speech announcing his campaign, letters from listeners across the country poured into the *Militant* requesting copies of the speech and information about the campaign.

The socialist candidates addressed work-

ers at every stop of their campaign tours. Carlson spoke to more than 200 members of the United Auto Workers at a union meeting of Ford workers in Detroit. Dobbs returned to Minneapolis to speak to leaders of Teamsters Local 544—Dobbs had been a central leader of hard-fought battles and organizing drives led by that Teamsters local in the 1930s.

When workers at a Westinghouse plant in Philadelphia staged a sit-down strike over the firing of two union militants—deemed "poor security risks" by the Navy—Carlson and Dobbs both visited them.

The presidential candidate addressed the striking workers at the factory gates. Campaign manager George Clarke described the scene in an October issue of the *Militant*. Like Carlson's visit, he wrote, "It was another rip-roaring meeting.... More than a thousand were listening in the street, sitting on the steps leading up to the plant, and leaning out of the window."

Malcolm X: this system can't produce freedom

Printed below are excerpts of a speech given by Malcolm X at the Militant Labor Forum in New York on March 29, 1964, upon his return from his first trip to Africa and the Middle East. It is published in the pamphlet *Two Speeches by Malcolm X*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for February. Malcolm spoke as part of a symposium on the then-current effort by the New York cops and press to promote a racist scare-campaign about an alleged gang of young Black "Blood Brothers" sworn to kill whites. Copyright 1965, 1990 by Betty Shabazz and Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. Subheadings by the Militant.



BY MALCOLM X

I visited the Casbah in Casablanca and I

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

visited the one in Algiers, with some of the brothers—blood brothers. They took me all down into it and showed me the suffering, showed me the conditions that they had to live under while they were being occupied by the French... They showed me the conditions that they lived under while they were colonized by these people from Europe. And they also showed me what they had to do to get those people off their

back. The first thing they had to realize was that all of them were brothers; oppression made them brothers; exploitation made them brothers; degradation made them brothers; discrimination made them brothers; segregation made them brothers; humiliation made them brothers.

And once all of them realized that they were blood brothers, they also realized what they had to do, to get that man off their back. They lived in a police state, Algeria was a police state. Any occupied territory is a police state, and this is what Harlem is. Harlem is a police state. The police in Harlem—their presence is like occupation forces, like an occupying army. They're not in Harlem to protect us; they're not in Harlem to look out for our welfare; they're in Harlem to protect the interests of the businessmen who don't even live there.

The same conditions that prevailed in Algeria that forced the people, the noble people of Algeria, to resort eventually to the terrorist-type tactics that were necessary to get the monkey off their backs, those same conditions prevail today in America in every Negro community.

And I would be other than a man to stand up and tell you that the Afro-American, the Black people who live in these communities and in these conditions are ready and willing to continue to sit around nonviolently and patiently and peacefully looking for some good will to change the conditions that exist. No!...

Conditions creating resistance

You will find that there is a growing tendency among our people, among us, to do whatever is necessary to bring this to a halt. You have a man like Police Commissioner Murphy—and I'm not against the law; I'm not against law enforcement. You need laws to survive and you need law enforcement to have an intelligent, peaceful society; but we have to live in these places and suffer the type of conditions that exist from officers who lack understanding, who lack any human feeling, and lack any feeling for their fellow human being....

I'm not here to apologize for the existence of any blood brothers. I'm not here to minimize the factors that hint toward their existence. I'm here to say that if they don't exist it's a miracle....

If those of you who are white have the



Robert Parent

Malcolm X at Kennedy Airport Nov. 24, 1964, returning from Mideast and Africa.

good of the Black people in this country at heart, my suggestion is that you have to realize now that the day of nonviolent resistance is over; that the day of passive resistance is over....

The next thing you'll see here in America—and please don't blame it on me when you see it—you will see the same things that have taken place among other people on this earth whose position was parallel to the 22 million Afro-Americans in this country.

The people of China grew tired of their oppressors and the people rose up against their oppressors. They didn't rise up non-violently. It was easy to say that the odds were against them but eleven of them started out and today those eleven control 800 million. They would have been told back then that the odds were against them. As the oppressor always points out to the oppressed, "the odds are against you."

When Castro was up in the mountains of Cuba they told him the odds were against him. Today he's sitting in Havana and all the power this country has can't remove him.

They told the Algerians the same thing—what do you have to fight with? Today they have to bow down to Ben Bella. He came out of the jail that they put him in and today they have to negotiate with him

because he knew that the one thing he had on his side was truth and time. Time is on the side of the oppressed today. It's against the oppressor. Truth is on the side of the oppressed today, it's against the oppressor. You don't need anything else.

I would just like to say this in my conclusion. You'll see terrorism that will terrify you, and if you don't think you'll see it, you're trying to blind yourself to the historic development of everything that's taking place on this earth today. You'll see other things.

Why will you see them? Because as soon as people realize that it's impossible for a chicken to produce a duck egg even though they both belong to the same family of fowl—a chicken just doesn't have within its system to produce a duck egg. It can't do it. It can only produce according to what that particular system was constructed to produce. The system in this country cannot produce freedom for an Afro-American. It is impossible for this system, this economic system, this political system, this social system, this system, period. It's impossible for this system as it stands to produce freedom right now for the Black man in this country.

And if ever a chicken did produce a duck egg, I'm certain you would say it was certainly a revolutionary chicken!

February BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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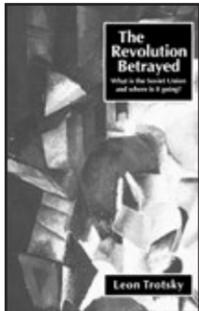
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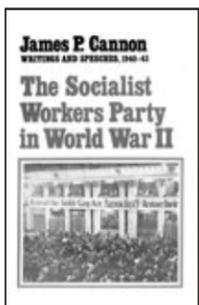


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Watch this—Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. That's the name of the recently cre-



Harry Ring

ated body appointed by the feds to keep tabs on overstuffed corporate execs. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-California) was outraged to learn that the board members are each receiving a salary of \$452,000.

She rammed a bill through the senate a measure declaring that no federal employee will receive more than the prez—\$400,000. In the House, the fate of the bill is uncertain, but it really doesn't matter much. After the first year, the wages of the board members will be paid by the bosses they'll be watching.

'Weak', 'sluggish'?—“Five of the biggest bankruptcies in [U.S.] history occurred last year”—*The Economist*, January 4.

...meanwhile—“The financial industry endured its worst drops in business volumes in a decade in the final quarter of 2002 and is poised

to shed thousands more jobs.”—*The Times*, London..

Tough on crime—Since 1972 at least 200,000 workers in the United States have been killed on the job. That figure doesn't include deaths from job-induced illnesses—miners' black lung, etc. For these 200,000 killings, eight people have gone to jail. The maximum sentence? Six months.

Consistent—“Executive sentenced in '94 blast—A former Rocketdyne official gets probation for violations linked to two scientists' deaths”—*Los Angeles Times*, January 28

'Attention!'—“A 10:00 p.m.-6:00 a.m. curfew was to be imposed on people under 18 by Perlis State government in Malaysia. The chief minister said it was to prevent them from visiting karaoke bars, video arcades...and to discourage loitering.”—January 11 news item.

Just because they can afford it—According to the East Valley Tribune, Arizona's governor has crafted a plan to bolster the public school budget by, in effect, laying a greater tax increase on wealthier towns like Scottsdale. The folks there seem quite p.o.'d. State Sen. Carolyn Allen from Scottsdale declared, “I cannot, with a clear con-

science, support something that picks on our people because they're more affluent.”

Anything but subsidies—“Vermont—In response to a drop in milk prices that's threatening the farming industry, state legislators are considering a plan to send experts to help struggling dairy farmers manage their businesses. The program would include University of Vermont extension specialists, veterinarians and other experts to guide farmers.”—News item.

'If you'd like to make a call...'—“AT&T Credit Outlook Reduced to Negative”—News headline.

Canada: striking Machinists fight union-busting

BY ALEXANDRE GEOFFROY AND JOHN STEELE

TORONTO AND FORT ERIE, Ontario—More than 600 members of the Machinists union in Toronto and Fort Erie are standing firm against union-busting drives by their bosses.

“They treat us like animals. They are violating our fundamental rights,” said Afe Busuyi, one of the 360 members of Machinists Union (IAM) Local Lodge 26, on strike against Slotex in Toronto since December 13. The company, a manufacturer of store shelving and related products, is a division of the giant multinational Leggat and Platt.

“They are playing with us because we are immigrants,” said welder Kiran Patel.

One of the central issues in the strike is the demand for equal pay. Local 26 was certified in 1999. Previously the plant had never been organized. The wage rates show the favoritism practiced by the employers. Patel earns \$12 an hour. Other welders doing the same job earn \$17 an hour. A

formula proposed by the union to begin closing the gap between workers has been rejected out of hand by the bosses.

The unionists rejected the company's latest offer on January 19. The proposal included a base wage rate already received by 90 percent of the members. It also took away 5 cents out of the four-year offer, as well as 10 cents from the pension offer.

“This offer is the latest and worst one to date,” said Jaglall Rabindrana, Local 26 vice-president.

Pickets are up 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in subfreezing temperatures. The strikers have constructed sturdy picket shacks at a number of entrances, equipped with gas heaters. The company is using supervisors as scab labor. About 15 Local 26 members have crossed the line.

Because the pickets can only hold up cars and trucks leaving the factory for a predetermined amount of time under a protocol with the cops and security guards hired by the company, the bosses are able

to keep some production going, and get shipments out of the plant. Work is also being contracted out.

“They tried to decertify the union a short time ago, but we won,” said striker S. Dookie, who has worked in the plant for 18 years as a sheet metal worker. “They dragged their feet on the negotiations and now they don't want to talk.” He said that the company would be under pressure in February when big orders were due.

Picket line against scabs

Meanwhile in Fort Erie, a two-hour drive from Toronto, 335 Fleet workers have been walking the picket line since October 1 after a nearly unanimous strike vote rejecting company demands to gut seniority rights and replace the plant-wide seniority system with seniority by job classification. The production workers are members of IAM Local 171. Office workers, also on strike, are members of IAM Local 939. Fleet, the largest employer in the Fort Erie area, is owned by Magellan Aerospace based in Toronto. It produces components for fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.

On January 19, in a secret ballot, the workers rejected by a vote of 255 to 1 the latest offer from the Fleet bosses. Accepting the offer would have meant an immediate layoff of all employees and a recall based on favoritism and not seniority.

The rejected proposal stated, “For the first

six weeks following the resumption of operations, which will be a date specified by the Company following ratification, the Company has the right to recall employees out of seniority based on the company's need, as determined by the Company.”

