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Reagan vs. Carter: a sorry debate

The time was when capitalist politicians competed with pre-election promises of a better life—peace, prosperity, and even better times ahead.

The Reagan-Carter debate showed that the crisis of capitalism is so deep that they can no longer even promise a better life. The debate came down to which one would be worse for the country.

Reagan moderated the tone of his ultraright program, but a good bit of it did come through. But Carter's response—and even more his record—certainly offered no serious alternative.

"More of the same," seemed to be about all he promised.

Carter did touch a sensitive public nerve in suggesting the risk of a trigger-happy Reagan at the helm. Except that he went on to boast, "Since I've been in office we've had a steady . . . increase in our commitment for defense."

Similarly reassuring was Carter's reminder of the present formidable U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf.

He flatly asserted: ". . . we are prepared to address any foreseeable eventuality which might interrupt commerce with that crucial area of the world." (Emphasis added.)

Such a threat of readiness to go to war to ensure the uninterrupted flow of profits to the oil companies is obviously OK with Reagan, who even defended the ex-shah.

He asserted that the Carter administration had helped overthrow the shah because he "didn't meet exactly our standards of human rights."

This is something of an injustice to the Carter administration, which did everything it could to save the last butcher from the wrath of the Iranian people.

On domestic issues, the absence of real choice was equally evident.

Reagan tried to screen his opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment with a phony argument that lawmakers could protect women's rights better than judges. But he was also able to note that while Carter is supposedly a firm supporter of the ERA, not a single state has ratified it during his administration. This even though most of the state legislatures have Democratic majorities.

The Reagan/Carter choice was no better on Social Security.

Reagan openly favors cutting the already miserably low benefits. In the debate he cloaked this proposal in murky jargon about "peremptory changes" in the benefit levels.

Reagan also got in some licks on a favored right-wing theme, "welfare fraud." He spoke of the "tens of billions" allegedly lost in such fraud.

Considering the relative pittance spent on welfare programs, that would mean that just about every recipient is a "chiseler" to be axed off the rolls.

Reagan also had some employer-favored thoughts on how to deal with unemployment—wipe out safety and health regulations, "increase productivity" (that is, make workers produce more for less), and scrap the minimum wage—for Black and Latino youth for openers.

Carter's feeble protest was not particularly impressive in light of his record. As Reagan was quick to note, there are currently eight million jobless, two million in the past few months alone.

But Carter must have really felt shabbily treated when Reagan charged that, under his administration, production of coal was being stymied by too many "regulations."

Carter responded that Reagan was callously talking about junking health and safety regulations. But if ever an administration was notorious for sabotaging such regulations, it's the present one. Just hours before the debate, three miners died in an illegally operated Kentucky mine—one of an estimated fifty to a hundred in the area.

Carefully considered, the debate confirmed that both major parties are strictly bad news when it comes to the problems of working people.

Too bad Andrew Pulley, the Socialist Workers nominee, wasn't allowed to join in that "debate." The millions of viewers would have gotten honest, meaningful answers to the problems confronting them.

The Socialist Workers program for attacking the capitalist roots of the social crisis should be supported at the polls. And it should be supported in the struggle which will continue after election day.

Solidarity with the Irish hunger strikers

One hundred forty nine of Ireland's political prisoners have now joined an indefinite hunger strike that began at the infamous H-Block on October 26.

The protesting nationalist prisoners have been beaten and humiliated. They have been forced to live in filth, darkness, and isolation—deprived even of reading material. This is part of a five-year campaign by the British government to force them to accept the status of common criminals rather than that of political prisoners.

The hunger strike was planned by the prisoners as the last recourse available to them.

In the October 28 Wall Street Journal one British official was quoted as saying the prisoners "may well die. If they do, so be it."

The British government is submitting the prisoners to this torture as a warning to the massive numbers who continue to oppose imperialist rule and military occupation of part of Ireland.

A powerful solidarity campaign is needed to save the lives of these prisoners.

At the start of the hunger strike more than 30,000 protesters marched in Belfast, the largest demonstration in a decade.

In the United States, supporters of the Irish freedom fighters have targeted November 5 as a day of nationwide activities. A protest rally at the British Consulate in New York City has been called for 3 p.m. on that day.

Working people and all supporters of democratic rights should join these protests. The brutal mistreatment of these fighters for Irish independence must end now.

Militant Highlights This Week

Nicaragua: battle for Bluefields

Winning support from Miskito and English-speaking people of Atlantic Coast region is presenting important challenge for Nicaraguan revolution. An on-the-spot report. Page 22.

The Militant

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If You Like This Paper, Look Us Up
Showdown in Jamaica

By Russell Johnson

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Oct. 27—As election day, October 30, approaches, tension is mounting in this city. Heavily armed soldiers and police patrol the streets in jeeps. As evening comes, army helicopters circle overhead, searchlights beaming down into the working class neighborhoods. Soldiers move in, and repeated gunshots can be heard.

