The following statement was issued April 16 by Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann, Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president.

Arm-twisting, blackmail, threats, and bribes. That’s how President Carter got the U.S. Olympic Committee to go along with his boycott of the summer Olympics in Moscow.

Despite intense pressure, one-third of the committee voted to reject Carter’s ultimatum. The vote of the bankers and other businessmen who make up most of the USOC is only a pale reflection of the opposition of the vast majority of athletes. Having trained for years with the Olympics as their goal, they feel betrayed by the vote.

Why is Carter so determined to wreck the Olympics, which millions of us are looking forward to?

The New York Times explained in an April 11 editorial, “Boycott is surely a sacrifice for young athletes who long to compete. But that is what makes the gesture meaningful.”

Washington wants us to sacrifice to support stepped up preparations for war. The sacrifices extend from the playing field to the field of battle.

In addition to demanding that we give up the Olympics, the rulers ask us to accept big cuts in public services to pay for new weapons of war; higher gas prices; lower wages and more unemployment. To top it off, Carter is pushing for draft registration so that our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, can provide cannon fodder for new Vietnams.

Washington’s campaign against the Olympics is part of an effort to convince American working people that we face deadly dangers from abroad and that there is no alternative but to support new preparations for war. It coincides with economic sanctions and renewed military threats against Iran.

Like the anti-Iranian witchhunt with its deportations and violence against Iranians in

continued on next page

Unions, women unite to win ERA

March and rally in Chicago May 10

By Mark Severs

CHICAGO—“ERA is an issue of survival,” declared Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women, at a news conference here April 15 announcing plans for a national march for the Equal Rights Amendment in Chicago on May 10.

“Some people are exploiting women, fifty-nine cents to every dollar that men make,” she said. “Some people are getting adult workers for half the pay. People cannot exist on half the dollar. American females are being ripped off.”

Smeal laid out plans for a campaign to make Illinois the thirty-sixth state to ratify the ERA. Thirty-eight state legislatures must ratify by June 30, 1982, if ERA is to become the law of the land. The Illinois legislature is scheduled to close its session on June 30, 1980.

The major events of the Illinois spring ERA campaign will be a student rally in Springfield April 23, an April 26 labor conference at Plumbers Hall in Chicago, and the national march on May 10.

Virtually the entire American labor movement is backing the conference and march, making them two of the most broadly union-sponsored actions in decades.

Speakers at the April 26 labor conference in addition to Eleanor Smeal include Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO; Douglas Fraser, president of the United Auto Workers; Joyce Miller, president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women; Charles Hayes, vice-president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Sam Church, president of the United Mine Workers; and others.

There will be three conference workshops on ERA: one on educating union members about the ERA, another on lobbying, and a third on building participation in the May 10 march and May 13 lobby day, when
Israel Prime Minister Menachem Begin has just arrived in Washington, coming on the heels of Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat. Begin has come, as did Sadat, to try to salvage the Carter administration’s Camp David “peace” accords, which are said to be threatened by disputes on the issue of Palestinian autonomy.

Just a week before he came here, Begin showed what the Israeli rulers mean by peace when he ordered an Israeli armed and infantry invasion into southern Lebanon. Under the guise of protecting Israelis from Arab guerrillas, the Zionist rulers reserve the “rights” to invade Lebanon any time they choose.

Israel’s aggressive policies were further shown when the Israeli-backed right-wing Lebanese Phalange militia of Bashir Harrad fired on UN troops in southern Lebanon, killing a soldier from Fiji.

The Begin government in March appointed the ultra-expansionist Yitzhak Shamir to the foreign minister’s post. Shamir is so far right in Israeli politics that he refused to back the Camp David accords as conceding too much to the Palestinians. His background is that of an assassin for the Zionist Stern Gang, which murdered UN mediator Count Folke Bernadotte in 1948.

But it is Begin’s self-righteous proclamation of the “right” to settle Jews anywhere on the occupied West Bank—Arab territories captured by Israel in the 1967 war—and his uncasing pursuit of that aim that most expose the injustice and unworkability of the Camp David accords.

These Israeli settlements mean the expulsion by force and violence of the Palestinians now living in the areas the Zionists want to occupy. They express the historical drive of Zionism: expansion at the expense of the Palestinian Arabs.

In reality, Zionism admits no national rights at all for the Palestinians. This logic precludes the possibility that in the current talks Israel is under no pressure from the Carter administration to grant justice to the Palestinians in the occupied territories. All that the White House is interested in is making it appear that Palestinian rights are being fairly treated by Washington, in concert with Begin and Sadat.

Carter understands that the Palestinian struggle continually tends to spur revolutionary sentiments and mobilizations throughout the Middle East. This makes it the major stumbling block to forging an effective bloc of the capitalist regimes in the region against the spread of revolutionary ferment from Iran and Afghanistan.

So the Camp David crew is talking again. But the policies of the Begin government, particularly the settlements policy, make it more difficult for Carter to carry out his charade.

This latest episode in the Carter-Begin-Sadat show is no more likely than the previous ones to produce a lasting solution.

The road to peace in the Middle East is inseparable from the triumph of justice. There will be no peace until the Palestinians win their right to self-determination.

... Olympics

Continued from front page

this country, the Olympic boycott shows how threats to our democratic rights at home are built into Washington’s policies of militarization and austerity.

The administration has suggested that athletes who try to go to the Soviet Union this summer may have their passports lifted. Such a move would begin to unravel the victories that have been won for our right to travel over the past two decades.

And the U.S. media have been all but officially barred from covering the games. This is a major escalation of government censorship and repression.

The chilling rationale for all this was presented by William Simon, former Treasury Secretary under Nixon and now a major figure in Ronald Reagan’s government. He did not use Carter’s Olympic plan. When the president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, “When the president of the United States makes a determination on national security, there is no way he can be denied.”

Simon’s role as hatchet man for Carter in the U.S. Olympic Committee shows that Democratic and Republican politicians are united behind the drive against the “national security” attack on democratic liberties.

The U.S. media portray the insatiable of the athletes on their right to compete as an example of the selfishness of the “me generation.”

They put the same label on workers who fight to save their jobs, wages, and working conditions, and on youth who don’t want to be drafted.

Nothing could be further from the truth. If the Olympic games were being held in South Africa this summer, we think a lot of American athletes—white and Black—would voluntarily boycott as part of a worldwide movement against that racist government.

Whatever the opinions about the hostage crisis, most American working people know the Iranians have a point when they complain about the U.S. government’s complicity in the crimes of the shah. Many can’t see why Carter doesn’t just come right out and admit this.

Whatever their views about Afghanistan, most smell something rotten when they find that Carter’s Afghan “freedom fighters” are opposed to the most elementary rights for women, women schoolteachers, and to keep the Afghan peasant masses mired in disease and illiteracy.

American working people learned from Vietnam. They know Washington has repeatedly appealed to “national security” to demand blind obedience to policies that harm the overwhelming majority and benefit only the wealthy few.

The athletes who want to go to the Olympics are applying those lessons.

Let the athletes go to Moscow!
Athletes slam boycott

By Sue Adley
DENVER—"I'm not dead yet." This was Flo Hyman's reaction when the U.S. Olympic Committee bowed to President Carter's demand that it boycott the Summer Olympics in Moscow. A member of the U.S. women's volleyball team, Hyman told reporters that if the International Olympic Committee should invite the athletes, "the president himself will have to stop me."

"We've all been taught about the eternal 'American dream' where individuals can control their own destiny," she said. "We were doing that. We had done something no American volleyball team had ever done before. We had qualified for the Olympics."

"Now," Hyman continued, "that has been taken away by the president. All the while he's screaming at other people to 'let our people go.' Then he locks up the American athletes."

The Carter administration had brought extreme pressure to bear on the USOC delegates, who met in Colorado Springs April 12. Nevertheless, athletes' sentiment for going was so strong that one-third of the delegates voted no on the boycott motion.

The vote, at a closed session, was reported 1,604 to 797. That was after an address by Vice-President Mondale, who demagogically declared, "What is at stake is nothing less than the future security of the civilized world."

For weeks the White House had been pounding away on the theme that "national security" would be endangered if the athletes went to Moscow. Athletes and others who oppose the boycott, it is implied, are somehow "disloyal." The arm-twisting went beyond demagogy.

Attorney General Civiletti threatened that athletes who went abroad in defiance of the ban could face criminal prosecution. Other officials spoke of lifting passports.

Business firms began holding back payment of their pledges used to help finance participation in the Olympics. The president of Sears announced withholding of such a payment after a White House meeting.

The committee was threatened with loss of its tax-exempt status. Along with the blackmail came a bribe. Mondale told the delegates that if they voted right, the government would see to it that their present financial difficulties were resolved.

A stubborn effort to resist this government campaign was made by representatives of the Athletes Advisory Committee. They introduced, unsuccessfully, a resolution at the USOC meeting that had been adopted earlier by unanimous vote of the amateur athletes' group.

The resolution noted that USOC's constitution provides that it may not "deny or threaten to deny any amateur athlete the opportunity to compete in the Olympic Games."

And it cited a section of the USOC charter that says the committee "must be autonomous and must resist all pressure of any kind, whether of a political, religious or economic nature,..."

The USOC decision was sharply criticized by Harry Nier of Lawyers for Sports Freedom, which is working with athletes to resist imposition of the boycott.

"Little attention has been given to the views of the athletes themselves," Nier said. "Except for papers like the Militant, the national media have not published an antiboycott picket by members of the women's volleyball team here on April 5."

Another demonstration at the USOC meeting, he added, was covered by European media but not the U.S. networks.

Nier expressed particular concern about the threat of legal prosecution for exercising the right to travel. He said any travel curb would flatly contradict court rulings won by opponents of such restriction who successfully challenged the government's 1960s ban on travel to Cuba.

"Athletes who oppose the boycott are planning further protests and possible legal action."

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Special offer to new readers

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Labor is on the march to win the Equal Rights Amendment. Working women are in the forefront of that fight, and the fights to defend legal abortion, protect affirmative action, and organize unorganized women. Read about the battle for equal rights every week in the Militant.

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Cuban boxer scores Carter

In an interview earlier this year at the Havana airport, Teofilo Stevenson, the internationally renowned Cuban boxer, scored Carter's moves for a boycott of the Olympics.

Stevenson was returning from Charlotte, North Carolina, where he led the Cuban boxing team in a match with a U.S. team.

"We athletes go through a lot of sacrifices for four years to be able to take part in the Olympic games," Stevenson said. "I can well imagine how annoyed the U.S. athletes and the athletes from other countries must be."

"Most countries so far have not supported Carter, and it can be safely predicted that the Moscow Olympics will be a success."

Stevenson added: "Washington would do well to remember that most of the Olympic Games of the recent past have been held when the United States was intervening in or waging war in Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea, the Middle East, and Latin America."

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THE MILITANT/APRIL 25, 1980 3
Millions in Iran defy Carter

By Janice Lynn

In response to President Carter's latest threats, massive nationwide demonstrations took place throughout the country.

Reports from Iran indicate that at least 1.5 million people turned out in Tehran alone, while smaller demonstrations took place in other cities throughout the country.

In response to the pro-Carter outpourings in early 1979 that toppled the previous regime, Iranian people participated in demonstrations in many other cities throughout the region. Hundreds of thousands more participated in demonstrations in Tehran. Hundreds of thousands more participated in demonstrations nationwide.

In northern Gilan province, demonstrations took place. In the city of Ardebil, almost the entire population of about 100,000 participated in the demonstration.

The massive size of the turnout, along with the demonstrations in Tehran, were comparable only to the huge nationwide protests that took place against the Carter regime.

In response to President Carter's latest threats, we must confiscate all assets and property that belong to the Iraqi regime against Iran. We must also increase the pressure on the United States to implement the sanctions that have been imposed on Iran.

The United States has already imposed sanctions against Iran, but we must do more. We should increase the pressure on the United States to implement the sanctions that have been imposed on Iran.

The HKE declares its support and solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggle in Afghanistan.

The HKE women prisoners freed

The anti-imperialist struggle in Iran scored a victory April 14 with the release of over 500 imprisoned members of the Revolutionary Workers Party (HKW), Mama Hashemi reported.

"We are very happy that we are freed," said the two women socialists upon their release from Evin Prison in Tehran. "Because now we can join the struggles of our people again for freedom and progress and humanity. We owe our freedom to the anti-imperialist fighters who supported the Iranian revolution inside and outside the country."