On January 22 and 23, the scabs escorted by the cops arrived in school buses with blacked-out windows. When about 100 strikers held their ground the cops decided it was too risky to try to break the line and sent the buses away. The workers appealed for help on the line the following morning. Faced with this union solidarity the bosses didn't attempt to bring the scabs in.

“We had to set an example for the other unions,” said shipper Louis Overholt, whose has worked for Fleet for 39 years.

In Ontario it is legal for the bosses to bring in replacement workers during a strike. On January 24, a Superior Court judge granted a temporary injunction stating that strikers can only delay scabs and supervisors from entering the plant by 10 minutes. The company wanted the judge to limit pickets to 20. It will go back to the court February 4 to make this demand for the duration of the strike.

Alexandre Geoffroy is a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees in Toronto. John Steele is a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers in Toronto.

Sitdown protesters condemn cuts in health services in Icelandic town



Militant/Hallbjorn Thor Gudmundsson

Activists wage sitdown protest at health clinic in Keflavik, Iceland, demanding adequate service for the residents in the area.

BY CLAUDIA OVERESCH AND GYLFI PÁLL HERSIR

REYKJAVÍK, Iceland—We traveled to Keflavik in mid-January where we met with people who have been organizing sitdown protests against the reduction of service at a public health clinic.

The crisis at the clinic began when 10 doctors walked out of the hospital November 1, after the authorities refused their demands for higher wages. Only two doctors are presently working at the clinic, which serves 17,000 people.

Helga Valdimarsdóttir, one of the organizers of the protest, said that people who live in the area now either have to wait several hours, or drive one hour to the town of Kópavogur. There is also the option of driving to Reykjavik, where non-government funded health clinic doctors are available, but where people would have to pay a much higher price for treatment in private clinics.

“Some people didn't go to a doctor at all,” said Valdimarsdóttir, noting that not everyone has a car.

The protesters, all women on that day, said they refused to accept this situa-

tion. Their sitdown protest in early November prompted a local member of parliament to organize a citywide meeting, with no results. The protest continued later in the month.

On January 10 and 11 some 12 people took part in the sitdown protest, which ended after Valdimarsdóttir was called to a meeting with the health clinic authorities and promised some structural improvements by the director of the clinic, including a pledge to hire doctors.

Valdimarsdóttir and other protesters at the clinic said they were not supporting or acting against the 10 doctors who had worked there. She said they were demanding adequate health care for the residents of the area. At the end of January there are still only two doctors working in the health clinic and it takes up to three days to get a prescription for medicine.

Claudia Overesch is a member of the Young Socialists. Gylfi Páll Hersir is a member of the trade union Hlif. Hallbjorn Thor Gudmundsson, a member of the Young Socialists, also contributed to this article.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



February 17, 1978

A massive boycott of nationwide municipal elections February 5 dramatized the deepening political isolation of the regime of Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza.

The Conservative Party, the only legal opposition, told the Associated Press that 52 of its 132 candidates had withdrawn voluntarily in protest of the Somoza regime. A government spokesperson said early returns show that only 143,000 of the 700,000 eligible Nicaraguans voted.

The elections took place on the fourteenth day of a general strike that has posed the most powerful challenge to the Nicaraguan government since the beginning of the Somoza family rule in 1933.

The upsurge began January 11, when more than 30,000 people gathered in the Nicaraguan capital of Managua to attend the funeral of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, who was murdered the previous day. Chamorro was the editor and publisher of *La Prensa*, the most prestigious capitalist daily in the country.

Chamorro's assassination was widely considered the work of the regime, anxious to slap down a potential challenger in the 1981 presidential elections and a popular critic of government corruption and tyranny.

Chamorro's funeral was followed by forty-eight hours of demonstrations, burning of automobiles, and sacking of various Somoza clan businesses.

By January 23, the protests had grown to a general strike supported by unions and businesses. The strike has paralyzed 90 percent of Nicaragua's commerce and industry.



February 16, 1953

NEWYORK—Victorious settlement of the ten-day tugboat strike of the Marine Division of the Int'l Longshoremen's Ass'n AFL, was announced this morning. The strike was highlighted by the dramatic action of the ILA rank and file, which walked off the docks in support of the strike and utilized their time off to conduct mass demonstrations demanding the ouster of ILA president Joseph Ryan and his cohorts.

The dock workers shut down most of the port for several days in support of the legitimate demands of the tugboat workers, despite their hatred of Captain Wm. Bradley, president of the striking local. In 1951, when the ILA membership shut down the port for twenty-five days in a movement to scrap Ryan's sellout contract, Bradley ran full-page ads in the press denouncing them as “communists” and attempted to run scabs through their picket lines in support of Ryan's effort to smash the strike.

The action of the men in extending support to the strike and at the same time intensifying their struggle against the corrupt Ryan leadership did much to affect a rapid settlement. The tugboat workers have been living under a contract that provided a pay scale of \$1.36 an hour for deck hands to a maximum of \$2.35 for captains. When the strike was declared the operators stood firm on their offer of an eight-cent-an-hour increase. Within hours after the general walk-out and the demonstrations the operators and union officials went into virtually uninterrupted negotiations and emerged with an agreement for a seventeen-cent-an-hour increase, plus seven new fringe benefits.