Each morning the radio and press carry reports of the previous night's death toll: thugs have burst into a house and machine-gunned the occupants, men, women, and children; the security forces have killed five or six youths in an alleged shoot-out. People's National Party (PNP) activists have been beaten or shot to death when standing with their party candidates; or a PNP rally has been broken up by gunfire, forcing government leaders to shelter in a police station until the early hours of the morning.

This is the atmosphere of violence and intimidation that engulfs Jamaica, as the most sharply fought election in its history takes place.

The rise to power of the People's National Party led by Michael Manley. Since coming to power in 1972, the PNP, under the pressure of the Jamaican masses, has initiated a series of reforms that have benefitted the workers and poor farmers: minimum wage laws were promulgated and working hours reduced, land reform programs were initiated aimed at bringing more people into farm production and useful employment.

Conflict with Imperialism

International pressure on the PNP government moved into conflict with imperialism in two key areas: by breaking with the financial dictates of imperialism through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and pulling back from in exchange for international credit; and by maintaining close links with the revolutionary Cuban government in opposition to the imperialist campaign to isolate and crush the Cuban revolution.

In response to this, the imperialists headquartered in Washington are working overtime to get rid of the Manley government. Their principle tool in this is the main opposition party, the Jamaican Labor Party (JLP), led by Edward Seaga. Despite the party's name and origins in the Jamaican trade union movement, the JLP has evolved into a direct tool of the imperialist offensive against Jamaica.

Lacking confidence in their ability to beat the PNP at the polls, the JLP leaders have unleashed a campaign of unrestrained violence against supporters of the PNP, aiming to terrify them and keep them home on election day. It also serves to generate a "cries" atmosphere, preparing the way for a possible right-wing military coup.

Of course, the JLP leaders deny responsibility for the anti-PNP violence, much of which is carried out by unemployed youth. "We are against the violence," the JLP candidates will say in a radio broadcast. "But," they add, "we understand these youths will hire themselves out as gunmen."

What they do not say is that the funds to hire these thugs comes from the JLP coffers.

The ability of the pro-imperialist JLP to mobilize these youth is linked to what is the central problem facing the Jamaican people—unemployment. Two years ago, unemploymentanson.

Continued on page 4

Three leaders of Workers Party arrested

By Mac Warren

KINGSTON, Jamaica—Twelve members of the Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ), including three of its Central Committee, were arrested October 25, in Lucea, Hanover, on trumped-up charges of possession of bombs. The evidence consisted of two bottles half-filled with gasoline found by the police outside the house where the twelve were staying.

The WPJ, the largest party to the left of the ruling People's National Party, supported the PNP campaign in the elections.

WPJ leader Dr. Trevor Munroe stated at a press conference hours after the arrests, "The People's Party of Jamaica charges that the arrest and detention of national leaders of the progressive movement in Lucea, Hanover, is part of a wider plan to get leaders of the People's National Party and the Workers Party of Jamaica out of the way in the critical last five days before the election."

Munroe went on, "We demand the immediate grand of bail to the comrades in Lucea, the immediate withdrawal of these trumped-up charges once investigation reveals them to be false, and most of all, we call on the leaders of the government to deal firmly and decisively with the soldiers in the police who are actively fighting with their weapons for a Labor Party victory."

To date, no charges have been filed, nor has bail been set for the twelve who were arrested. Protests and telegrams of solidarity with the arrested twelve should be sent to: Police Commissioner, 100 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6, Jamaica. The legal requests that copies be sent to them at 50 Lady Musgrave Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica.

40,000 attend People's Nationalist Party rally

By Sam Manuel

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Oct. 25—Forty thousand people crowded into Half Way Tree Square today to hear Prime Minister Michael Manley and other candidates of the governing People's National Party (PNP).

The crowd, mostly young Blacks from working class neighborhoods, had been filing into the square since before sundown. The wait for Manley was spaced out, with large portions of local candidates and reggae music. The sound system blasted out Bob Marley's "Comin' in from the Cold" and "Black Survivors." Organized groups of youths with walkie talkies roamed through the crowd to keep order.

The rally took place in the midst of a campaign of political terrorism unleashed by the pro-imperialist Jamaica Labor Party (JLP). Two earlier attempts by the PNP to hold a rally in Kingston had failed. The first ended in a hail of bottles and bullets, forcing Prime Minister Manley to seek cover in a near-by police station. The second was canceled after the PNP received information that another attack was planned.

Cheers greeted Dudley Thompson, national security minister and member of parliament, as he was helped onto the stage. Thompson had just won a legal decision turning back an attempt to unseat him.