The two women had been imprisoned along with 12 other HKE members last June on charges of expressing their socialist views. But since the deepening of the Iranian revolution spurred by the struggle centered on the occupation of the U.S. Embassy, the HKW militants have all been released.

The students also discovered that a computer building had been disguised as a supply depot, and that aerial photography by a specially equipped U.S. C-12 plane was being organized out of the embassy.

The demonstrators reaffirmed their solidarity with the militant students in Iran and the demand for the return of the shah.

From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

Iran socialists hit threats

The Iranian Revolutionary Workers Party (HKW) urged a mass turnout for the April 11 anti-imperialist demonstration in Tehran.

Below are major excerpts from HKW's declaration of support for the HKE distributed prior to and at the demonstration.

U.S. imperialism, due to the anti-imperialist movement, has become weak. It is not able to directly intervene militarily against our revolution. Now, in the provocations by Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime, it has shown its hope for crushing our revolution.

Saddam Hussein's regime--with the expulsion of thousands of Iranian and Shi'ite people from that country, the arrest of Ayatollah [Mohammad Ruhollah Khomeini], and the intensification of the propaganda war against Iran--has fallen into the trap of the murderous imperialist agitations against Iran.

Unlike the regime of Saddam Hussein, the absolute majority of Iraqi people, the oppressed Kurdish people there, and all the working people of Iran, are strong supporters of the Iranian revolution. They want to continue the struggle against this system.

To answer the new threats and measures of U.S. imperialism, as well as anti-imperialist measures must be taken.

Preliminary U.S. imperialists confiscated billions of dollars and cut off diplomatic relations with us. To answer this action, we must confiscate all capital and holdings of the United States in Iran, nationalize U.S. companies to the last nail in their shoes, and put them under the control of workers shoras (committees).

The HKW declares its support and solidarity with the anti-imperialist masses in the struggle.

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From Intercontinental Press/Inprecor

White House trips over its lies on Afghanistan

The following article by Lars-Erik Nelson appeared in the April 5 New York 'Daily News.'

Washington (News Bureau)--The Carter Administration's increased shuffle in Afghanistan for a worldwide boycott of the Moscow Summer Olympic Games was undermined during recent White House trips to key U.S. officials reported that some of America's charges against the Russians might be exaggerated.

Specifically, officials said, they knew of no basis for a widely reported charge by the State Department that Soviet troops in Afghanistan were killed by the Mujahideen.

But officials conceded that the failure of the United States to attract support for a boycott of the Summer Olympics had lent a new sharpness to the Carter administration's rhetoric.

U.S. spokesmen reported that 30 countries had given official assurance to the United States that they would not participate in the Moscow Games. But these assurances do not speak for the Olympic committees in each country, and it is not yet clear whether any countries, except possibly Saudi Arabia, actually will boycott the Moscow Games.

State Department spokesman Hod­ding Carter said that failure to boycott the Moscow Olympics could threaten international security. "The United States has said, through its President, that there must be one unifying and strong response to the events in Afghanistan. In not responding adequately to what is done in Afghanistan, we raise the very real risk that another act of aggression is equally tolera­ble."

Aware that a large number of foreign countries are not remaining not taking that threat as seriously as the United States, one official said, "If we have not raised our voices, perhaps too much."

Among the past inconsistencies or errors, one official said, the U.S. propa­ganda drive have been:

• The assertion that the Afghan army is capable of 40,000, is empty­ bling. They still say there are 40,000 troops involved.

• The assertion that Soviet troops in Afghanistan are astride the tradi­tional invasion routes to Tehran. They are not. They are bogged down in Eastern mountain passes. And Iran has not been invaded from Afgh­anistan.
Steel contract approved: no help for jobless

By Stu Singer

By a vote of 335-12 the new three-year agreement in the basic steel industry was ratified in Pittsburgh April 15. The vote was taken among the eight local presidential delegates, the only body that gets to vote on the contract.

The contract directly covers about 350,000 steel workers, many of whom are now laid off. The contracts of about 200,000 other USWA members generally follow the pattern set in basic steel.

The new agreement is similar to the one signed in 1977. It includes hourly wage increases averaging twenty cents each year. It has the same cost-of-living allowance formula.

The agreement includes job-class increases, shift differentials, supplemental unemployment benefits (SUTB), and sickness and accident insurance.

Workers will get two forty-dollar payments over the life of the contract to pay for steel-toed safety shoes.

These benefits do not do much good for steelworkers without jobs. The union did not win any protection against layoffs and plant closings.

No progress was made in winning the proposal made by the conference of local presidents last December to fight for a new national unemployment insurance program that will pay to provide more jobs.

The new contract does include much-needed improvement in pensions for retired steelworkers. But it comes out of the pocket of working union members, not from the companies.

The contract summary distributed to the local presidents says: "It was not possible to convince the Companies, in their present economic condition, to absorb the full cost of the substantial gains for active employees achieved in these negotiations plus the full cost of substantial pension improvements for already retired employees."

The scheduled thirty-two-cent an hour COLA increase for May 1 will be applied to pensions and not hourly pay.

Negotiations for the union on this contract were led by Vice-president Joseph S. Stoll also announced that Phyllis Schlafly of Stop ERA had called an anti-ERA action in Springfield May 6.

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Draft snags in Congress

By August Nimtz

President Carter's efforts to get Congress to implement draft registration ran into further snags April 1 when the House of Representatives delayed a vote to appropriate $4.8 million to reactivate the Selective Service System, the agency that would administer draft registration.

While the White House, according to the April 11 Wall Street Journal, "expected House approval soon," Senator Mike Mansfield could doom the proposal. Many on Capitol Hill recall administration opposition to draft registration in 1979. One staffer says, "It's kind of hard to send up to here to support registration the same people who were arguing against it last year."

These roadblocks in Congress show that the opposition to draft registration has given the capitalist legislators second thoughts about Carter's plans. An attempt to extend the widespread opposition to the draft, activists have continued to organize local prostate activities.

At Reed College in Portland, Oregon, about 200 people from throughout the region attended the "Northwest Student Conference Against the Draft" April 12-13. Featured speakers included filmmaker Saul Landau and Sidney Lens, director of the Mobilization for Survival.

A statewide rally against the draft and to commemorate the 1979 Kent State and Jackson State murders of student protesters will be held on May 3 in Salem, Oregon, at the state capitol building.

The Chicago Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD) has sponsored a "Public Meeting to Build the Local Anti-Draft Movement" on April 12. More than thirty people attended to hear various speakers, including one who reported on West Coast actions, and to participate in workshops. The labor outreach workshop decided to conduct antidraft educational activities in local industrial unions and seek the endorsement of local labor leaders for these activities. Plans were also made to help build the May 4 "Remember Kent State" rally to be held at Kent State University.

Midwest CARD has also called a conference for May 3 in Chicago.

The letter continued, "make preparations at once to set up an organized delegation to aid locals in that region in organizing for the march."

And the Milwaukee County Labor Council voted May 10 to organize a rally on May 26.

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Black United Front discusses labor solidarity

By Peter Seidman

New York and New Jersey socialists sold 732 copies of the Militant headlined: 'Transit strikers: We're not slaves—All workers have stake in their fight.' In addition, we sold 126 copies of Perspectiva Mundial.

These results—achieved despite one day of strike activity while heavily involved in campaign efforts to help put the Socialist Workers Party's ballot in Massachusetts—set an outstanding example.

Members of the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance in the New York-New Jersey area made this extra effort to get out and people to register the transit workers' strike. A big push to sell the Militant and PM was one of the best ways we can make our stand in the big-business media aimed at demoralizing the strikers and isolating them from potential allies.

Nearly fifty papers were sold to pickets at the New York City Transport Workers Union; at least sixteen strikers bought introductory subscriptions.

The main campaign was on sales on the streets of New York and at plant gates and on the job. Auto workers at Ford's Metropolitan New Jersey plant bought fifty Militants. Twenty-five were sold at the General Motors plant in Trenton, New Jersey. Another twenty were sold in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Top salesperson—with seventy-two papers—was Bill Henry, a member of the YSA who works at the Navy Yard.

The scoreboard on this page reports the results of our effort to get out the truth. Many areas are reporting that we have put the SWP on the ballot in their communities.

Perspectiva Mundial sales have averaged 92 percent.

These results are modest, but about in line with what we could realistically expect to do this spring. Many areas are beginning to put the SWP on the ballot. The extraordinary amount of time and effort required in these ballot drives is a challenge to the movement.

In the first weeks of the drive, these SWP branches have been petitioning: Newark, Louisville, Cincinnati, Salt Lake City, Tidewater, New York, Albany, Detroit, Kansas City and St. Louis. Other areas have pitched in. Still others will soon begin major petitioning efforts.

The demands of organizing petitioning activity are likely cause for the decline in our industrial sales to 11.5 percent down from 16.6 percent last fall. The biggest part of the drop is in plant gate sales; on-the-job sales have held steady.

Socialists have also spent a lot of time this spring helping to organize big turnouts for national demonstrations against the draft, against nuclear power, and for the Equal Rights Amendment. These actions bring us in touch with many unionists, students, and other activists who will be interested in the Militant and PM. But the fast pace of activity sometimes cuts across our ability to organize consistent sales.

The strong point of the spring drive has been our ability to reach out to the Militant and PM around a number of big developments in the class struggle.

Not only the outstanding case of the transit workers' strike, but the continuing demoralizing the strikers and isolating them from potential allies. Nearly fifty papers were sold to pickets at the New York City Transport Workers Union; at least sixteen strikers bought introductory subscriptions.

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**Transit workers face big fines**

**Contract vote in question as NY strike ends**

By Stu Singer

NEW YORK—The eleven-day transit strike here ended at 5 p.m. on April 11.

The strike involved subway workers, bus drivers, and mechanics organized in the Transport Workers Union, with 31,300 members, and the Amalgamated Transit Union, with about 2,000. Both work under the same contract terms.

The TWU executive board dead-locked in a 22-22 secret ballot vote on the contract. Union President John Lawe then ordered the members back to work.

A mail referendum on the contract will be conducted in the next few weeks. If the membership rejects the contract, the board will go back to the bargaining table, but the strike would have to be renewed.

The two-year contract is supposed to provide a 9 percent wage hike the first year and 5 percent the second. There is also a limited one-time cost-of-living adjustment. (The union originally demanded 30 percent and full cost-of-living protection.)

Transit workers hired since 1978 will receive the increases in cost-of-living raises that have been denied them. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which runs the subway, will pay $5 million into the workers’ medical insurance plan to keep it running in the face of skyrocketing medical costs.

The MTA agreed to work with the TWU to get the highest raises in pension. Pension terms are worse for workers hired after 1976.

**Givebacks**

The proposal contract includes a number of givebacks—elimination of gains the union won in the past.

New workers will start at cut-rate wages (reported but not confirmed to be 75 percent of regular pay) and will not reach full wages for two and a half years. Twenty minutes a day of break time was lost.

Other givebacks include eliminating overtime for workers who, due to illness, did not work forty hours; loss of two hours paid time off on election day; and combining jobs of some cleaners and laborers.

The givebacks management demanded at first were dropped. These included use of part-time workers during rush hours, job re-combinations, and elimination of premium pay for night and weekend work.

**Solidarity not organized**

The New York labor officials, however, did not actively support the transit workers. This made the strike less effective.

The commuter rail lines, the Long Island Railroad and the New Jersey PATH continued to operate except for a one-day stoppage on the LIRR. PATH engineers also refused to run a special train in New York City for one day.

Failure to shut down all New York City area public transit hurt all the unions involved. Both LIRR and PATH unions are still negotiating their own contracts.

Other unionists operated the busses, limousines, taxis, helicopters, and boats that were hired by private companies to get their employees to and from work each day. Threatened strikes or slowdowns by bridge and tunnel toll collectors, whose contracts were also being negotiated, did not happen.

The media smear campaign against the union was to play up divisions between largely Black and Puerto Rican oppositionists and TWU President John Lawe. In fact, the members were united behind their demands and solid for the strike.

The tie vote in the executive board does represent sharp differences within the union leadership. On April 14, opposition board members filed suit to force a new executive board vote. They claimed that one member of the board, who said he would have voted against the decision, was kept away from the meeting by “chicanery.”

**Who won?**

Assessments of the strike by capitalist politicians and the news media are too generally indicate satisfaction with the settlement.

The New York Times April 12 editorial said: “Was the strike worth it? . . . Because of contract changes achieved, the transit service may well turn out to be yes. ‘The terms . . . do not differ significantly from the proposal almost agreed on immediately before the strike.’