War drive stirs many to protest

Washington and London are marching into the end game of their prewar military preparations. Hundreds of thousands of troops and massive sea and air power are being accumulated in the Arab-Persian Gulf. Already U.S. ground operations are well under way in the north of Iraq, targeting the oil fields and preparing to help block any upsurge in the fight for Kurdish national self-determination. This movement of military equipment and personnel is in addition to the relentless "patrols" and bombing attacks of U.S. and British planes in the so-called "no-fly" zones.

The U.S. and British governments are in the last stages of their political preparation, too, as they press the other members of the United Nations Security Council to give their stamp of approval to this course. They were helped in this by the recent declaration of the heads of state of a number of European countries, from Spain to the Czech Republic, who joined Britain's Anthony Blair in issuing a call for "unity" between Europe and the United States. In so doing, these governments dealt a blow to the illusion that other imperialist powers will hold back the war.

The way that Washington has stepped up the pressure on north Korea over the past week helps to lay bare the open-ended character of the drive to war. It has nothing to do with combating terrorism; nor are "weapons of mass destruction" its principal target. The imperialist powers are pushed toward conflict and competition with each other by the weakness of their system, as they grab for a bigger share of the natural resources and cheap labor of the Third World. The same weakness impels them to use greater brutality against working people both at home and abroad.

At the same time, this system sparks increasingly weighty resistance by workers and farmers. Through struggles, ending in victories, defeats, and stalemates, working people will begin to forge a movement that can challenge capitalist rule, and—with the kind of leader-

ship workers forged in Russia in 1917 and in Cuba for the last four decades and more—disarm the warmakers and drive them from power.

Many young people and others who are repelled by the brutality of this system are mobilizing for large anti-war actions in the United States and elsewhere. The coming national action in New York on February 15 will draw many such forces, and other cities will also see large protests.

As in the past, Democratic party politicians and other pro-capitalist forces will play a prominent part in these actions, fostering illusions that the war drive can be stopped with a different leader at the helm, promoting the UN "inspections" as a peaceful alternative, and—above all—appealing to patriotic sentiments. These figures, along with middle-class pacifist forces, will largely fall in behind the war effort once the shooting starts, arguing that a quick and clean war is the best way to get "our boys" home safe and well.

By contrast, many young people and others who take part in such actions are not dyed-in-the-wool pacifists or wedded to the capitalist system. They are looking for a way to fight the war and oppression being dealt by the capitalists, and can be won to a clear revolutionary working-class alternative.

As people pile into buses, cars, and trains for the action, and march to express their opposition to the war, many will want to take a look at revolutionary literature and to discuss these ideas. The February 15 actions are big opportunities to extend that discussion and to build opposition to the war course of imperialism. Socialist workers and youth in New York are organizing forums and classes where this discussion will be encouraged.

Oppose the drive to war on Iraq!

U.S. and all other imperialist troops out of the Mideast!

The fraud of 'disarmament'

As it assembles and expands a massive nuclear and "conventional" arsenal, Washington is to the fore in preaching "disarmament" and "nonproliferation" to countries of the Third World and the workers states.

These charges of possessing "weapons of mass destruction" are laid by the same ruling class that dropped the atomic bomb on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, taking hundreds of thousands of lives—the only time nuclear weapons have ever been used. The same rulers have mounted assault after assault on peoples who organize to fight for their national sovereignty or to threaten the imperialist order. And those very same rulers have continued to develop their own arsenal to equip an imperial armed forces of more than 1 million troops.

We should point out, however—while noting this hypocrisy—that the U.S. rulers do express a real material interest when they howl for Iraqi and north Korean disarmament. They want to ensure that Washington maintains its relative monopoly of such an offensive arsenal, to use it as a weapon of blackmail against rebel peoples and countries, and also against their imperialist rivals.

Presenting the destruction of its atomic bombs by South Africa's government in 1989 as a positive example for Iraq to follow, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice added new falsehoods and hypocrisy to

Washington's record.

Rice failed to explain that the apartheid regime that took that step had just before been decisively defeated at the battle of Cuito Cuanavale, Angola, by Cuban, Angolan, and Namibian forces. The popular victory had helped to impel further struggles by the black majority inside South Africa itself. The racist government saw the writing on the wall, and took the step to prevent such weapons from falling into the hands of a majority-rule government.

One straightforward answer to the U.S. imperialists' two-faced stance was expressed by Cuban ambassador Carlos Lechuga in a 1963 speech to the United Nations in a debate on another "nonproliferation" pact—the Treaty on Partial Prohibition of Nuclear Tests. "Cuba cannot be a signatory to this Treaty while one of the signatory powers is...executing a policy towards our country, which...is in effect a state of undeclared war," he said. In the early 1960s Washington organized a counterrevolutionary invasion against Cuba, which was defeated at the Bay of Pigs, and carried out a naval blockade during the 1962 "missile crisis."

Working people around the world need to reject the arguments of the imperialists and support the right of north Korea or any other semicolonial country or workers state to prepare their defenses in the way they think best.

Strikers win rehiring of workers

Continued from front page

proved conditions. The court set a February 7 deadline for the company to complete the rehiring.

In the course of the half-year stoppage the Point Blank struggle became a popular cause among workers in the area. Strikers also responded to other struggles. They participated in the large protests organized last year against the jailing of refugees from Haiti.

The federal injunction comes at the request of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), which found that the company had violated federal norms for workers' rights as they tried to block the organizing efforts. "It's not a victory of the NLRB, it's a victory of the workers. The company could have kept firing union supporters, but the people walked out after three. That took real courage," said UNITE organizer Maria Revelles.