Thompson thanked the crowd for the massive turnout, saying, "We shall never bow to terror and fascism. Our determination for freedom is stronger than the gun."

Thompson was suddenly interrupted by a wave of cheers, applause, and shouts of "D.K. Duncan, general secretary of the People's National Party. Duncan is viewed by many as the leader of the left wing and the youth of the PNP. He has become the special target of terrorist death threats.

Manley then stood with his flat raised. The stage rocked as the crowd pushed forward. Many of the youths began to sing "We shall overcome" and "Michael gone clear." "Gone clear" is a popular phrase used to indicate the winner of the election.

Red flags waved through the air. Others carried the rising sun, emblem of the PNP. I could make out one banner in the foreground which read, "Down with IMF, forward to socialism."

Manley aimed his fire at the JLP and its leader, Seaga, "The JLP will not escape the judgement of history. They are responsible for the death of McGann and acting Corporal White." Manley told the youths that other leader has brought political terror to Jamaica. "... Who brought this to Jamaica?" The crowd responded: "CI-Aga," a reference to the well-known ties between JLP leader Edward Seaga and the CIA.

Manley finished, "We have to find a way to reach the peaceful Laborites. We have to talk to the community defense guards, because we have an enemy, and the enemy is the terrorists unleashed by the JLP."
By Suzanne Haig

As the November 4 presidential election approached, speculation continued regarding the possible release of the Fifth Amendment deal that Carter made with the hostages in Iran. The date marks one year since the occupation of the embassy in Tehran.

The Iranian parliament has been discussing whether to call a special seven-member commission on the terms of its release.

The 22 Carter administration officials said they believed Washington could satisfy the conditions set by Ayatollah Khomeini in a September 12 speech. These were: the release of Iranian assets seized by Washington; cancellation of all claims by banks, corporations, and others against the former of the shah's stolen wealth; and a pledge of non-interference in Iranian affairs.

Like several other attempts by Iranian leaders to reach a settlement, Khomeini's offer had been brushed aside when he first made it.

The tie-in of these moves with Carter's reelection bid was noted by the press, and Reagan charged Carter with using the hostages as a "political gimick.”

But Reagan's was not the only lukewarm response to Carter's openness to Iranian government efforts to end the hostage crisis.

The Carter administration was warned to pull in its reins by lead editorials of two of the most influential ruling-class papers in the country: The New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. They cautioned sternly that Washington's first concern must be neither the reelection of Jimmy Carter nor the hostages, "Freeing the hostages is important in human terms,” the Times noted. "But the Fifth Amendment deal must appeal to broader American interests in the Middle East.”

And the Wall Street Journal said: an election pressure "mounts on President Carter to do something to get the hostages released. We hope someone spends a little time pondering the question of what price it would be wise to pay, keeping in mind that much of the bill might come due after November 4.”

That Carter had bowed to this advice was evident when he stated October 24 that the safety of the hostages was not his primary concern. "I have an additional responsibility on my conscience in the area above and beyond, or at least equal to, the safety of the hostages,” he said. "It is the duty of this administration to ensure the safety of the hostages."

The Iranian people, who seized the embassy a year ago in opposition to Americanarms against their country (specifically the shah's visit to the United States) could hardly be expected to take kindly to the hostage threat. Coming in the middle of the discussion in the Iranian parliament, the threat could only obstruct a peaceful resolution of the hostage crisis, as Carter has done from the beginning.

Though never lacking in words for the hostages, Washington's actions have shown from the beginning that the U.S. rulers have been indifferent, at best, to their fate.

From the start Carter dismissed Iranian demands for the return of the shah and his stolen wealth.

Carter's April 24 raid into Iran, had it not been aborted, would have led to the death of some or all of the hostages.

In imposing economic sanctions on Iran, freeing Iranian assets, building up military forces in the Persian Gulf, and supporting counterrevolutionary exiles intent on restoring a repressive dictatorship in Iran, Carter acted in complete disregard for the hostages' well-being.

Washington uses the hostage issue to try to turn American working people against the Iranian revolution and to strengthen their own nuclear missiles. It is used to divert attention from the real issue that dictates U.S. foreign policy: the threat to protect American lives, but protecting the interests of the U.S. oil billionaires.

The U.S. rulers would like to continue using the hostages for these purposes, even if that means trying to torpedo diplomatic moves that could lead to their return.

And if the hostages are released—in spite of Washington's sabotage—the Iranians will be only too likely to face continued plots and attacks from Carter or his successor.

Labor backs Cruise missile protest in Britain

By Phil Hearse

LONDON—Eighty thousand people marched in London October 26 against nuclear missiles.

Called by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the demonstration was one of the largest seen in London in many years.

Demonstrators marched under three main slogans: No Trident, No Nuclear, and Anti-nuclear and political organizations. Most prominent on the demonstration were young people.