But Mayor Koch denounced the settlement for giving the unions too much. He said: ‘The city won the battle in the end, the MTA lost it at the bargaining table.’

Many questions remain. How much will the fifty-cent transit fare be increased? And who will workers in New York blame the decision to raise fares be made before the strike, but it was held off to make it appear forced by the union demands.

How will the transit settlement affect the bargaining for the 235,000 city workers whose contracts are up in 1981?

Koch’s stand against the transit settlement is aimed at backing his claim that the city is not settled. Every effort to defend wages and working conditions runs up against the capitalist ruling class with its news media and political apparatus. Workers are being battled with the deepening economic crisis.

The 1980 transit strike comes five years after the austerity drive began against workers in New York. This strike did not block that austerity drive.

New ideas and new leaders are developing in this situation. They will draw on this strike experience for both positive and negative lessons for future combat.

**Who won? Transit workers discuss results**

By Robert Dees

NEW YORK—I spent the first Monday after the strike riding the subways and talking to transit workers.

Some refused to talk until they saw that the camera did not contain their strike. They were angry at the incessant media attacks on their union and their demands.

Here is some of what token clerks, conductors, and motormen told me:

*What do you think of the settlement?*

“I don’t know. I don’t think we’re going to get a better contract.”

Was the strike worth it?

“It was worth it because we were going to lose a lot in benefits that I think we saved by going on strike. I think the strike was instigated by Mayor Koch.”

Do you think Koch represents working people?

“No. Big business. I would like Mayor Koch to take a ride for eight hours on the subway with a crew of transit workers and see what we really go through.”

What do you think of the Taylor Law?

“It’s designed to shock it to the working people. The MTA should have been non-cooperating. They raise themselves thousands of dollars. But you ask for ten cents and they scream.”

Do you think other working people in New York supported you?

“I don’t know what that, honestly.”

What do you think about the settlement?

“Everybody lost.”

Do you think the strike was worth it?

“No. Not for us. We’re going to fight this more, or might want to fight more.”

How are you going to vote on the contract?

“I’ll go down. I’m not going to do any good, though. I’ll probably still pass. But I’m not voting for the contract.”

This job is going to hell. It was no good in the first place and now it’s going to get worse.”

What do you think of the Taylor Law?

“I think it’s bad. It scares a lot of people who might want to support the strike more, or might want to fight more. It makes them afraid because a lot of people have families. Losing two days’ pay for every day you stay out is kind of heavy.”

How are you going to vote on the contract?

“No. Two weeks walk out for 8 to 9 percent. June 30’s nothing. You can’t even live on that.”

I think racism has a lot to do with it. Because you’ve got mostly blacks in here, and the leadership is selling us down the river. Other unions get more than we do and they have more whites in their membership.”
Solidarity key to strike victory

How Kansas City fire fighters won

By Nancy Cole

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—This city’s employers and politicians are still reeling from the beating given them by the fire fighters union last month.

The six-day walkout—which included the unprecedented jailing of seventy-one fire fighters—sparked the greatest outpouring of labor and community solidarity since the movement that defeated the Missouri “right to work” referendum in 1978.

The big-business press appears stunned by the implications. The Kansas City Star business and financial editor Jerry Heaster concluded, “No precedent for fire fighters’ strike wasn’t sparked by wage demands but by a dispute over working conditions. The city was forced to concede its point and sign a contract.”

Community groups, including the Black Ministerial Alliance, came out in support of the fire fighters.

Victory

On March 23, the sixth night of the strike, the city council caved in and agreed to rehire the forty-two. Governor Teasdale threw in a pardon for the seventy-one in jail.

Three hours later at the UAW hall, the fire fighters voted approval of the contract. The pay offer was 15 percent over two years with a 5 percent longevity increase for those not at the top pay level.

The city’s only gain was a pledge against future strikes—a private firefighting force at the airport, and the creation of a new management category, a fire commander, who could be expected to scab during any future job actions.

The next day the seventy-one prisoners were released in time to attend a victory rally, where “Solidarity wins” and other union songs were sung.

Local 42 General Vice-president Louie Wright said upon his release from jail, “A true union will not sacri­fice one to save the majority. But the majority will sacrifice to save one.”

Pointing out that public employees are forbidden by state law to strike, the Kansas City Times moaned, “There are no ambiguities, loopholes, or exceptions. Yet once again the law meant nothing. Apparently, if you scream loud enough—and raise enough hell—the law no longer applies.”

Andrew Pulley (left) talks at fire station with James Toliver of Fire Fighters Local 42.
By Nancy Cole
KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Socialist Workers presidential candidate Andrew Pulley petitioned in downtown Kansas City April 12 to help kick off the drive to get the party on the Missouri ballot.

The day before, the Kansas City Times, the city's morning daily, ran an editorial supporting the Socialist Workers Party's right to appear on the ballot.

"The Socialist Workers contend they are being discriminated against because of their minority-party status," the Times said. "That may or may not be true, but election officials exist to encourage participation in democracy and not to throw up roadblocks in front of anyone who is outside the mainstream of the two-party system."

On Sunday, the Kansas City Star, the afternoon daily, ran a three-column picture of Pulley signing up a supporter of his right to be on the ballot. Alongside was a story on the ballot drive and Pulley's campaign platform.

In setting out to collect well over the required 18,000 signatures, the socialists are up against a record of undemo-
Mi. socialists launch major petition drive

By Susan Aptein

DETOIT—In spite of the rain, socialist campaign supporters hit the streets on the first major day of petitioning here and collected a total of 2,168 signatures. This effort on April 12 put the Michigan petition drive on schedule with a total of 3,355 signatures collected so far.

The Michigan Socialist Workers campaign is organizing a three-week drive to collect well over the 18,000 signatures required to put the party on the ballot.

In addition to its presidential slate of Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann, the SWP is running Bill Arth and Martha Dowling for U.S. Congress from the 14th and 16th districts. Andrew Walden, a student at Case Technical High School and member of the Young Socialist Alliance, is running for a seat on Detroit's Central School Board.

The first day of petitioning indicated that Michigan workers are enthusiastic about putting a working-class party on the ballot. The single most, common remark we heard: the Democrats and Republicans just don't represent our interests.

Many added, we need to find a party that does.

One retiree from the Ford River Rouge complex commented, "We need more parties. We have to have more to choose from."

"We need a brother in there," said a young Black steelworker who said he wished "someone would start a labor party."

When one socialist explained that SWP candidates are campaigning for a labor party based on the unions, another Black worker responded, "This is just exactly what this country needs. We need a labor party on the ballot."

Michigan workers have been hard hit by the capitalist economic crisis. Official figures show statewide unemployment at over 12 percent. Many who talked with us were interested in our candidates.

Your help is needed

The Socialist Workers Party is appealing for volunteers to aid in the massive effort to get socialist candidates on the ballot in Michigan. If you can help, contact the Michigan Petitioning Center at 6406 Woodward Avenue in Detroit. Or call (313) 875-5522.

Dates' program to give everyone a job by cutting the working week from 40 to 30 hours with no reduction in pay. People are also fed up with inflation. One signer commented, "I just spent twenty bucks on two bags of groceries. That tells me we need a change."

Quite a few young people asked about the SWP's position on the draft. When he heard that our candidates are against registration and the draft, one high school student said, "That's what I was hoping to hear!" He and his three friends signed immediately.

Many were surprised to hear of a Black steelworker running for president, and said they thought it was about time. One man added, "We need someone like him [Pulley] to run for president."

One retiree from the Ford River Rouge complex is interested in the SWP. He said, "This is just exactly what this country needs. We need more parties. We have to have more to choose from."

Meanwhile, state officials are trying to stall on the case. April 25—nearly a month after the suit was filed—has been set as the first hearing date. This places the hearing just a few weeks before the state's May 15 deadline.

The delay is clearly a move by North Carolina authorities to try to put off a decision until it is too late for the SWP to get on the ballot in this year's election.

Progress in other drives

Massachusetts

In the past week, socialist campaigners have collected 16,000 more signatures to put the Socialist Workers presidential ticket on the Massachusetts ballot. This brings the total collected so far in Massachusetts to more than 45,000.

The response to the socialist presidential ticket has been so enthusiastic that the SWP decided last week to petition to put Nelson Gonzalez on the ballot in New Hampshire, too. Gonzalez is a Black man, a militant, who lives in Lynn. Gonzalez is a machine shop worker.

New Jersey

On April 11, the SWP filed 2,600 signatures to put Pulley and Zimmermann on the New Jersey ballot. The SWP is also running Chris Hildebrand for Congress in the Sixth District.

Campaign supporters have already collected more than 600 of the 3,600 signatures required for Gonzalez. Petitioners report that some of the most enthusiastic responses have come from the North Shore area, where the big General Electric Electric plant in Lynn is located. Gonzalez is a machinist at the plant.

Utah

An April 5 banquet and rally in Salt Lake City celebrated the successful effort to collect 300 signatures to put the SWP on the ballot in Utah. Socialist Workers presidential candidate Andrew Pulley was featured speaker at the rally. Socialist Workers secretary is Chris Hildebrand and Dave Hurst, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the Second District, also spoke.

Hurst denounced the government's plan to spend billions of dollars for the proposed MX missile "superway" system in the Utah-Nevada desert. "We're all for using money from the military budget to create jobs, but the MX isn't exactly what we had in mind," Hurst said. "With that money we could build more schools, hospitals, and libraries, instead of closing them down."

Chavis backs SWP rights in N. Carolina

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.—Rev. Ben Chavis has joined a growing list of supporters of the SWP's suit against North Carolina's undemocratic filing fee. Chavis, a defendant in the Wilmington 10 frame-up case, is this state's most prominent civil rights leader.

The SWP suit, filed on March 17, is aimed at overturning a state requirement that all "third parties" trying to gain ballot status pay five cents for each of the 10,000 or more signatures of registered voters required by state law. Similar laws in other states have been ruled unconstitutional.

Martha Dowling, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the 16th district, pointed out: "We're doing more than getting on the ballot. We're out there meeting thousands of people and introducing them to our campaign."

Several people, after reading the socialist candidates' platform, have already asked to be put on the mailing list.

Bill Arth, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the 16th district, explained that the petitioning effort is the beginning of the SWP's fight to win a place on the Michigan ballot.

Said Arth, "This state imposes conditions that make it impossible for parties other than the Democrats and Republicans to get on the ballot. After filing the petitions we collect during this drive, we're required to get about 5,000 votes in the August 5 primary in order to exercise what should be our automatic right to be on the ballot in November. Under these conditions, it's not surprising that no party has ever been able to meet this requirement."

"We are preparing to challenge this law. The overwhelming support we're getting in this petition drive will help in that fight."

Members and supporters of the SWP have gathered over 19,000 signatures in North Carolina. The party would be required to pay more than $800 under this unjust law.

Meanwhile, state officials are trying to stall on the case. April 25—nearly a month after the suit was filed—has been set as the first hearing date. This places the hearing just a few weeks before the state's May 15 deadline.

The delay is clearly a move by North Carolina authorities to try to put off a decision until it is too late for the SWP to get on the ballot in this year's election.

REV. BEN CHAVIS
Campaign supporters join Milw. YSA

By Lynn Rashkind

"Six months ago I joined the YSA after I heard Andrew Pudley speak to a rally like this and it was the best decision of my life." That's what Young Socialist Alliance member Debby Thompson told the Milwaukee Socialist Workers Party campaign rally.

Fifty people attended the April 4 banquet and rally. A collection raised $1,355 for the campaign and six new supporters signed up as volunteers. The rally heard speeches from Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Matilde Zimmermann and Sue Hagen, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from Wisconsin.

James Scott, a 19-year-old high school student, also spoke. Scott is a leader of the Coalition to Save North Division High School. The Coalition includes students, parents, and teachers.

The rally was attended by the Milwaukee School Board to cut off the Black community's access to the new $23 million school. The predominantly Black school includes some of the best educational facilities in the city.

North Division has been targeted by Milwaukee officials in a vindictive campaign they are carrying out against Black schools. This campaign started after a federal judge found that the Milwaukee Board of Education had deliberately established and maintained a segregated school system that provided inferior education to Blacks.

The school board's newly proposed "voluntary integration" plan includes transferring the 13th division into a specialty school, forcing all of North Division's students to transfer to other schools.

"The school board is putting the burden of desegregation on the Black community," said Scott. "We say enough is enough!"