A festival atmosphere was evident on the picket line the morning after the court ruling, de la Cruz remarked. "People kissed the ground when they heard the news of the victory," he said. "Some workers from inside came out to the picket line to congratulate us."

The picketing continued throughout the day, as workers celebrated, singing victory songs and chanting. "You messed with Carlos/Isma/Midho but you got burned, Point Blank," they chanted in Creole, listing in turn the three fired workers. "In the struggle of the people, no

one gets tired," they chanted in Spanish.

Strikers took time out from picketing to hold a union meeting where they voted to return to work without conditions. The picket will be maintained up to that point. "I am going to go back in with my arms held high and a 'V' for victory," said Carmen García, a striker who was arrested at one point during the struggle.

Point Blank officials said they will comply with the court ruling. At the same time, they announced they will open a new plant nearby.

"This is a strategy to divide us by putting the new replacement workers in a separate facility," said strike leader Virginia Salazar. "But they are wrong. Even if they put us on different sides of the hemisphere they cannot divide us. They have no idea what we are capable of."

De la Cruz emphasized that "we are preparing to go back in with discipline and care. There are many friends of the union inside, but there are also many against us."

He is looking forward to this next stage of the struggle. "We will continue with a very strong campaign for the union inside the plant," he said. "If the company doesn't want to sign a contract immediately, we will need to win a certification election. We will have to try to convince everyone when we go back to work that the union is the best for everyone."

N.Y. meeting

Continued from Page 7

tails of the February 1 event.

Speaking of those who gave personal testimony at the meeting, Calero said in his concluding remarks, "We need to bring together as much support as possible. When these deportation hearings happen, we don't have to go alone."

Among the other participants were a number of young people learning about the case for the first time. Nina Siulc, a student at New York University, filmed the event. She is studying the experiences of the many U.S. residents who have been deported to the Dominican Republic under the 1996 law.

Meeting 'covered a lot of ground'

Brian Goulbourne said he thought the meeting "was well-organized and covered a lot of ground." Goulbourne works at a warehouse in the Brooklyn meat market. He learned about the Calero case from a co-worker at a previous job who had introduced him to the *Militant* newspaper.

Fanny Mera, a sewing machine operator at a Queens garment shop, said that she had been invited to the meeting by friends at work. She was especially interested because a nephew of hers had been arrested and deported back to Ecuador, while his wife and children remain in the United States.

Aarti Shahani and Subash Kateel, the founders of "Families for Freedom," a group that defends people facing deportation, also attended. The organization seeks to "bring everyone together," said Shahani, without "distinctions between those with or without a green card, asylum seekers, those with criminal convictions or of different nationalities."

In the lead-up to Calero's arrival in New York, defense committee supporters visited the offices of the Workplace Project in Hempstead, Long Island, an organization that defends day laborers and other immigrant workers in the area. That group endorsed the defense campaign after hearing a presentation by Sarah Katz, a volunteer with the defense campaign who is Calero's wife.

They also invited Calero to speak to their membership—an invitation that he took up on January 29. On Long Island Calero was received by Patrick Young of the Central American Resource Center, who handed him a copy of a protest letter the organization had written to Hipolito Acosta, the INS district director in Houston.

During his trip to Long Island, Calero was interviewed by several local newspapers.

In Newark, New Jersey, where he lives, Calero was interviewed by a veteran staff member of WBGO radio, a well-known jazz station. He will speak at a public meeting held at Casa de Don Pedro in north Newark on February 9.

Candace Wagner is a garment worker in Queens, New York. Romina Green, a garment worker and member of UNITE contributed to this article.

The Young Socialists and Socialist Workers Party in New York invite you to join in a weekend of campaigning against imperialism and its wars

Saturday February 15

- ◆ Campaign with us at the demonstration against the war in Iraq
- ◆ Open House/chili dinner following demonstration with discussion:

"The war abroad and the war at home: the revolutionary struggle against imperialism"

speakers include:

Róger Calero Associate editor of *Perspectiva Mundial*, staff writer for the *Militant*, currently fighting INS efforts to deport him.

Ma'mud Shirvani Farsi-language editor of Pathfinder Press

Romina Green, member of the Young Socialists executive

Sunday February 16

Class: "Malcolm X and the fight against imperialism"

Sunday February 23

Class: "The revolutionary road to women's Liberation"

Time and place to be announced
For more information call 212-695-7358
or email youngsocialists@attglobal.net

UK firefighters oppose gov't intervention

BY SHEILA HUGHES

LONDON—"This is a wake-up call to all other trade unions," said firefighter Graham Preston. Interviewed by the *Financial Times*, the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) member was talking about Labour government plans to impose a settlement on the union in its current dispute with the employers in the Local Government Association (LGA). The move, Preston said, "is an erosion of trade union rights and has major implications for all unions."

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott announced the plans on January 28, the first day of a 48-hour national strike by firefighters following eleven days of stoppages over November, December, and earlier in January. As in previous actions, the government mobilized 19,000 army, navy, and air force strike breakers to run their own fleet of fire fighting trucks. A further 24-hour action was held February 1 by the 55,000 union members.

Prescott said that the government would invoke emergency powers and ask parliament to impose a settlement dictating terms in all the issues in dispute, including pay rates and staffing levels. The outcome, say workers, would include fire station closures and relocations, new shift patterns, enforced overtime, and cuts in nighttime fire cover.

This is the first time that the Labour government has proposed legislation against a union since its election in 1997.