The demonstration culminated an intensive six-month campaign against the Trident program, posed by the British government.

Hundreds of anti-missile groups have sprung up around the country. These efforts got a big boost when the National Conference of the British Labor Party at the beginning of October 24, 1979, voted against Cruise and Trident and against all nuclear disarmament.

The upsurge of this campaign in Britain represents increased awareness of the danger of nuclear war. The huge amounts of money to be spent on the Trident has caused a great deal of anger, and it was the decision to site the Cruise missiles in Britain that caused particular concern.

But the missiles were designed for NATO's strategy, referred to as "theatre" nuclear war.

"The theatre" most often referred to is Europe. Many people in Britain feel the country is being made America's "aircraft carrier"—thus, a prime target in the event of a nuclear war.

The anti-missile campaign has repercussions at every level of the British labor movement. The 1.75 million-strong Transport Workers Union recently affiliated to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

In the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the question of nuclear weapons is an issue in the current elections for new union president.

The incumbent, Terry Duffy, supports NATO and the missiles. His opponent, Bob Wright, calls for the missiles to be cancelled.

The president of the Yorkshire area of the National Union of mineworkers, Arthur Scargill, backs the campaign against the missiles and against all forms of nuclear weaponry.

Every local branch of the Yorkshire NUM has an official responsible for coordinating the fight against nuclear energy. The missiles are already an issue in the fight over the new leader of the Labor Party. One of the candidates, Michael Foot, announced that if he became prime minister he would send the Cruise missiles back to the United States.

One of the main speakers at the October 26 rally was the leader of the left wing in the Labor Party, Tony Benn. He argued that the Tory government was carrying out an old trick—tried to divert attention from injustices at home by concentrating attention on the alleged enemy abroad.

He said that a future Labor government would refuse to base its defense policy on nuclear weapons.

Supporters of the British Trotskyist newspaper, Socialist Challenge, have played a prominent part in the campaign against the missiles.

On October 23, a Socialist Challenge rally in London to build for the demonstration was addressed by a leader of the Japanese Trotskyist movement, and Doug Jenness, a leader of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party.

As a PNP leader Louis Mosyton explained to me October 25, the biggest challenge before the JLP this year is not simply winning the election, but how to deal with the escalating violent threats against Jamaica.

Whether an effective mass-based response to this violence can be developed will affect the future of Jamaica for years to come.
How Milwaukee sells ‘Militant’ subscriptions

By Nancy Rosenstock

Saturday, October 25, was a big day for Milwaukee newspapers. It was the opening of a ten-day period of intensified activity to reach our goal of 8,000 subscriptions for the Militant and Perspectiva Mundial.

This special effort will continue through election day coinciding with final election activity on behalf of American Workers Party candidates. The Militant and Perspectiva Mundial.

For Milwaukee socialists, Saturday was a particularly good day. A modest-size SWP branch and Young Socialist Alliance chapter there had already taken goal of 120 subscriptions for the ten-week drive, then upped their goal to 200.

On Saturday, which marked the end of the sixth week, they completed their ten-week quota.

In a telephone interview, Nancy Cole, the subscription drive director, said that from the outset, they have had the drive the center of their political activity and organized their election campaign around it.

Nationally half of their subscriptions have been sold door to door, particularly in the city’s Black communities. They found a great interest in our election campaign, particularly the work of building a labor party.

Sometimes, Cole reports, they meet someone who wants a subscription but doesn’t have the money on hand. They have obtained a number of subs by making an appointment to call back.

Equally valuable has been the success of Milwaukee socialists in selling subscription to co-workers. So far, four new subs have been sold in plants.

Literature tables at the University of Wisconsin campus have also been productive. Three such sales have already netted twenty-two subs.

Austin antigdraft week

By Gary Rasp

AUSTIN, Tex.—An October 16 forum attended by 150 students here highlighted national Anti-Draft Week of activities on the University of Texas campus.

The forum was cosponsored by the University Coalition Against Racism and the University Student Movement of the Middle East and the Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD).

Mike Whitehead, a member of the Latin American Student Association, spoke on El Salvador, where, he said, the U.S. media plays down the role of U.S. involvement.

Nabar Hovespian, co-editor of the Armenian newspaper of the National Student Union, spoke on the growing danger of U.S. intervention in the Middle East.

Speaking at the conclusion, a member of the draft was Austin lawyer Dick Levine, a member of CARD.

“The real reasons for the draft,” said Levine, "cannot be found in public officials’ comments. They have lied before and they will again.

Levine stressed that the draft is designed to intervene, and that U.S. aid to the ruling military junta of El Salvador is evidence of the beginning of American intervention. However, upon Americans to resist the draft because it’s an issue that affects us all.”