Following the program, a young railroader told Matilde Zimmermann: "What you said in your speech—that's just what I've been thinking for the last six months.

Several other young people wanted to find out more about the Young Socialist Alliance. One twenty-one year old asked to attend the next meeting of the Milwaukee YSA.

Milwaukee YSA organizer Theresa Delgadillo told the Militant, "We see this campaign as one of the main ways we're winning young people to the YSA."

She pointed out that six of the ten leaders of the Milwaukee YSA have joined since January. Two of them were introduced to the YSA's ideas by the Socialist Workers campaign.

Each YSA chapter meeting discusses the progress of the campaign, Delgadillo explained. Campaign supporters have been staffing a weekly table at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and gotten a good response. The campaign's "No Draft!" button is a popular item on the table.

"There's a lot of interest in politics on the campus," said Delgadillo. "Matilde Zimmermann spoke to about fifty students in the concourse of the UWM during her tour here."

Jim Raffin, a twenty-two year old Black veteran, decided to join the YSA following the April 4 campaign rally. He explained later why he made this decision:

"When I joined the army the morality and judicial system and treatment of personal freedom and the regulations. There's a lot of mental intimidation in the army. This type of thing made me question more.

"I became interested in the political scene, how the government was affecting society. After talking to a YSA member, I got more of a perspective on government foreign policy and how it was affecting us."

Raffin joined the YSA because "it includes a variety of people working for betterment of all people.

"By myself, I wouldn't be as effective as a combined group would be. The benefit is the organization—there is a plan for getting the message across to people."

Don't want to fight for Exxon?

Don't just get angry when Carter says young people should give their lives to defend Exxon's billions. Join the fight to stop him.

The Young Socialist Alliance is fighting against the draft, against Washington's plans for new Vietnam, working to organize a better world—a society based on human needs, not on protecting the profits of the rich. Join us.

Add my name to the list of Young Socialists for Pudley and Thompson.

Send me Andrew Pudley's brochure, How to stop the draft—$1.

Send me the campaign poster "No draft!"—$1.

Send me the YSPZ antifascist button—$0.50 each, $3.00 each for 10 or more.

Send me a one-year subscription to the Young Socialist newspaper. Enclosed is $1.

Join the YSA!

The best decision of my life

Campaign supporters join Milw. YSA

What do American working people think about the Democratic and Republican candidates for president?

"Milwaukee Journal" reporter Michael Bauman followed some of these politicians as they campaigned for the Wisconsin primary.

The results were reported in the April 4 "Journal." Here are some excerpts from the article, titled 'Candidates get some lessons in plain talk.' People's voice wasn't kind.'

As the high-powered candidates and their media entourages roamed Wisconsin for this week's presidential primary, young people had evidence of the way average people feel about the candidates and the polls. Here are a few examples:

Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Jr., who was in Milwaukee on Friday if he were known as Jerry, is campaigning on a Saturday night in Kuglitsch's West Milwaukee bowling alley.

Before he goes downstairs to make a speech, Brown will work the bar briefly, mingling with the patrons, handing out brochures. He runs into four guys who work at Allen-Bradley, and he tells them, basically, that he not only wants their vote, he deserves it.

Two of the guys tell him that isn't likely, and Brown rises to the bait. He asks them who else they could possibly support.

As they go down the list, the men at the bar don't need any coaxing to admit that each of the other candidates has serious flaws. So after Brown has been assured that, for instance, they won't support John Anderson because he is a "turkey," Brown suggests again they ought to go with him. Who else, he asks.

For evidence, he refers to his brochure. Right there on the brochure it says Jerry Brown has "the strongest labor record in America."

One of the men at the bar laughs. "I'll bet I can find someone in America with a stronger labor record—how about the Socialist Workers Party?"

Jerry Brown, getting the point that he may do better elsewhere moves on, asking the men to at least keep an open mind.

At the bar go on to talk about how, even if it were true that Jerry Brown did have a strong labor record, by the time he was elected president he would have sold them out anyway, like the rest of the politicians. None of the polls, they say, knows about working class people or wants to do anything for them.

George Bush is touring the Pabst brewery, trailed by the media mob of cameras, correspondents, reporters.

In the brewery yard, a guy who has been standing next to a truck rushes up to Bush, shakes his hand excitelly, tells him how great it is to meet him. Bush graciously thanks the man for taking time to come over. The man tells George Bush, "This is probably the only time in my life when a guy like me will get a chance to talk to somebody like you."

For just a moment, this almost adoring statement does something strange to George Bush. It knocks his head back. His head literally, noticeably, snaps back his head and roars. "Tell him to be outta town by sundown," and tilts back his head and roars.

The cabbie says, "Tell him to be outta town by sundown," and tilts back his head and roars.

Ronald Reagan departes Mitchell Field that day at approximately 3 p.m.

In and that moment he must realize it is millions of guys like this worker at the brewery that he needs to be elected.

Gladly, George Bush recovers—the smile returns, the head gets back to the proper social-political distance from the worker. He thanks the man again. He's even a little more gracious now... .

A black cab driver, driving a reporter to the Sherraton Mayfair, asks the reporter what is up. The reporter says that Ronald Reagan is up, and the cable chuckles the way people chuckle when you tell them you have a hangover.

The reporter leaves his tape recorder in the cab briefly, and the cable laughs again. "Ronald Reagan must have you nervous, man," he says. Ronald Reagan has a lot of people nervous, man, the reporter responds.

The cable says he would like the reporter to give Ronald Reagan a message for him. The reporter bites and asks what the message is.

The cable says, "Tell him to be outta town by sundown," and tilts back his head and roars.

Ronald Reagan departes Mitchell Field that day at approximately 3 p.m.
How Nicaragua is organizing battles against illiteracy

By Lorraine Thiebaud

Thousands of young Nicaraguans donned the blue-and-green uniforms of the People's Literacy Army and gathered in town squares throughout the country, ready to be dispatched to their posts in the "cultural liberation" against illiteracy.

The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) had called for a nationwide festival to send off the 65,000 brigadistas. These young men and women, or brigadistas, for the next five months in remote areas of the countryside, teaching peasants, rural workers, and their families to read and write.

Here in the capital, tens of thousands joined in a rally and music festival held in the Plaza of the Revolution. Among the crowd were activists from the Sandinista Defense Committees, members of the union-organized Workers Literacy Militias, and others who will remain in the city to give classes in urban illiterates.

Many at the rally compared the enthusiasm for the literacy campaign with the jubilation that greeted the FSLN fighters when they entered the capital last July 19, amid the mass insurrection that toppled the Somoza dictatorship.

Speeches by government junta member Sergio Ramirez, FSLN Commander of the Revolution, FSLN founder Carlos Fonseca Amador had insisted, "And also teach them to read so that they can exercise people's power, the power they conquered with the weapons of the Sandinista army and the Sandinista People's Militias."

Possible with revolution

Vice-minister of Education Fernando Cardenal, director of the literacy campaign, explained how the drive is an indispensable complement to the 1980 economic reactivation plan.

"How can a campesino [farm worker or peasant] who can't read the instructions on a pack of pesticides participate effectively in production?"

Eradicating illiteracy, Cardenal pointed out, is a crucial political task, one that can be carried out only in the course of a social revolution. As evidence, he offered the fact that the literacy programs the staff examined in planning the campaign—those attempted, for example, in Peru, Panama, Guatemala, and even in Nicaragua under Somoza—had all failed. The sole success was the literacy drive carried out in revolutionary Cuba in 1961.

Overcoming the many obstacles to the literacy campaign has required meticulous planning and political education. Parents traumatized by the still-fresh experiences of war are concerned about the health and safety of their children who are going to the countryside as brigadistas. Special fears have been expressed about daughters working five months away from home.

Such fears and hesitations have been exploited by the reactionary forces, whose class interests have always required keeping the masses ignorant. Rumors about the literacy campaign and propaganda spreading that it is "anti-christian" or aimed at "indoctrinating" or "domesticating" the peasantry have had to be countered daily on television, radio and in the pages of the FSLN daily Barricada.

"Dawn of the People"

The textbook of the campaign is entitled DAWN OF THE PEOPLE. It is divided into twenty-three chapters that teach:

- the history of General Sandino's anti-imperialist struggle;
- the history of the FSLN and the fight against the Somoza dictatorship;
- the need to organize worker and peasant power through their own mass organizations;
- the importance of increasing production and deepening agrarian reform;
- the struggle to bring health care, education, and decent housing to all Nicaraguans;
- the liberation of women;
- the integration of the Atlantic Coast region with the rest of the country; and
- the international significance of the revolution.

The political content of Dawn of the People has come in for especially heavy criticism by reaction­ary forces. Government junta member Sergio Ramirez gave them an unqualified answer in his speech at the March 23 rally here.

"This isn't a campaign without consequences. This is a campaign that will end in the burial of oppression and injustice. Because if before our peasants and illiter­ate workers felt oppression and domination for so many centuries, now they're going to know the letters from which those words are written. And they will also know with what letters—are written justice, dignity, liberation, and revolution."

"We say this clearly. These are the words of our textbook... . In place of egalitarianism we are going to write solidarity. In place of exploitation, justice. In place of oppression, liberation."

Mobilizing the masses

The war for literacy will be fought in much the same way as the war for liberation against Som­oza—through mobilization of the working masses in their own organizations, under the leadership of the FSLN.

Literacy Commissions have been formed to over­see the campaign at the national, provincial, and local levels. The FSLN has carried out a massive vaccination and other health campaigns of the Sandinista government.

As Nicaragua's literacy campaign gets under way, 1,200 Cuban teachers are involved in a separate educational effort that has already made a big impact in some of the most remote areas of the Nicaraguan countryside.

The Cuban teachers, all volunteers, began arriving in Nicaragua last November for a two­year stay. The Nicaraguan Ministry of Educa­tion assigned them to places with the greatest shortage of teachers. Some of these isolated rural schools could be reached only by raft, rowboats, canoes, males, or oxen.

The Cubans have already been instrumental in opening 558 new schools. They are teaching more than 50,000 primary school students during the day and several thousand rural workers and housewives in the evening.

The Cuban teachers live in the homes of the peasants; they receive no pay. In addition to teaching, they have participated in building schools and health centers, picking coffee, organ­izing cultural and sports activities, and aiding in vaccination and other health campaigns of the Nicaraguan government.

For the literacy crusade itself, Cuba provided...
local levels. They are made up of representatives from the trade unions, Rural Workers Association, Association of Nicaraguan University Students (ASUNCION), and Sandinista Youth, and Sandinista Defense Committees. They also include delegates from government bodies, such as the Nicaraguan Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA), the Ministries of Education, Culture, and Social Welfare, and the Sandinista People's Army.

In the cities and towns the Sandinista Workers Federation is taking responsibility for organizing the Workers Literacy Militias, which will teach at workplaces. The unions have called for and won paid time off for workers to organize these literacy classes.

The Sandinista Defense Committees and the Women's Association will concentrate on teaching housewives and the unemployed. Those being involved in this aspect of the campaign are called the People's Literacy Volunteers. The latter plus the Worker's Literacy Militia make up about 70,000 volunteer teachers for the urban areas.

People's Literacy Army

To carry out the crusade in the countryside the Nicaraguan youth, who played such a decisive role in toppling the U.S.-backed dictatorship, have again been called upon to lead the way. At the beginning of March, most classes were suspended and high school and university students were recruited into the People's Literacy Army (EPA). Participation is completely voluntary and some 50 percent of eligible youth have enlisted. Some failed to get the required parental permission and many others are indispensable to the support of their families.

University students taking medical, engineering, and agricultural courses have been asked to complete their studies and then serve as reinforcements in June, since the rapid training of physicians and skilled technicians is also essential to Nicaragua's reconstruction.

The organization of the EPA is modeled on that of the Sandinista army during the insurrection. The squad, the smallest unit, is made up of twenty-eight volunteers with two in command. Squad members are all of the same age and sex and usually come from the same community. Squads make up a column and two or three columns make up a brigade. The brigade is responsible for covering a given community. But it has several brigades are further organized into six regional fronts, each named for a martyr of the revolution.

Squad, column, and brigade leaders have been chosen from among exemplary members of the July 19 Sandinista Youth. They are responsible for the overall organization. By regularly visiting the squads living among the widely scattered peasant dwellings, they will form a communications network, control statistics, distribute materials, and deal with any problems.