Government ministers have presented the firefighters' actions as an obstacle to the drive to war on Iraq, which will involve tens of thousands of British troops. The January 30 *Independent* reported that Attorney General Lord Peter Goldsmith is considering applying for a court injunction against the strikes, arguing that a war with Iraq constitutes a "material change in circumstances."

"The government is panicking because we are starting to have an impact," Barry



Militant/Jim Spaul

Firefighters at Islington Station in North London. The unionists have waged a series of strikes to press demands for jobs, wage increase, and to defend fire services.

Abraham at Bournbrook fire station in Birmingham told the *Times*. "They need to release soldiers from fire duties to train for Iraq."

"They decided to wait for war, or the brink of war, to impose this legislation," said John Bailey to *Militant* reporters during a visit to the FBU picket line at the Barking fire station in this city. "This could be a wedge against support for the FBU," he said, "as the public and other trade unionists see soldiers doing our job while our boys are at war."

"People don't like wars and oppose them but when backs are up against the wall we rise to the occasion," he said.

Not just about wages

"This isn't just a fight for wages," Malcolm Lee said to the *Militant* at the Barking picket. "We're fighting for jobs and a service to the public."

After beginning with a wage raise demand of 40 percent, the union is prepared to consider a 16 percent offer as long as it is not tied to cutbacks. The government

insists on a 4 percent ceiling, allowable only if the union agrees to "modernization" measures.

In early January the LGA laid out proposals which the FBU estimates would ax 4,500 jobs and close 150 fire stations.

"We've got a lot of support," Lee said as drivers in passing vehicles tooted and waved in support. "I think it's because they face the same problems and they're fed up with the government too. We should carry on our action."

"If we give into them now they can do what they want with us and it will be hard to stand up to them," agreed Brad Harrop.

John Bailey emphasized that "the government has been pushing these cuts since the 1990s and now they hope to do it in one fell swoop on the back of the war."

The *Times* declared editorial support for Prescott's measures on January 29. The FBU should be given one last chance, the big-business daily said, to abandon their strikes and present proposals of their own for cutbacks. "If not, the Deputy Prime Minister should enforce the proposed law as soon as possible."

The new powers could be used for future disputes and "would set a precedent for the outcome of similar long running disputes in the public sector," read a news article on the same day.

Following Prescott's announcement, a delegation from the Trade Union Congress (TUC), the national union federation, met separately with FBU leaders and the deputy prime minister in an effort to resume talks at the beginning of February.

The FBU executive has announced that they will meet February 3 to decide their next steps. LGA representatives have said that they will only resume negotiations if no further strikes are called. FBU general secretary Andy Gilchrist responded, "As long as firefighters are treated with contempt there will be strikes and more strikes."

LETTERS

Draft proposal call to arms

The proposal by Reps. Charles Rangel and John Conyers to reinstate the draft is a deception and a fraud. They argue that their proposal, by placing the sons of U.S. policymakers "in harm's way," would dampen the rush to war against Iraq. But this is belied by the text of the proposal itself. Far from opposing the war, it is a militant call to arms: "If President Bush, the Congress and other supporters of an invasion are right and war is inevitable, then everyone who loves this country is bound by patriotic duty to defend it, or to share in the sacrifice of those placed in harm's way."

In other words, when we Democrats say it's time to fight, "you've all got to go."

All history shows that it is workers, not

the rulers, who fight and die in imperialist wars, draft or no draft. Rangel and Conyers know this, and are using a deft piece of liberal demagoguery to build support for the invasion of Iraq among working people generally, and Black people in particular.

To borrow from Malcolm X, the U.S. capitalists need this war, and have placed both the foxes and the wolves on mandatory overtime to get it.

Peter Anestos
San Francisco, California

Medicaid cuts

I read Maurice Williams's article with interest in the February 3, 2003, issue of the *Militant*. Cuts to Medicaid programs hurt the working poor. The average working per-

son in a country that is governed by "corporate capitalism" is essentially expendable when it comes to health care needs. As a physically disabled person in my mid-50s, I fought for Social Security Disability with the help of an attorney, was homeless briefly, have no insurance, several serious medical problems that require medication and no way to pay for all of it. Senior citizens face the same dilemma. The crime: a solid work history over 32 years in length for the corporate capitalists.

I went through my savings and purchase medication from pharmacies in other countries because the same medicine in the United States carries two to four times the cost. Medicare will come along shortly but that is only a partial solution.

Cuts to any health care program, be it a federal entitlement program or a private plan are wrong and the people that feel the brunt of it are the working class.

We penalize the worker in the work place, in disability and in retirement. We are the expendable Americans and cuts to Medicaid only make the situation worse. If you put a band aide on a large abdominal wound, the person will bleed to death.

Aine NiComish
Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

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.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Why Profits Come Before Workers' Lives. Speaker: Clay Dennison, Socialist Workers Party, member United Mine Workers of America Local 2133. Fri., Feb. 14, Program, 7 p.m.; dinner, 6 p.m. 3029-A Bessemer Rd. Donation: Program \$4. Dinner \$5 Tel: (205) 780-0021.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Malcolm X: Why His Ideas Will Become More Important in the Class Battles Ahead. Speaker: Wanda Lyttle, Socialist Workers Party, Fri., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.

The Rise and Fall of Radical Reconstruction. Speaker: Frank Forrestal, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m., 4229 S Central Ave. Donation: \$5. Tel: (323) 233-9372.