An antigdraft rally was also held, with subscriptions more than 100 students. It featured signs declaring “No War for Oil Profit” and “Equal Rights—Not Equal Slavery.”

Mike Rose, of the Austin Young Socialist Alliance, said the reason for reinstatement of the draft is the fact that the Carter administration wants to directly intervene in the oil-rich Middle East to help “blunt the wave of sweeping Latin American countries.”

A panel discussion of the Iran-Iraq war was conducted by members of the Austin chapters of the Organization of Iranian Students, the General Union of Palestine Students, the American-Arab Student Society, and the Iranian Student Association.

Protest Begin’s visit

Groups backing Palestinian rights have called for a picket line and rally November 11 in New York City to protest Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin’s speech at a dinner at the Waldorf Astoria that day. The protest will take place at 5:30 p.m. across the street from the Waldorf Astoria, at Park Avenue and Forty-ninth Street.

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By Nan Bailey
Leaders of the National Black Political Assembly have called on Black Americans to refuse to vote for any of the three major candidates for president.

The Black Political Assembly has also called a "Founding Convention of the Independent National Black Political Party" for November 21-23 in Philadelphia.

A convention-building leaflet explains that, as August 23, at the National Black Political Convention in New Orleans, "a historic resolution was passed creating an Independent National Black Political Party."
The party's goal, the leaflet says, is "to advance a New Black Politics of social transformation and self-determination for the Black Nation."

In a written statement, National Black Political Assembly spokesperson Ron Daniels said, "Never before in recent times has Afro-America been so perplexed by an election."

"Black people are under serious attack on all fronts: massive unemployment, underemployment, attacks on affirmative action, inflation, cutbacks in social and economic assistance programs, deteriorating neighborhoods, inferior education, the re-emergence of the Ku Klux Klan, the American Nazi Party, and rampant police brutality and murder.

"In these circumstances, the President of the United States has failed it expedient to betray the massive Black vote which he received in 1976 by disregarding the genuine needs of the masses of oppressed Black people.

"Frankly, we can expect little different from the other major presidential candidates."

"Hence Afro-America would appear to be in a monumental bind, caught in an excruciating dilemma of making an insane choice between major presidential candidates who do not, and cannot, represent the interests of the vast majority of Afro-Americans."

"Should Black voters give credence to that insanity? The National Black Political Assembly believes that Afro-Americans must be bold enough to say no!"

"As a clear statement of protest over the lack of major presidential candidates who are committed to and able to champion the causes and goals reflected in the Black Agenda, and genuine human rights, we urge Black voters not to vote for either Jimmy Carter, John Anderson or Ronald Reagan."

"All three major candidates represent and reflect the interests of those forces which control the American system of racial oppression and class exploitation."

"Black voters should not vote for the office of president at all, or vote for any third party or independent candidate appearing on the ballot in their state."

"We repeat: do not vote for Carter, Anderson, or Reagan."

The statement urges Black voters to vote in local election races with the policy of "rewarding our friends and defeating our enemies in city, county, congressional, state and senatorial races."

Daniels continues: "Understanding that the real problem confronting Afro-America is not who manages the plantation (the president) but the plantation itself (the American system of racism and capitalism), we urge the Black Nation to focus its attention and energy on the building of an Independent National Black Political Party capable of mounting a policy of social transformation and self-determination for the Black Nation."

"Our politics, institutions, and movement must be so strong that whomever occupies the White House or controls the system will have to contend with the Black Nation until our liberation is won."

McCarthy moves right—but not so much

By Harry Ring
The announcement by former Senator Eugene McCarthy that he was endorsing President Reagan for re-election shouldn't really come as that big a surprise. This is what indicates that the former liberal Democrat from Minnesota has shifted to the right in his political thinking.

But not that far.


When Johnson spoke demagogically of withdrawing U.S. forces from Vietnam six months after an agreement, McCarthy contended that five years would be better.

This symbolized the extent of his opposition to the war. It stemmed not from genuine opposition to U.S. aggression in Vietnam, but a tactical disagreement as to what constituted the best way to advance its imperialist interests in Southeast Asia.

This was consistent with his previous record in the Senate.

As a congressman, McCarthy supported Harry Truman all the way in the Korean aggression. He supported John F. Kennedy in the 1962 anti-Cuba "missile crisis" that brought the world to the brink of nuclear disaster.

His record on civil liberties was no better. He voted for each appropriation for witch-hunting House Un-American Activities Committee and voted for contempt citations against every witness who resisted the committee's demands.

Prior to endorsing Reagan, McCarthy recently spoke forcefully of the Libertarian ticket. He then indicated it was more practical to advance Libertarian views by backing Reagan.

The Libertarian Party is a totally right-wing outfit. It would end government social services and public welfare. Medicare, veterans' and social security would be repealed.