EPA members are at least twelve years old and have completed the sixth grade. They undergo ten days of intensive preparation, including regular physical exercise. At the end of the educational materials, each brigadista is issued one shirt, one pair of jeans, boots, backpack, hammock, diary, and sometimes a lantern. They receive no pay, and are expected to join in agricultural and household labor.

Special brigades

Special training brigades have been formed to accomplish important secondary goals. The Ministry of Health has prepared 11,000 brigadistas to detect and treat malaria. A journalists brigade, armed with tape recorders, will collect oral histories of the insurgency. Likewise, a mobile brigade organized by the Ministry of Culture will compile the stories, customs, songs, dances, and costumes of the Nicaragua's Indian countryside while promoting artistic and recreational activity among both brigadistas and peasants.

The Ministry of Social Welfare has initiated squads of handicapped persons to teach other handicapped and a brigade of blind persons that will teach others to read braille.

For the Atlantic Coast region, where the popula-

\[\text{Our peasants and workers will know with what letters are written justice, dignity, liberation, and revolution. These are the words of our textbook. In place of egotism we are going to write solidarity. In place of exploitation, justice. In place of oppression, liberation.} \]

Sergio Ramirez, Government of National Reconstruction junta member

\[\text{evacuation plan. An emergency medical system, tied into a radio communications network, will operate twenty-four hours a day in all provinces. Parents will be able to call into the system to get in touch with their children.} \]

\[\text{Biweekly newspaper} \]

The first issue of Brigadista, a biweekly newspaper published by the July 19 Sandinista Youth, came out March 24.

\[\text{Defense of the brigadistas against terrorist attacks by counterrevolutionaries is being organized by the Sandinista army, police, and air force, in collaboration with the ATC.} \]

\[\text{Getting the thousands of brigadistas into the remote areas of Nicaragua was the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and the drivers' unions. The week of March 24-30 found brigadistas traveling in buses, trucks, and jeeps, as well as on mules, bicycles, carts, and on foot.} \]

\[\text{Since the brigadistas may not abandon their posts, their families are encouraged to visit them and learn about rural life as well.} \]

\[\text{Because of the especially high rate of illiteracy among women, the Association of Nicaraguan Women (AMNLAE) has made support to the literacy crusade one of its central tasks. AMNLAE militants have been working on a chapter on women's liberation in the textbook.} \]

\[\text{AMNLAE has been able in many areas to set up child care, communal washrooms, and communal laundries to facilitate women's full participation as volunteer teachers and as students.} \]

\[\text{Meetings have also been held for young women brigadistas to aid them in understanding the transformation of women's role that is taking place in Nicaragua.} \]

\[\text{Aid still needed} \]

The cost of the national literacy campaign is estimated at $20 million. By March 20, only $1.5 million had been received in donations from abroad. The largest contributions have come from the World Council of Churches and from charitable institutions in West Germany. On March 22, 1980, a special government mission returned with pledges for a further $12 million.

Funding within Nicaragua has come primarily from child care, communal washrooms and communal laundries, the government and the workers' pay by Nicaraguan workers. "Literacy bonds" and a special lottery are bringing in extra funds.

\[\text{For supporters of the revolution in the United States and around the world, organizing material aid to the literacy drive is one of the best possible ways to make known the gains of the revolution and to back up the Nicaraguan workers and peasants in the battles ahead.} \]
By Harry Ring

“Our heart goes out to the almost 10,000 freedom-loving Cubans,” de­clared President Carter April 9. But he'll let less than half of them into the United States. The White House announced April 14 that up to 3,500 of those now seek­ing to leave Cuba will be admitted here.

Officials said Cubans at the Per­uvian Embassy in Havana would be flown to a staging ground in Costa Rica. There they would be screened by U.S. officials to determine if they meet Washington's current refugee standards.

First priority will be given to former political prisoners and relatives of people already here. For the rest, it will be a matter of proving they face persecution if returned to Cuba.

In addition, Peru has agreed to ac­cept 1,000, Spain 500, and Costa Rica 300.

That means several thousand of the Cubans who went to the Peruvian Embassy will simply be left behind. Carter’s ‘heart goes out to them.”

But not many of his visas.

Washington and the capitalist media depict the events in Havana as some kind of explosion behind the “sugar cane curtain.” People were so deter­mined to leave, the story went, that the “totalitarian” Castro government could not contain them.

Open-door policy

True, some people have wanted to leave Cuba for the United States for some time. Not nearly as many as try to cross the border from Mexico every day in search of a higher living stand­ard. Or the Haitians who risk their lives by boat. Or the Central Amer­i­cans who make their way across sev­eral borders trying to get here.

The obstacle facing those Cubans who do want to leave, however, is not their government. It has had an open­door policy ever since the revolution triumphed in 1959. Their problem has been that the United States wouldn’t take them.

By refusing to accept those who want to leave Cuba, the U.S. govern­ment bears major responsibility for the events at the Peruvian Embassy.

The provocation was touched off when six people stole a bus and crashed it through the embassy gate April 1, resulting in the death of a Cuban soldier. Why did they crash the gate?

Cuba, Peru, and other Latin Amer­i­can countries have an accord under which their respective embassies may grant asylum, and safe conduct out of the country, to those they decide are political refugees.

Of course, a political refugee is not simply a fugitive from criminal justice. Or a person who just wants to leave. It is someone who faces jeopardy for their political beliefs.

Thus, a Cuban could peacefully walk into the embassy of Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, or some other country. But he or she would have no assurance of being accepted as a political refugee.

No assurance of a visa to enter that country.

But in recent months Peru and some other countries have signaled that those who entered their embassies in Cuba by force would—by virtue of that fact—be accepted as political refugees.

This twisted the right of political asylum into a license to kill. And it aimed to embarrass Cuba through the violent incidents that would invariably be provoked.

Guard withdrawn

Peru withdrew its guards February 1 over Cuban authorities the six who crashed through the bus April 1. Cuba responded it could not continue under these circumstances, to protect the embassy. It withdrew its guards and announced that anyone who wanted to leave could apply at the Peruvian Embassy.

That’s not simply the Cuban version of what happened.

An Agence France-Presse dispatch in the April 9 Newark Star-Ledger acknowledged that “the possibility of obtaining political refugee status . . . from these diplomatic missions has been responsible for the spate of Cuban attempts to crash their way into the Peruvian and Venezuelan embassies . . .”

The dispatch added that the Colom­bian Embassy was also receiving calls from Cubans seeking asylum. But, the paper explains, “paradoxically, Colom­bian will only accept those who wish to leave Cuba are admitted, they will not take any measures against them. They may also travel to Peru, or to any other country that does not respect the right of Peru, Venezuela, or some other country to offer asy­lum to whomsoever they deem perti­ nent, and to choose who should and should not receive it. But for that it is not necessary to pass over the blood of Cuban soldiers.”

The editorial added, “For Peru, we gave 100,000 blood donations after the 1970 earthquake there. But we are not ready to offer needlessly the blood of a single soldier to protect the face of our revolution.”

“This is Cuba’s position.”

Fear of revolution

That those Latin American governments that have been party to this provoca­tion are playing Washington’s game. Like Washington, they fear the rising revolutionary tide in Central America. The victory of the Nicaraguan revolu­tion and the continuing struggle in El Salvador are too close for their com­fort. And they fear and hate Cuba’s solidarity with these revolutionary bat­ tles.

With the present provocations, they are trying to exploit the harsh prob­lems which U.S. imperialism has in­flicted on the Cuban revolution.

Certainly, the crowd of visa-seekers at the Peruvian Embassy confirms that not every Cuban is fed up with the revolution. And they are attracted to what they perceive as the “good life” in the United States.

How could it be otherwise? For twenty-one years, Cuba has fought to overcome a legacy of colonial poverty.

Despite the U.S. blockade, revolu­tionary Cuba has excelled every other Latin American country in eco­nomic and social progress.

But could anyone expect that in twenty-one years, a small country im­powered by a wave of colonial domination could economically match the world’s most powerful industrial nation?

What is noteworthy is that despite the hardships imposed by historical conditions and the U.S. blockade, the vast majority of Cubans support the Castro government and are striving to advance the revolution. Ten million choose to stay.

In their smear-Cuba frenzy, the U.S. media neglect to ask what it means that there is no crackdown against the disaffected minority that wants to leave.

It’s a strange kind of “totalitarian” regime which declares: Our revolution is voluntary. You don’t want to be part of it, you’re free to leave.

If Washington will let you.
Detroit mayor hails parade on Palestine

By Jo Carol Stallworth

DETROIT—U.S. Rep. John Conyers, Jr. spoke and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young sent his "well wishes and support" to a March 29 conference here on "Palestinian Human Rights and the American People." A highlight of the meeting was the presentation by Issa Hanne, a Palestinian-American student, who gave an account of his imprisonment in Israel last year when he went there to visit with his parents. He was detained at the airport after he refused to sign a paper in Hebrew.

"The first day, you don't know where you are," he said, describing the prison conditions. "You start hearing prayers of people in pain. When it is going to be your turn, you wonder.

"And then they push you into a cell... There is no roof. The light shines in. It is freezing, and you cannot sleep.

"Others are being made to stand outside, handcuffed and blindfolded, day and night. You can hear them crying."

Hanne received tremendous applause when he stated that despite the hardships and fear he realized, being in jail with other Palestinians, that it was an honor to go to jail for his people.

Also speaking at the conference was Mona Younis, who recounted "An Arab-American Perspective" of her recent trip to the occupied West Bank. There is an "all-pervasive military presence," she said, making Palestinians "prisoners in their own land."

She continued about accounts of confiscation of Arab land by Israel, and of the arrest and torture of Palestinians. Palestinians support the PLO and reject the Camp David accords, she added.

Israel Shahak, president of the Israeli League of Human and Civil Rights, described the illegal Israeli settlement policies and Israeli complicity in barbed wire and bulldozed villages around the world. Afterwards, in recognition of his efforts on behalf of Palestinian human rights, he was presented with an inscribed pin by Maryanne Mahaffey, on behalf of the Detroit City Council.

Rev. Daniel Aldridge, an aide to Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, spoke on the importance of drawing Blacks into the Palestinian movement. "The rootlessness of the Palestinians is clear to us, who were taken from our coastal shores," he said.

Greetings were read from Bassem Shakaa and Mamoud Milhem, the Palestinian mayors of Nablus and Halhoul, in the occupied West Bank. They had been scheduled to speak, but were denied visas by the Begin government.

There were also speakers and exhibitors as well. Sponsor of the highly successful conference was the Palestine Human Rights Committee. More than 100 people attended.

W. Va. miners forced to end strike

By Pat O'Brien

MORGANTOWN—W. Va.—Striking coal miners reluctantly returned to work April 14 after a month in sympathy with eleven fired miners from United Mine Workers Local 4060 in northern West Virginia. The embittered miners decided to go back to work after being told that heavy fines levied against the local, its officers, and rank-and-file strikers for a May 11 disobedying a back-to-work order would be dropped if they would return.

It was also reported that no further disciplinary action would be taken against the miners who picketed during the work stoppage. However, ten fired miners from Locals 4000 would not be rebilled.

Ga. Blacks march for rights; face KKK radicals down

By Lea Bockman

WRIGHTSVILLE, Ga.—Singling a "white man's cause" and chanting, "We're fired up, had enough," some 400 people armed with sticks converged on this small central Georgia town April 12. A small band of Black rights protesters were surrounded by state troopers, ordered to Wrightsville on a march by a group of right-wing, New Right leaders.

Some 125 jeering Ku Klux Klanners, many of them robed and masked, formed a counter-rally nearby.

David Pecker, one of ten men whipped up by white supremacists J. R. Stoner and Klan leader Bill Wilson, III, at a last-minute gathering went off peacefully.

Stoner, who is under indictment for a 1965 racist bombing in Alabama, screamed for "sending those jungle animals back to Africa."

Black leaders called for justice.

John Martin told reporters, "We are condemning an end to the economic boycott Blacks hired in the courthouse, the post office, the sheriff's department and the bank and businesses. We want Blacks on the city council and the board of education."

"We want sidewalks paved and street lights put in the Black community. City officials have refused to even meet with us."

Martin heads the Johnson County League, an affiliate of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Speakers at the rally included national SCLC head Dr. Joseph Lowery and the Rev. E. K. Wilson, pastor of the New ChapelAME Church in Wrightsville.

The April 12 protest also demanded the removal of Sheriff Rolf Attaway, who has been Wrightsville for nineteen years.