IOWA

Des Moines

Abolish the Death Penalty. Speaker: Kevin Doyle, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 14,

7:30 p.m.

Thomas Sankara and the Revolution in Burkina Faso. Speaker: Mary Marsh, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 21, Program: 7:30 p.m.; dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Oppose the Imperialist War Drive against Iraq. Speaker: Joe Swanson, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 28, Program: 7:30 p.m.; dinner: 6:30 p.m. 3720 6th Ave., Donation: Program \$5. Dinner \$5. Tel: (515) 288-2970.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The AIDS Crisis in Africa: An Imperialist-Made Crime. Speaker: Ved Dookhun, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m. 168 Bloomfield Ave. 2nd flr. Donation: \$5. Tel: (973) 481-0077.

NEW YORK

Garment District

Why We Need to Defend Affirmative Action. The Fight Today against Racial and Sexual Discrimination. Speaker: Mike Italie, *Militant* staff writer. Fri., Feb. 7, Program, 7:30 p.m.; dinner, 6:30 p.m. 545 Eighth Ave. Donation: Program \$5. Dinner \$5. Tel: (212) 695-7358.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Legacy of Malcolm X. Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani, editor of Farsi edition of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. Fri., Feb. 14, Program,

7:30 p.m.; dinner, 6 p.m. 5237 N 5th St. Donation: Program \$5. Dinner \$5. Tel: (215) 324-7020.

Pittsburgh

Defend Affirmative Action. Fri., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Stop Police Violence—Jail Killer Cops! Fri., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate the Publication of Malcolm X Talks to Young People. Fri., Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. 5907 Penn Ave. #225. Tel: (412) 365-1090.

CALENDAR

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Stop the Deportation of Róger Calero. Sun., Feb. 9, 3:30 p.m. La Casa de Don Pedro, 23 Broadway. Donation: \$5. For more information, call (973) 589-6624. Sponsored by Róger Calero Defense Committee.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

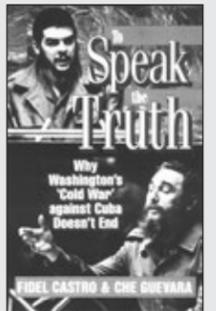
Fund-raising Party for Farouk Abdel-Muhti, Palestinian Activist Jailed by INS. Sat., Feb. 8, 6 p.m. Winston Unity Hall, 235 West 23rd St. (between 7th & 8th Avenues). Donation: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. For more information, call (212) 674-9499; Committee for the Release of Farouk Abdel-Muhti.

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Australia warship carries troops for invasion of Iraq

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia—The warship HMAS *Kanimbla* left Sydney January 23 carrying 350 Australian army and navy personnel to the Arab-Persian Gulf. The following day 150 Special Air Service [SAS] commandos flew out of Perth. With these open war moves, Australia's rulers lined up behind Britain as the third imperialist power to send ground forces as part of the U.S.-led "coalition of the willing"—the phrase used by U.S. president George Bush—in the buildup to war on Iraq.

The military commitment will grow to about 2000 personnel. This will be substantially larger, and equipped to operate more independently, than the force Canberra contributed to the assault on Afghanistan.

In his speech sending off the troops Prime Minister John Howard said that the forces could be used "in wider operations." Late last year, Howard said that his government had the right to carry out strikes on neighboring countries judged to harbor "terrorist" threats. His comments prompted protests from government officials in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines, where angry street demonstrations were also organized.

Kanimbla, a naval transport vessel, is to also serve as the local command center of the Australian forces. A frontline unit of SAS commandos will join U.S. and British special forces inside Iraq. Some Australian commandos are reported to be already involved alongside U.S. special



Protesters march in late November in Sydney, Australia, against Canberra's war moves. Australia's rulers have lined up to contribute troops to the U.S.-led war on Iraq.

forces inside Iraq with other officers stationed at U.S. military bases in the region.

A naval diving team and several dozen "quick reaction" troops for chemical and biological warfare are also part of the de-

ployment. Three Hercules C-130 transport planes and three large Chinook helicopters are being sent to airlift the troops.

The Royal Australian Air Force is sending a squadron of 14 F/A-18 strike fighters with laser-guided bombs to join in the aerial bombardment of Iraqi targets. This is the first combat role for Australian fighter jets since the Vietnam War.

Currently two Australian P3-C Orion reconnaissance planes and two navy frigates are in the Gulf region, vigorously prosecuting the imperialist blockade on Iraq.

Labor opposition leader Simon Crean joined the farewell ceremony for the *Kanimbla*. Crean said that he supported the troops but was against any "deployment... ahead of the United Nations determining it."

The Labor leadership has not ruled out supporting a unilateral U.S.-led attack against Iraq if the UN cover for war is insufficient. The Democrats and Greens, which are smaller opposition parties, have criticized Howard's "warmongering" while calling for a UN mandate for any war.

Up to 200 protesters gathered at the *Kanimbla* sendoff to target Canberra's war moves. They chanted "Howard is a war criminal!" and "No war for oil!" More demonstrations are planned around the country on February 16 as part of international days of action against the looming war on Iraq.

Ron Poulsen is a member of the Maritime Union of Australia.

New Zealand rulers press war drive

BY JANET ROTH

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—While saying it will only join an assault on Iraq that is supported by the United Nations Security Council, the New Zealand government has played an active part in the lead-up to war in the Middle East. Among other actions, New Zealand forces have participated in United Nations "weapons inspections" and naval patrols of Iraqi shipping, and have readied personnel for involvement in a U.S.-led assault on Iraq.