Its blatantly anti-union stance is indicated by its opposition to the minimum wage idea.

So, if McCarthy can support a party with that kind of platform, it's not unreasonable for him to get behind another reactionary candidate who has a much better chance of winning.
Zimmermann: Defend busing in Los Angeles!

By Andy Rose

LOS ANGELES—Support for school desegregation was the central theme of Matilde Zimmermann’s two-day tour here.

At a news conference, in discussions with student, teacher, and community activists, and at a campaign rally, the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) candidate hammered at the necessity to defend the city’s court-ordered busing plan from racist assault.

Los Angeles public schools, with more than half a million students, are among the most segregated in the country. Courts have found that the board of education has used the placement of new schools, attendance boundaries, and other policies to keep Black and Chicano youth in separate, inferior schools.

For seventeen years the board has resisted court orders to desegregate. In hearings last winter and spring the board raised the specter of "white flight" to try to get a mandatory busing plan scrapped or weakened.

When Superior Court Judge Paul Eagle dismantled mandatory busing anyway—albeit a severely limited plan—that leaves most Black and Chicano students in segregated schools—the board did its best to promote "white flight."

Last-minute changes and maneuvers were designed to make bus transportation and school assignments as confusing and inconvenient as possible. For some students, the buses just never showed up.

Nevertheless, initial attendance figures show a much smaller decline in enrollment than the board had predicted.

The board’s tacit encouragement for white parents to take their children out of public schools is also an attack on the teachers union, the United Teachers of Los Angeles. The segregationist private schools that are being set up hire teachers at about $2,000 a year below union scale.

A key tactic of the board has been to try to pit Black and Chicano communities against each other. Henry Gutierrez of the Hispanic Urban Center, which has sought to involve the Chicano community in supporting desegregation, told Zimmermann the board "thrive[s] on" squabbles over the meager funds available for special school programs.

The board tries to "keep people divided and fighting amongst themselves rather than confronting their common concerns," he said.

The school board, which has spent untold millions of dollars trying to evade the law on desegregation, also uses the busing plan as an excuse for cutbacks.

At a news conference, in discussions with students organizing against the cuts and with Jeff Horton of Teachers for Change, a group of teachers who favor busing.

Black students are for busing, student leader Tracey Williams told Zimmermann. "If whites are sent here, conditions definitely will have to go up, right? So we’re for that," she said.

At the socialist campaign rally Oct. 25, Zimmermann explained why the SWP gives top priority to rallying broad labor and community support for busing.

"First, because it’s a fight for simple justice," she said. "Segregation means rotten, crowded, inferior, under-equipped schools for Blacks and Chicanos. Education is a life and death question for the Black and Chicano communities—their children are fighting for their lives.

"We also think it’s important because this attack on busing is part of an overall attack on education in this city and throughout the nation. We’re told we can afford the MX missile but we can’t afford decent education.

"By keeping Blacks and Chicanos in segregated schools, and by trying to convince whites that their schools are getting worse because of busing, the racist frenzy of the school board and the antibusing mob does not reflect majority sentiment among working-class whites.

"I think there is more sentiment than ever in favor of equal education, of fair play. There is a general sense that it is not fair for Black and Chicano children to get an inferior, segregated education. This lays the basis for winning the fight for equal education."

It is precisely to cloud the issue of equality that school boards—when forced to implement some busing design plans to be as burdensome, complicated, ineffective, and unpopular as possible.

A big educational effort is needed, Zimmermann said, to explain the real issues and show why the interests of all working people lie in defending desegregation.

"For putting the power of the trade unions behind the rights of the Black and Chicano students," Zimmermann said.

"The unions are on record in favor of busing for desegregation. Both the AFL-CIO unions and the United Auto Workers have taken that stand.

"Neither the Democrats nor Republicans have come out in favor of busing. And youth today could be well out of school and have children of their own in these racist schools waiting for the Democrat and Republicans to do anything to end it.

"The only kind of party that will fight for equal education, for better schools for all, for putting more of this country’s resources into education, know what they’re doing. And we’re going to stop them now."

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Marine arrested for bombings

LOS ANGELES—A U.S. Marine has been arrested for bombing attacks on the Communist Party and Socialist Workers Party headquarters here.

Samuel Hamilton Dunlap, twenty, was arrested October 21 at the Twenty-nine Palms Marine base. Dunlap has been confessed to setting the bomb that blew the door off the CP offices September 20 and to attempting to bomb the SWP offices September 20.

He has been booked on felony charges of detonating an explosive device and to attempting to bomb the SWP offices September 20.

Dunlap’s motive or affiliation is under suspicion. They don’t say they had Dunlap when he was interrogated by Joe Brehm in connection with the boardinghouse raid.

Workers have taken that stand.