Attaway and his deputies led the attack April 8 on a march by some eighty Blacks. Swing clubs and chains, the racist mob injured more than fifteen Blacks. Even Justice Department observers were beaten.

Attaway has also been accused of beating Black prisoners, intimidating voters, and acting as a bill collector for white merchants.

"We sent our complaint to the State Board of Elections and they came to Wrightsville and started making the argument that we were illegal," Martin said. "We are not illegal. We are nonviolent people demanding equal rights."

Martin said the city is operating a hostelry for white merchants, "acting as a bill collector for white merchants."

Jesse Jackson calls May 17 march on D.C. for jobs

By Gus Horowitz

WASHINGTON—Jesse Jackson said he will march with 200,000 people on the National Mall May 17, demanding the end of unemployment and hunger.

The march is to coincide with the May 17 opening of the National Poor People's Campaign on Capitol Hill.

The march will begin near the Washington Monument, go along Constitution Avenue and then down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Ellipse.

"This is a call to the Congress of the United States, a call for the Congress to end the unemployment nightmare in America, to end the cancer of hunger and to end the poverty famine," Jackson said.

The Reverend Jesse Jackson said he will lead a 200,000-strong march to the National Mall May 17.

Jesse Jackson calls May 17 march on D.C. for jobs

"We are opposed to balance of trade; the only way to balance the trade is the Americanization of this country."

"We must say no to support of Israel. We must say no to the occupation of East Jerusalem, the illegal settlement policies, and the racist mob—had shown up at school."

Despite harassment whipped up by a counter-rally of more than 150 KKK members, organizers were surrounded by state troopers, ordered to Wrightsville on a march by a group of right-wing, New Right leaders.

"What is your dream?" Jackson asked. "What is your dream for full employment for all citizens?" he asked.

"We are opposed to balance of trade; the only way to balance the trade is the Americanization of this country."

"We must say no to support of Israel. We must say no to the occupation of East Jerusalem, the illegal settlement policies, and the racist mob—had shown up at school."

Jackson said the organizers were "appealing to the church, labor, youth, students, and those concerned about our future... to march on May 17." He predicted that thousands, particularly youth, would attend.

Present plans call for the march participants to assemble at the White House at 2 p.m., and then march to the Capitol for a rally. Bottoms, posters, and sample leaflets are reported to be available from the May 17 National Mohawk Office, 930 East Fiftieth Street, Chicago, Illinois 60615. Telephone (312) 373-4150.

"This conspiracy to kill our dream for full employment for all Americans, peace, and justice has taken place in the name of fiscal responsibility. Right-wing ideologues are playing a game with the country."

"I believe now we will get changes in Wrightsville. All we want is equal rights. Back at the New ChapelAME Church after the rally, John Martin said, "We want to march down the streets of the jailhouse until officials come out and our demands are met."

FBI steps up attack on Puerto Rican nationalists

By Gus Horowitz

WASHINGTON—The FBI raided apartments in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Jersey City, New Jersey, April 9, searching for evidence in its campaign against eleven Puerto Rican nationalists who had been arrested in Chicago April 2.

They are accused of being members of a terrorist group called the National Liberation Army of Puerto Rico (FALN).

After the Milwaukee raid of an apartment building on West Noyes Street, the FBI claimed to have found literature pacifying names of Carlos and Maria Torres, two of the eleven arrested, and the alleged leaders of the FALN.

Cartons of documents and personal effects were seized. After studying them for several days, the FBI announced that they had found "dossiers" on 100 business executives. Such "dossiers" could only be a "target list," the FBI alleged.

Also incriminating, in the FBI account, was a book on making bombs. FBI agents (it could be used for disguises) and The Anarchists Cookbook, a book that has been on sale for years, were seized.

FBI agents described the apartment where they conducted the raid. Even though they admitted they had found no high explosives, the FBI said some of the literature was available for "use as warheads" and "assassins." The nature of the raid, and the materials seized which were reported in the press—front page banner headlines in the New York Times and the Spanish-language El Diario—indicates that a major drive to victimize Puerto Rican nationalists is underway.
Labor party leads in fight

By Jim Garrison

A recent victory for opponents of uranium mining in Canada's western province of British Columbia provides a powerful example of the role labor can play in the antinuclear movement.

In the face of growing opposition to its policies, the provincial government of British Columbia announced February 27 a seven-year moratorium on all uranium mining and exploration in the province.

The decision is a sharp reversal by the right-wing Social Credit Party government, well-known for its subservience to the natural resources companies that dominate British Columbia's economy.

The labor movement of British Columbia is a part of the New Democratic Party, Canada's labor party, has strongly supported and helped to organize opposition to uranium mining.

NDP leader David Barrett hailed the government decision as a response to the massive public sentiment saying, "The government has read a poll, it's got scared and it's backed off."

Premier William Bennett in effect acknowledged this, saying, "The fears expressed by the people of this province related to uranium and the damage involved in this exploration and mining are too real to ignore."

The decision follows a report of actions and actions taken by the labor movement and environmental organizations.

Opposition to nuclear development was an important feature of last September's provincial NDP convention. More than a dozen antinuclear resolutions—far more than on any other topic—were submitted to the convention by constituency associations and affiliated union locals.

A resolution submitted by the 6,000-member Local 1-357 of the International Woodworkers of America passed the convention with near-unanimous approval. It called for reaffirmation of the provincial NDP's opposition to nuclear power, uranium mining, and the U.S. Trident nuclear submarine program. The resolution also expressed solidarity with growing international movement against nuclear energy.

Further, the resolution urged the labor party's Environmental Policy Committee to "initiate peaceful actions such as petitions, rallies, etc., to mobilize working people against nuclear energy."

An antinuclear activist Dr. Fred Knollman, author of Nuclear Energy: The Unforgiving Technology, was a special guest speaker at the NDP convention. He urged the Canadian labor movement to follow Australian workers' example. "The miners refuse to mine the uranium and the transport workers refuse to move it!" Delegates responded with an standing ovation.

At the time of the last provincial elections in April 1979, the NDP issued a brochure opposing the Premier's opposition to any nuclear development in British Columbia. Members pointed to the popularity of that brochure as evidence of broad opposition to nuclear power.

In the course of the fight against uranium mining, the British Columbia Federation of Labor issued a statement saying only the companies benefit from uranium mining "at the price of peoples' communities, and the environment."

The United Steelworkers and the Canadian Association of Industrial, Mechanical and Allied Workers, which represents miners in British Columbia, took firm positions against the opening of any mine.

The mining companies came out the losers in this fight. Provincial government sources listed 126 uranium claims and estimated that companies had sunk $65 million in exploration last year alone.

UCWA company executives were indignant at the moratorium. Rick Higgins, manager of the British Columbia and Yukon Chamber of Mines, expressed a typical reaction: "It puts us back in 1974 of days of ignorance and superstition... Does one just listen to the babbble of an ignorant mob?"

But there is less and less ignorant about opposition to uranium mining.

In a brief to the provincial commission on uranium mining, the United Steelworkers and the British Columbia Federation of Labor described the effects of uranium mining. A study of miners at Elliot Lake, Ontario, found that eighty-one had died from lung cancer since uranium mining began there in the mid-1950s.

In addition, the brief noted, "up to March 14, 1975, 446 present or former Elliot Lake mine and surface workers were identified as having lung disabilities in whole or in part as the direct result of dust exposure in the uranium industry."

The union's brief also described the environmental damage in the Elliot Lake region, where "ten lakes are considered unrecoverable."

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area drinking water is also not known.

The disastrous consequences of nuclear radiation were explored at Citizens Hearings for Radiation Victims held April 11 and 14 in Washington, D.C. Their aim was to get out the truth to the American people and to demand aid from those government agencies responsible.

The hearings made clear that no one is immune to the dangers of radiation.

Some people testified from wheel chairs. Some scheduled to testify had received radiation, as their families spoke in their behalf.

Among those testifying were veterans who were ordered to clean up debris after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks. Some testified from wheel chairs. Some scheduled to testify had received radiation, as their families spoke in their behalf.

A suit in their behalf was filed in federal district court in Washington, D.C., April 10. The suit seeks to overturn Veterans Administration rules that make it virtually impossible for radiation victims to receive benefits.

Meanwhile, building efforts continued across the country for the Washington... April 26... April 26

By Becky Ellis

ATLANTA, Ga.—Janice Prescott, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Georgia, testified in favor of cities' and states' continued right to ban the transportation of nuclear waste through their environs.

Prescott, a railroad clerk, spoke here April 8 in U.S. Transportation hearings on proposed regulations which would permit nuclear waste transportation under control of federal agencies rather than local government Action. Prescott said: "The disposal of waste from nuclear power plants is an insurmountable problem in said. "If we can prevent their transporting the waste, it will use one more roadblock, literally, in the path of the profit-hungry corporations that go ahead with nuclear power even though it's clearly against the best interests of humanity."

"I can tell you that nuclear materials are shipped through this city almost every day, in trailer trucks on flat cars, in box cars, in tank cars. Nuclear cargoes are deadly poisons known to cause cancer and genetic defects, and they remain dangerous for tens of thousands of years."

Prescott said railroad and other transportation workers often are not informed about the dangers of their nuclear cargo. She also outlined the poor condition of railroad tracks in this country, which will continue to cause rail accidents.

"Rail companies," she stated, "operate with one objective in mind: increasing profits. They have no concern for the safety of the rail workers or the communities through which trains pass."

The socialist candidate called for the immediate shutdown of all nuclear facilities and for the expanded use of coal, "which can be mined and burned safely and cleanly."

Also testifying against the proposed new regulations were members of Georgians Against Nuclear Energy, American Friends Service Committee, and antinuclear activists from Athens, Georgia.
Perú's left coalition breaks up

Blanco campaigns for workers' independence

By Will Reissner

On May 18 there will be national elections for Peru's first civilian government following twelve years of military rule. Voters will be faced with sixteen candidates for president. The elections are divided between two major and nine other candidates.

On May 18, two electoral coalitions—the Revolutionary Left Alliance (ARI) and Left Unity (UI)—broke apart shortly before the deadline to form separate working and peasant candidacies for slate. As a result, there will be five leftist slates.

Perú's discredited military regime began talking about the return to civilian rule four years ago. They hoped to turn the government over to a strong regime able to impose the measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund in return for loans. These measures involve driving down the wages of working people and imposing ever harsher austerity programs.

The military's plans hinged on the ability of the Alianza Popular Revolucionaria Americana (APRA) and its leader, Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, to win an overwhelming mandate in the elections. APRA, a capitalist party with a populist tinge, retains an important base of support among the masses, especially in northern Peru.

Regime isolated

The military's pledge to restore a civilian regime was prompted by its growing isolation and the hostility with which it is seen by Peru's impoverished masses.

Since the early 1970s, Peru has been in a severe economic crisis. Recently there has been some short-term improvement in the economy as a result of rising copper and silver exports. But in the last half-decade, the purchasing power of Perú's workers, peasants, and urban poor has dropped 35 percent.

Massive general strikes in July 1977 and March 1979 demonstrated the regime's isolation. Strikes were the rise in strikes in the northern mines, among industrial workers and public employees in the cities, as well as in the northern ports.

On June 18, 1978, elections were held for a Constituent Assembly to draft a new constitution. After the militaryToAdd dates. In those elections, APRA won slightly more than 35 percent of the vote and the Christian People's Party won some 25 percent.

But to the dismay of the generals, three leftist slates received a total of 22 percent.

Two broad electoral coalitions—the Workers, Peasants, and People's Front (FOCEP) and the Democratic People's Union (UDP)—had been established to run in the Constituent Assembly elections. In addition, a small faction of a Trotskyist Communist Party (Unidad) ran its own campaign.

Hugo Blanco—the Peruvian Trotskyist and peasant leader who received the highest vote of any left candidate—headed the FOCEP slate. He and many other leftist candidates had spent four or five years in forced exile. Some, including Blanco, were again deported only weeks before the election.

Moreover, the regime denied voting rights to a large minority and the 35 percent of the population, as well as to Indians who don't speak Spanish. Given these undemocratic conditions, the 22 percent vote for the left-wing slates was impressive.

Following his election to the Constituent Assembly, Blanco used his seat there as a platform to defend workers and peasants struggling to avoid them in whatever ways possible.

May 18, 1980, elections

As 1980 opened, the military dictatorship was crumbling. Following the death of Victor Raul Haya de la Torre in August 1979, APRA degenerated into feuding cliques struggling for power. In fact, APRA was only able to nail down its slate for the coming presidential and parliamentary elections at the last moment before the filing deadline.