Wellington has traditionally allied itself militarily with Washington and London and sent forces to be part of the 1990-1991 Gulf War.

New Zealand foreign minister Philip Goff reiterated the Labour Party government's stance during the visit here by U.S. official James Bolton, who toured Southeast Asia and the Pacific in January to garner support for the imminent invasion. "Doveish NZ tells US super-hawk we won't come to your war party" was the headline in the January 12 *Sunday Star-Times*.

At present, eight New Zealand military personnel are part of the armed forces that enforce the snooping operations carried out by the UN "inspectors." New Zealand military staff participated in previous UN teams that destroyed Iraqi weapons. Active from

1991 until 1998, these units earned the hatred of Iraqi working people, as the leader of one New Zealand contingent, Major David Le Page, explained to the *New Zealand Herald* last September. "When you cross the road," he said, "people would throw rocks at you, spit at you, and even try to run you down with their cars."

The frigate HMNZS *Te Kaha* is one of a group of warships from seven countries policing the Straits of Hormuz, which provide entry to the Arab-Persian Gulf from the Gulf of Oman. In April a New Zealand air force Orion surveillance aircraft is scheduled to be sent to join these patrols.

The crew of *Te Kaha* boards up to three ships a day, reported the *New Zealand Herald*, inspecting cargoes, papers, and sailors. Crew members are specially trained to board vessels by rope ladder.

The force is also mandated to escort United States and allied warships through the area.

Prime Minister Helen Clark denies that

this naval deployment has any connection to the preparations for war on Iraq, saying that the ships are on the hunt for "al Qaeda terrorists." Just a look at a map of the area involved—Iraq, the Gulf, and surrounding waters—exposes this lie.

The government has indicated that it is readying medical and logistical military units to dispatch when war breaks. This is the same level and type of contribution made by the then-National Party government to the 1990-91 assault on Iraq.

Imperialist trade conflicts

At the same time, the government's reluctance to give unequivocal vocal backing to Washington's course registers real concerns on the part of the ruling families here.

Minister of Trade Negotiations James Sutton has expressed worries that tensions between Washington and European powers like Paris and Berlin will undermine steps to free up trade—particularly in the

Continued on Page 5

NZ gov't lowers legal barriers to spying by cops

BY JANET ROTH

Alongside their commitment of forces to the imperialist aggression in the Middle East, the rulers have stepped up their preparations for countering the resistance of working people here. Among these new moves against workers' rights is the passage of legislation giving authorities freer legal rein to carry out surveillance on citizens.

The measures have been passed under the catch-cry of the "war on terror," with government spokespeople hinting that last October's bombings of nightclubs on the Indonesian island of Bali, in which nearly 200 were killed, might be repeated in New Zealand itself.

In October, parliament passed the Terrorism Suppression Act, making it a criminal offense to take part in, finance, or recruit to an organization designated as "terrorist." The first organization declared to be "terrorist" under this new law was Jemaah Islamiyah, the group alleged to be responsible for the Bali bombings.

In December, parliament undertook the first hearings on the Counter-terrorism Bill creating a new set of "terrorist" crimes and legalizing police use of electronic tracking devices.

The proposed bill also overturns a 1999 court ruling by allowing evidence collected

under an interception warrant to be used in court as evidence for another offense. Opposing the bill, Green Party member of parliament Keith Locke said this provision would allow "fishing expeditions" by the police using the specific purpose of the warrant as a cover.

The police have been granted powers to force people—on pain of prosecution and possible imprisonment—to help them access data on computers.

The government has also introduced the Telecommunications (Interception Capability) Bill, which requires telecommunications companies to help the police and spy agencies snoop on e-mails and listen in to mobile phone calls, and an amendment to the Crimes Act to allow police to hack into computers and intercept e-mails.

Restrictions on travel

Following September 11, 2001, the government announced a NZ\$30 million funding package to counter "terrorism," spread over three years across the armed forces, police, spy agencies, customs, and immigration.

The impact of this on working people has been felt most immediately in their ability to travel across national borders. Alongside the stepped-up screening of airline passengers and luggage, and increased militariza-

tion of airports, details on passengers boarding overseas are now sent in advance of their plane landing to the customs service in New Zealand. This has led to an increase in the number of "suspicious" visitors being questioned on arrival. Computer-linked video cameras to film the faces of passengers and identify "wanted" people from a database are also being tested.

The Immigration Service is developing a system which would instruct airlines to prevent certain passengers boarding aircraft to New Zealand on the basis of information sent about them from the overseas ground terminals.

Passengers claiming asylum have been a special target of the new measures, with the majority now being detained on arrival in a jail or in a "resettlement center."

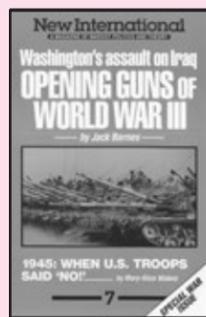
As part of the heightened scare-mongering about possible "terrorist" threats, one high-profile asylum-seeker from Algeria, Ahmed Zaoui, is being held in a high-security prison. Zaoui is flanked by guards during his court hearings, while would-be visitors to the courtroom sessions are screened on entry.

Meanwhile, the Security Intelligence Service (SIS) spy agency has set up a free "dob in" telephone line, for anyone to call to report "suspicious" individuals or activities.

for further reading

Opening Guns of World War III

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