At the October 25 campaign rally here, Little thanked the many unionists who have organized with the SWP to establish a militant party. Dunlap’s motive or affiliation is under suspicion. They don’t say they had Dunlap when he was interrogated by Joe Brehm in connection with the boardinghouse raid.

"If we can do something, why can’t the students do something," the veteran leader Tracey Williams told the campaign rally.

She said. "Segregation means rotten, crowded, inferior, under-equipped schools for Blacks and Chicanos. Education is a life and death question for the Black and Chicano communities—their children are fighting for their lives.

"We also think it’s important because this attack on busing is part of an overall attack on education in this city and throughout the nation. We’re told we can afford the MX missile but we can’t afford decent education.

"By keeping Blacks and Chicanos in segregated schools, and by trying to convince whites that their schools are getting worse because of busing, the racist frenzy of the school board and the antibusing mob does not reflect majority sentiment among working-class whites.

"I think there is more sentiment than ever in favor of equal education, of fair play. There is a general sense that it is not fair for Black and Chicano children to get an inferior, segregated education. This lays the basis for winning the fight for equal education."

It is precisely to cloud the issue of equality that school boards—when forced to implement some busing design plans to be as burdensome, complicated, ineffective, and unpopular as possible.

A big educational effort is needed, Zimmermann said, to explain the real issues and show why the interests of all working people lie in defending desegregation.

"We’re for putting the power of the trade unions behind the rights of the Black and Chicano students," Zimmermann said.

"The unions are on record in favor of busing for desegregation. Both the AFL-CIO unions and the United Auto Workers have taken that stand.

"Neither the Democrat nor Republican have come out in favor of busing. And youth today could be well out of school and have children of their own in these racist schools waiting for the Democrat and Republicans to do anything to end it.

"The only kind of party that will fight for equal education, for better schools for all, for putting more of this country’s resources into education, know what they’re doing. And we’re going to stop them now."
Pulley interviewed in Grenada

Exxon makes more money than many nations

The following interview with Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate, appeared in the ‘Free West Indian’ national newspaper of revolutionary Grenada.

Bro [Brother] Pulley said, noting the creation of a free press, “All of these speak very well for the black community.”

A black, born in the south, Pulley’s political education began with racism, as he began to recognize a lot of injustices, but it wasn’t until he went into the army and met some socialists who translated those scientific perspective that he felt it was the most important political education began.

Eventually, he was kicked out of the armed forces for handing out anti-war and socialist literature.

Bro Pulley has returned to the US to continue the struggle inside the belly of the beast. If he is kicked out once the other, he will tell the truth about the Grenada revolution and share the peoples’ messages of solidarity.

Referendum attacks bilingual rights in Miami

By Caryn Swan

MIAMI—The Socialist Workers Party, which has been vocal in its opposition against the ballot proposition to ban the Spanish-Language bilingual programs in the Dade County school systems, has called for a vote on a ballot proposition to ban the anti-bilingual ordinance passed in the ‘Free West Indian’

Andrew Pulley, managing editor of the ‘Intercontinental Press’, said, “One is the whole question of the military drive—its intentions to build up a big army to police the capitalist world and overthrow the socialist revolutions that have taken place.

His party challenged the increased military budget in the US and demands that proposals to reintroduce the draft be scrapped.

The SWP is against stepped-up military interference in the Caribbean, too. Specifically, it demands that Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada be left alone; that adequate aid be sent to Nicaragua to compensate for US-supported damag done by the Somozas dictatorship; and that Guantanamo be returned to the Cuban people.

On the domestic front, things are rapidly deteriorating. Bro Pulley said. Although the US still boasts one of the highest standards of living, American workers have been squeezed economically and more than nine million people are out of work.

“Half of the young people in the black and Hispanic communities are permanently unemployed”, he said.

Besides unemployment, Bro Pulley explained, the inflation rate which now stands at 15 to 16 per cent means the average person is hard put to afford adequate housing, food and medicine.

Bill Perry, president of the Greater Miami chapter of the NAACP, urged Black voters to reject the proposed ordinance. The 1,500-member chapter has passed a resolution opposing the proposition.

Perry said, “Let’s begin to form alliances and coalitions with the Hispanic community. Our history indicates we are both oppressed people...”

Pointing to the clause in the proposed ordinance barring county board of supervisors from passing ordinances to promote “any culture other than that of the United States,” he argued, “This statement implies that the only culture that should be promoted is that of the dominant group, the North American white group.

“What is the hell is the American white culture?” Perry asked. “Are we talking about the American Indians?”

He compared the proposal to eliminate Dade’s bilingual status with the way African slaves arriving in America had their native language taken away from them—the first step in destroying us.

Within the Cuban community, the campaign to defeat the proposition is being led mainly by the Spanish American League Against Discrimination.