Acción Popular (AP)—People's Action—a Trotskyist group, headed by attorney Genaro Ledesma, was also embroiled in tremendous internal disagreements.

When the dust had settled, APRA had nominated Armando Villanueva, the AP had nominated Bernalinde y, and nine other bourgeois candidates had also filed.

This makes it highly questionable that any bourgeois candidate will be able to win the 36 percent of the vote required for victory under the new constitution. If no candidate receives that amount, the president will be chosen by the parliament elected the same day.

Electoral coalitions

By mid-January the Peruvian left had coalesced around two electoral fronts for the May 18 elections. Left Unity (UI) was a multi-class bloc made up of the Communist Party (Unidad); a small faction of FOCEP, headed by attorney Genaro Ledesma, who had broken with FOCEP's call for political independence of the working class; movement; and the Revolutionary Socialist Party (PISB), a bourgeois nationalist group made up of leading officers from the military regime of General Velasco Alvarado in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The UI's ticket was headed by Ledesma for president.

The Revolutionary Left Alliance (ARI) was made up of a wide range of Trotskyist, centrist, and Maoist forces, and was backed by unions and other mass organizations influenced by those forces. Its presidential candidate was Hugo Blanco.

By the end of February, however, both of these fronts had shattered.

Formation of ARI

The original proposal for the establishment of a united working-class campaign came from Hugo Blanco's Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), Peruvian section of the Fourth International. The PRT called for setting up the broadest possible electoral front of workers organizations that both explicitly and in practice, would be for the political independence of the working class from the capitalists and the military.

Such a front, the PRT maintained, would permit each member organization to put forward all its political positions during the campaign. The PRT's proposal won wide support for two reasons. One was the desire and the pressure of the masses of workers and peasants for unity and for a candidate who symbolized their struggles against the government, the landlords, and the other capitalists.

The second reason was the immense popularity of Hugo Blanco, the "natural candidate of the hungry" as he is described in the Peruvian media. Blanco is a popular symbol of intransigent defense of the interests of Peru's exploited.

In 1963, as a peasant-union organizer, Blanco was sentenced to death by a military court for his part in militant land occupations. Although a huge worldwide defense campaign prevented the military from carrying out the sentence, Blanco remained in prison until freed under a general amnesty in 1970.

Since then, Blanco has been deported from his homeland three times by governments that outlawed the work among the peasants and urban poor.

In the last instance he has spent eight years in forced exile. The establishment of ARI on January 18, 1980, was seen as a step forward. Members of the participating groups began to plan united activities throughout Peru.

For example, on February 22 and 23 union elections took place in Chimbote, the country's most important mining center. Spontaneously, members of the participating groups went on strike together to run a single slate in the union elections. As a result, the ARI slate got two-thirds of the vote in what had traditionally been a stronghold of APRA-led unionism.

While ARI's political basis was limited, given the programmatic differences among the participating groups, the unity agreement specifically stipulated that "no bourgeois formation can participate in the alliance.

Hugo Blanco, as the presidential candidate and main spokesperson for ARI, contested the government's ill-conceived slogan "For a workers government—without bosses or generals."

Maoist forces

This political thrust rankled the Maoist forces in Peru, who favor building a political alliance with the "progressive" national capitalists and "revolutionary" reformist generals. Nonetheless, the pressure for working-class unity from the masses and Hugo Blanco's immense popularity convinced a number of the Maoist groups that they would risk total political isolation if they did not join ARI.

The largest of the Maoist groups, the Revolutionary Left Union (UNIR), had initially hoped to run a "Marxist-Leninist" (Maoist) slate. UNIR joined ARI only after the slate was formed and consultations involved some of the groups UNIR was after.

Within ARI, UNIR continued to try to blunt the front's thrust toward independent working-class political action. Some, including UNIR, felt the sponsor of the "proletarian line" was an "opportunist," more interested in seeking political support from the working class than creating a political front among the working class.

Some, including UNIR, felt the sponsor of the "proletarian line" was an "opportunist," more interested in seeking political support from the working class than creating a political front among the working class.

About-face by POMR

Within ARI only the PRT, and initially the PRT's "Marxist-Leninist" (Maoist) Workers Party (POMR), consistently stuck by the "internationalist" basis of ARI against UNIR's offensive. However, a few days before the deadline for forming the working-class slates, POMR made an about-face.

POMR is the Peruvian affiliate of the Revolutionary Organizations for Reconstruc-
Interview with former H-Block inmates

British impose inhuman prison conditions

Q. Why did the men in H-Block refuse to wash and clean out their cells?

Brown. The only sanitary facilities were a chamber pot and what they call a water gallon—it's a plastic container. It's supposed to be changed once a day. Before the no-wash protest started, you got out in the morning to wash yourself. But you had no time to do it in. For example, you had two minutes to take a shower in cold water.

Q. Was the water warm?

Brown. No water was ever hot enough for a shower. The screws told us to clean up our room as if you were going to have a visitor. If you didn't comply, another inmate had to do it for you. Then you were kicked for not cleaning up your cell.

Q. Why did the other prisoners refuse to wash?

Brown. The conditions of life in the H-Block were so terrible that we were willing to accept any conditions in order to avoid normal prison life. We believed that the H-Block was a political prison, not a regular prison.

Q. What were the conditions of life like in the H-Block?

Brown. The cells were dirty and overcrowded. The screws were constantly harassing us. We were told to keep our heads down and our hands up, and that we were not allowed to talk or make any noise. We were also told not to move around too much, because we might be suspected of planning an escape.

Q. Did the screws ever come around to check if we were talking or moving around?

Brown. Yes, they did. They would come around at night and check if we were sleeping. If we were not sleeping correctly, they would kick and throw things at us.

Q. How did the screws treat you?

Brown. They were very brutal. They would hit us, kick us, and frequently shout at us. They also took away our privileges and made us work without pay.

Q. Did the screws ever come around to check if we were talking or moving around?

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What's the medical treatment like?
CINCINNATI—My wife Connie and I decided to become truck drivers a couple of years ago. Since last fall, we have been driven to drive over the road as a team, the only way we could get started was to finance a late model used tractor that, together with interest, cost $37,000.

Eight hundred and thirty dollars a month for three years. Believe it or not that's a low payment. We prefer "owner-operators" and the majority of trucks are individually financed and maintained. Even the big freight lines are setting up special divisions that utilize owner-operators to haul so-called special commodities. Most owner-operators are nonunion. But even companies like the Ranger division of Ryder, which is unionized, has a sub-standard agreement.

Connie was recently forced to quit driving with me because things are getting bad on the road. Freight is scarce and the rates aren't even paying the cost of running the truck much less driver's wages. We are behind in our tractor payments and the finance company may soon be forced to repos sess the truck. Although they don't want to because their lots are already full of repossessed trucks.

As far as I can see, our situation appears to be the rule. Every single one of the drivers I've talked to is in similar straits. I know the economy is in big trouble. I got to talk with farmers and implement dealers and they are really hurting bad too!

All of this raises some questions in my mind that other readers of the Militant in similar situations may have considered and could shed some light on.

What I want to know is why the non-union trucking companies are apparently allowing "their" industry to go down the tubes. They know perfectly well what's going on. I know our living standards are being lowered, but I thought the capitalists seek to pay workers at least a subsist ence. With truckers and small farmers the rate of remuneration is falling further and further behind on living and operating costs.

It looks to me like the majority of us are on the verge of losing our livelihoods. How do the capital ist profits by this in the long run? For instance, it looks to me like the unionized segment of the trucking industry will get stronger if the independ ent and owner-operators are forced to give up.

Women in Revolt

Soviet feminists speak out

"Today's woman finds herself in an intolerable situation.

"We, the female half of humanity, have lost the experience of the past and are unable to create a new one."

"Feminism is progressive and the Women's Move ment is an essential element in the world demo cratic movement."

"When what was formerly secret becomes known, there is light!"

These lines on women's quest for liberation were written by women in the Soviet Union and ap peared in a feminist samizdat, or underground, publication of the period: *Women and Socialism.*

This publication, the first of its kind, was recently smuggled to France. This column is based on information appearing in the March 21-27 issue of *Rouge*, the French Trotskyist weekly, and the April issue of *Ms.* magazine, which adapted an article from the February issue of *F*, a French feminist journal.

Women and Russia is a collection of more than a dozen articles, poems, and fiction on subjects from sexual relationships and religion to the conditions of childbirth. Many viewpoints are put forward. The women are grappling with these questions for the first time.

"When a woman speaks she is, on the average, at least twice as articulate as a man."

"Why, when men murmur, do we have to break our necks to hear them?"

The writers reflect the political confusion common among Soviet dissidents due to their isolation. One article asserts: "When women speak, a most important question is on the road to being resolved, because Western women occupy positions of responsibility (S. Veil, M. Thatcher)."

These Soviet women would likely have a different opinion if they had access to news of the demonstra tions for the Equal Rights Amendment, the fight to preserve our right to abortion, and the lack of child care.

One catches a glimpse of the anger Soviet women feel. They write on such subjects as the obstetri cians who believe women's only "goal is the child ren," or husbands who expect the housework and children to women who also have jobs, or Commu nist Party members who tell women comrades that "there will never be a woman Mozart; God did not create women for that."

"We, the female half of humanity, have lost the experience of the past and are unable to create a new one."

Natalia Malakhovskaya writes, "And if we look at the male contribution in the home, it is almost non existent. Any man who even knows how to hammer a nail is considered a rarity. It is women who hammer out the nails of housework. Men gave women their hammers but hung on to the sickles."

The women write about the limited contraception. "There's only one pill in the world," says Marina Netchesov, "and it is from Bulgaria. No one uses it because the side effects are so awful."

Vera Golubeva describes the abortion center in Azerbaijani as "the better half of women."

"COMMON rooms where abortions are performed publicly with out anesthesia."

Although 80 percent of Soviet women work, they tend to hold traditional jobs and earn less than men. Furthermore, they are expected to cook, do housework, shop, and take care of the children.

Few women are in positions of director in their work place. And women are scarcely represented in the top leadership of the Communist Party.

The writers of Women and Russia face repression.

Already the KGB, the political police, have ordered them to stop publishing, confiscated some of their materials, and interrogated them. They need world wide solidarity.

But Tatiana Mamonova, a chemist, painter, and poet who illustrated her poetry, in the journal, has replied defiantly: "We are not ashamed to openly state what we believe to whom ever wants to listen, be that person a Russian, a foreigner, or an agent of the KGB."

The women plan to publish a second volume shortly.

The women's liberation movement in the Soviet Union can make a profound contribution to the struggle of Soviet workers and farmers for socialist democracy.

Capitalism Fools Things Up

NL Industries—how it affects our lives

ALBANY—One hundred and fifty people at tended a public speakout, "NL Industries—How It Affects Our Lives," on March 7. The speakout, co-sponsored by the Capital District Anti Nuclear Alliance and the Albany State University Coalition Against Nukes, was organized to give neighbors and workers affected by what the Albany County Health Department has termed the plant's "exces sive" radiation emissions a chance to testify about the impact NL has had on their safety and well being.

The NL Bearings Division (which before TMI was called the National Lead Nuclear Division) is lo cated on the outskirts of Albany, and uses depleted Uranium 238 to make counterweights for aircraft. Since last fall when it became apparent, even to the County Health Department that the plant was emitting the same levels of radiation that the city has termed the "normal background level" of radiation into the neighborhood, area residents have begun to realize that their increased medical complaints—ranging from unexplained stomach pains and nausea to deaths from cancer—might well be linked to NL's emissions. After much force

in the local press and threats from the County Health Commissioner, the plant was closed on February 4, supposedly for retrofitting its inade quate emissions control equipment.

Two former residents who had moved from the contaminated area because of concern for their health testified at the speakout. Rosaline Silverstang said that, in her opinion, "NL should have to move out instead of the neighbors." Steve Redler, a former NL temporary employee, told of developing a painful rash on his legs after working in the plant only two days.

NL Industries sent several representatives. Ro bella Gernhart, a member of the Capital District Anti Nuclear Alliance, and the Capital District Anti Nuclear Alliance, "It's criminal that state and county health department officials did not attend. People who make fat profits off the nuclear industry are here to defend it and they don't care about sick people in the plant area. It's a shame we can't rely on state or county officials who apparently are working for NL instead of the people."

The Capital District Anti Nuclear Alliance is demanding that the plant's laid-off workers not only be compensated for lost time, but be given other jobs at comparable salaries. In addition, the Alliance is demanding that affected neighbors and workers receive access to any re quired medical testing and treatment.

—Nelli Brown
Antisocialism of a social democrat

Where would you expect to find an article by a professor of economics attacking a leading economist because he is advocating socialism to be a real prospect for Western countries?

In the Wall Street Journal, of course. The socialist is Carl Gershman. The economist is Robert Heilbroner. He is a liberal, not a socialist. He believes that capitalism is in crisis. He sees a new world order in the making, with the United Nations and the World Bank as the main players. He believes that Western countries must change their policies to avoid a world war. He is a proponent of the New World Order, a concept that he developed in the late 1960s.

Heilbroner, on the other hand, is a socialist. He is professor of economics at the City College of New York and at the New School for Social Research. He has written several books on economics, including "The New World Order: A Political Economy of the Twenty-First Century" and "The Power Elite: The Established and the Unmaking of American Democracy." He is a well-known critic of capitalism and a proponent of socialism.

Actually, Gershman is mistitled. He's not a socialist. He describes himself as a "social democrat," and he is a proponent of the New World Order. He believes that Western countries must change their policies to avoid a world war. He is a proponent of the New World Order, a concept that he developed in the late 1960s.

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Heilbroner, because he sees some good in old Marxism, has a utopian view of the future, says Gershman: In the fellow-travellers of earlier decades, the utopian Heilbroner rationalizes a Brave New World in which material improvements (if there are any—Gershman won't even grant this) would be far outweighed by totalitarianism and cultural degradation. Heilbroner is no Marxist, nor is he a revolutionary. And he calls "for" Marxism and themselves to demagogic attack. But his willingness to discuss socialism as a real prospect and Marxism as a serious theory puts him a notch above Gershman's."
Cuba's health care

The Militant's series of articles on Cuba has been excellent—I hope there's more to come. I have one comment to add to Mariana Hernandez's article on the Havana psychiatric hospital.

I visited the hospital about a year ago, and what impressed me most was the qualitative difference between occupational therapy in the Cuban workers state and its use, even in the best of cases, in the U.S.

In the context of capitalism, where all labor is alienated, work in a mental (or penal) institution is a caricature of work in society as a whole—only more degrading and exploitative.

In Cuba work is seen as a contribution to the collective effort to develop Cuba for the benefit of all. In this context, involving mental patients in the most important and rewarding activity of the country is clearly a big step toward their reintegration in society.

Steve Craine
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

ARCO's victims

An article in the April 4 Militant on the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers strike carrying my byline appeared with an editorial change which is incorrect. The two workers who received letters from ARCO charging them with un-American acts did not include myself.

Although charges were filed in court, they were dropped that seventy-five people, including myself, violated terms of an injunction. Strikes activities secured by ARCO, we have been told that these charges will not be prosecuted.

The real victims of the strike are the twenty-three. On March 20 and ARCO workers arrested or charged with misconduct by any legal authority. The two groups were plenty around when the alleged "un-American acts" took place. These brothers and sisters raised the ire of management during the strike, not by the trumped up charges for which several are now suspended.

Jana Pellusch
Houston, Texas

Shrihl but valued

Your rhetoric is usually shrill and your strike here which was reported much too simplistic. I have found your verbal stunts reminiscent of the Socialists Liberation Organization, even in its most terrestrial extremes, especially offensive.

Nevertheless, I support the struggles of this infant socialism against the oppressive policies of the organs of the capitalist state. Your party, like all socialist movements in the USA, is a victim of the US capitalist party.

I value the Militant as an alternative to the mass media. Enclosed is $3 for ten issues.

St. Louis, Missouri

OCAW strike ends

Readers of the Militant may be interested in knowing the outcome of the local Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers strike. I have been writing on the militancy of this union during the December 21 Militant.

Members of OCAW locals 54 and 518 in Illinois in February to end their five-year 

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Cuba's health care

The Militant's series of articles on Cuba has been excellent—I hope there's more to come. I have one comment to add to Mariana Hernandez's article on the Havana psychiatric hospital.

I visited the hospital about a year ago, and what impressed me most was the qualitative difference between occupational therapy in the Cuban workers state and its use, even in the best of cases, in the U.S.

In the context of capitalism, where all labor is alienated, work in a mental (or penal) institution is a caricature of work in society as a whole—only more degrading and exploitative.

In Cuba work is seen as a contribution to the collective effort to develop Cuba for the benefit of all. In this context, involving mental patients in the most important and rewarding activity of the country is clearly a big step toward their reintegration in society.

Steve Craine
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

ARCO's victims

An article in the April 4 Militant on the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers strike carrying my byline appeared with an editorial change which is incorrect. The two workers who received letters from ARCO charging them with un-American acts did not include myself.

Although charges were filed in court, they were dropped that seventy-five people, including myself, violated terms of an injunction. Strikes activities secured by ARCO, we have been told that these charges will not be prosecuted.

The real victims of the strike are the twenty-three. On March 20 and ARCO workers arrested or charged with misconduct by any legal authority. The two groups were plenty around when the alleged "un-American acts" took place. These brothers and sisters raised the ire of management during the strike, not by the trumped up charges for which several are now suspended.

Jana Pellusch
Houston, Texas

Shrihl but valued

Your rhetoric is usually shrill and your strike here which was reported much too simplistic. I have found your verbal stunts reminiscent of the Socialists Liberation Organization, even in its most terrestrial extremes, especially offensive.

Nevertheless, I support the struggles of this infant socialism against the oppressive policies of the organs of the capitalist state. Your party, like all socialist movements in the USA, is a victim of the US capitalist party.

I value the Militant as an alternative to the mass media. Enclosed is $3 for ten issues.

St. Louis, Missouri

OCAW strike ends

Readers of the Militant may be interested in knowing the outcome of the local Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers strike. I have been writing on the militancy of this union during the December 21 Militant.

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month strike against Lacledes. Company and accept a contract proposed by a federal mediator. The union represents 14,000 maintenance, service, and clerical workers. Under the new terms, wages will increase 8 percent in the first year, pensions and other benefits will rise an additional 5 percent. Raises will be 8 and 9 percent respectively during the second and third years. There were no provisions for a cost-of-living clause, the main issue in the strike for the oil workers.

Contrary to workers on the contract terms was generally unfavorable. But after five months of work and with winter almost over, the majority felt it was necessary to settle for less than the goal. Still outstanding is a company lawsuit charging two union leaders with inciting union members to commit sabotage during the strike. The union has filed a countersuit, charging the company with libel.

After the settlement, the company requested a rate increase of $19 million a year. Chris Markwell

Wants united left Again it seems that the left will lose the 1980 presidential election because they are not the 1 on the main line or ideology. Unless the left can compromise and take one another's good points, they will suffer more problems. But there is one catch in this otherwise ideal situation for the labor skates. An illusion must be maintained that they are effectively representing the workers in collective bargaining. Without that false face, even the least de facto agents of the bosses would be exposed, and a majority in the union ranks would begin looking for a way to do a housecleaning on the bosses. But that danger must be occasional concessions for the membership from the em­ployers. . . . In that way, so long as the economy is on the upswing, the ruling class will have a few words to say.

One of the major factors preventing effective struggle against economic and social deterioration has been ac­celerated degeneration of the labor officialdom since World War II. So far as officials in the upper strata of the union bureaucracy are concerned personally, capitalism works fine for them. Salaries, expenses and other perquisites enable them to maintain high living standards. Social security—for themselves—is implicit in their control over the workers' mass organizations, as is assurance of lavish pensions when they retire. When those readers in the labor bureaucracy, like the bosses, consider anyone who wants to change the existing system an "irresponsible radical." But there is one catch in this otherwise ideal situation for the labor skates. An illusion must be maintained that they are effectively representing the workers in collective bargaining. Without that false face, even the least de facto agents of the bosses would be exposed, and a majority in the union ranks would begin looking for a way to do a housecleaning from the bosses. But that danger must be occasional concessions for the membership from the em­ployers. . . . In that way, so long as the economy is on the upswing, the ruling class will have a few words to say.

But the same contrast between the fighting capacity of the workers and the potential power of the unions on one side, and the deteriorating terms of contracts on the other, has led in countless labor struggles in recent years. To understand why union officials accept such giveback contracts means looking at how the trade-union bureaucracies work.

Farrell Dobbs included the following observations about the union officialdom in the afterward to Teamster Bureau­cracy, and it is available at $4.95 from Pathfinder Press and the offices listed below.

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Political Action Committee of Pennsylvania was called to build for the April 26 march, "announced Joe Jurczak, staff coordinator of the Coal Miners Political Action Committee of Pennsylvania, at a news conference held at the United Mine Workers office in Pittsburgh April 16.

The news conference, organized by the Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World, was called to build for the April 26 national anti-nuclear march in Washington, D.C.

In a statement released to the press, Jurczak said that coal is an immediate alternative to deadly nuclear power. "Expanding the use of coal-burning facilities would provide the funds necessary to get new jobs for construction and steel workers, as well as for coal miners who produce and railroad and truck coal that workers who haul coal.

In a statement of support from officials of District 63 of the International Association of Machinists was read. Three meetings of IAM locals in District 63 had heard a discussion on nuclear power and the April 26 march and voted to contribute $125 for the action.

Close down Rocky Flats weapons plant!

In addition, the NRC will permit the utility company that owns the reactor to regularly vent specified amounts of radioactive gas without having to get commission approval.

Residents of central Pennsylvania demonstrate in Harrisburg last month against ongoing threat from Three Mile Island reactor. Dozens of busloads from that area join thousands of other antinuclear protesters in Washington April 26.

The following statement was released April 16 by Colorado Socialist Workers candidates Silvia Zapata, running for U.S. Senate, and Harold Sudmeyer, running for U.S. House of Representatives from the First District.

The Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant is a deadly health hazard to everyone who lives and works in the area. The bombs it produces pose a threat to the survival of all humanity. The facilities must be shut down immediately!

Located just sixteen miles from Denver, Rocky Flats manufactures plutonium "triggers" for thermonuclear weapons. These "triggers" are actually atomic bombs which, upon detonation, provide the necessary heat and pressure for exploding the hydrogen bomb. Parts for the neutron bomb—designed to kill people with minimal damage to property—are also made there.

Rocky Flats is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy and managed—"for substantial profit"—by Rockwell International, one of the largest U.S. war contractors. Both Rockwell and Washington keep the deadly activities shrouded in secrecy. Rocky Flats' day-to-day operations are a nuclear nightmare.

- Containers of nuclear wastes have leaked, contaminating the water supply of nearby Broomfield.
- Filtration systems do not prevent all of the plutonium—one of the most deadly radioactive elements—from escaping into the air. These systems have often failed altogether.
- Numerous fires have occurred. In 1969, one of history's worst industrial fires released unknown amounts of plutonium into the atmosphere from Rocky Flats.
- Studies by the health director of Jefferson County, where the plant is located, show that communities downwind from the plant have abnormally high cancer rates.

Workers at Rocky Flats are exposed to radiation daily. Railroad crews bringing trains into the plant receive no protective clothing although they enter highly radioactive areas.

The government claims that the nuclear weapons built at Rocky Flats are needed for our defense. This is utterly false. These weapons are made for aggression. The U.S. government is pointing them at working people who are fighting to free themselves from exploitation and domination by giant U.S. corporations. These weapons are aimed at Iran, Nicaragua, and Afghanistan, and at countries where capitalism has been overthrown.

Only the U.S. has ever used nuclear weapons. It has repeatedly threatened to use them again.

American working people can defend our security only by actively opposing the capitalists' war plants and by fighting to remove these weapons from their hands.

This is why the April 19 protest rally at Rocky Flats is so important. Actions like this and the upcoming national demonstration April 26 in Washington, D.C., against nuclear power and nuclear weapons can involve the labor movement, students, women's organizations, and antinuclear groups. They are steps toward mobilizing the kind of power that can shut down Rocky Flats and the nuclear power plants for good.

Unlike the Democratic and Republican candidates, whose job is to defend the nuclear and munitions industries, the Socialist Workers Party puts the needs of working people before the profit of big business. We believe that all the plant's buildings and equipment are not worth risking one more case of cancer.

- Close down Rocky Flats immediately! Plant workers should be guaranteed retraining and new jobs at union scale with no loss in pay.
- Free health care for life for plant workers, their families, and all victims of contamination in the area.
- Release to the public all information about Rocky Flats contamination and its effects!