Opposition to the measure was also voiced during a visit here by Rubén Bonilla, national director of the League of Latin American Citizens, which is influential among Chicanos throughout the Southwest.

Bonilla said he feared that if Dade’s anti-bilingual ordinance passes it could have serious national repercussions for Hispanics. “What we see here is a conservative movement with an element of racism that is trying to deny Hispanics their rights as citizens of the United States.”

Vote yes for district elections in S.F.

By Louise Armstrong

SAN FRANCISCO—A proposition will be on the November 4 ballot here to re-establish the election of the city board of supervisors by districts rather than citywide. District elections will afford Blacks, Latinos, and Asians a greater chance to win representation on the board.

By Louise Armstrong

Labor and community organizations are working for passage of Proposition N, to restore district elections.

Lousie Goodman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for the board of supervisors, is campaigning for a “yes” vote on the proposition.

“Vis a vis,” Goodman, a railroad worker, declared, “is the rights of Blacks, Latinos, and Asians to full participation in this society.”

Election by districts was the practice here for the past several years. But last August, a campaign orchestrated by big business overturned such elections by a narrow margin of 1,600 votes. Contributions to the reactionary campaign included major capitalist forces like the Bank of America, Southern Pacific Railroad, and Pacific Telephone.

A battle by civil rights groups, Chicanos, the San Francisco Labor Council, and others had established district elections in 1976. Although district lines were gerrymandered, the process did result in five of the city’s eleven districts being comprised in their majority of Blacks, Latinos, and Asians.

Prior to district elections, there had been only one Black and one Chinese supervisor; both appointed to fill vacancies.

Since the 1976 victory, two Black women, one Latino and one Asian, have been elected to the board.

“Under the old, at-large system, the big banks and realtors, the developers, the money brokers called the shots. They had it pretty much their way. District elections upset the scheme, sent power out of the hands of working people, to minorities,” reported John Crowley, San Francisco Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer in the October 10 Northern California Labor.

Joseph Hall, NAACP northern area conference president, told the Militant, “There is no question about the gains made by the black community with district elections.”

“Yes on N” editorials have appeared in the San Francisco Black news weekly the Sun-Reporter.

Socialist Louise Goodman pointed out, “Official population estimates of San Francisco for 1980 show that the city is now in its majority Black, Latino, and Asian. The rich who operate N are hobnobbing with the rich.”

“Attacks on the rights of Blacks and Latinos are growing. Police brutality in the Mission District is constantly in the news. The question of dominance is part of these attacks,” she added.

“Working people have a big stake in the defense of past gains made by these communities. I urge a yes vote on Proposition N—yes for democratic rights for Blacks, Latinos, and Asians.”
By Andy Rose

PHOENIX—"I feel like I've come home." That's how Sally Mitchell, an activist for ten years in the Arizona Democratic Party, described her decision to "resign all affiliation" with the Democrats and instead back the Socialist Workers Party candidates in Arizona and nationally.

Mitchell, thirty-four, is former District 26 Demo­ cratic chairperson. She was state executive secre­tary of the party in 1978. She worked on campaigns for, among others, Gov. Bruce Babbitt, U.S. Sen. Dennis DeConcini, and William Schulz, Democratic candidate for the Senate seat now held by Barry Goldwater.

Mitchell announced her switch at a news confer­ence on October 18. She told the Socialist Workers campaign rally here, at which vice-presidential candidate Matilde Zimmermann was featured speaker. In a discussion with Zimmermann and me afterwards, Mitchell described what changed her mind.

"I was brought up in a Democratic household. All my family are Democrats and naturally I was too. I was always told that the Democrats were the party of the people, totally opposite from the Republicans.

"I believed that and I worked very hard to promote that image myself," she said.

"Beginning of the end"

"The beginning of the end was my involvement in the women's movement back in the early 1970s. Women in the Democratic Party were still given the role of stuffing envelopes—making coffee and not policy."

"The further we got into the women's movement the harder it was to work within the confines of the Democratic Party.

"We got no support from the leading Democrats. They would tell us privately, yes, we're for women's rights and we think you ladies are equal to us. But they wouldn't go out publicly. They wouldn't march with us. They wouldn't stand on the floor of the Arizona legislature that something be done to help women."

Mitchell told of an incident at a state Democratic convention when she was speaking on the Equal Rights Amendment.

"The wife of the former state party chairman came up and grabbed me by the shoulders at the podium in front of the whole convention and shook me and told me I was trying to divide the Demo­ cratic Party over the ERA."

"We asked what she would say to those who point to the pro-ERA and abortion rights planks in the Democratic platform as proof that women can achieve success within that party.

"I would say that talk is cheap," she replied without hesitation. "The Democratic Party has always talked of support for civil rights, women's rights, blue-collar rights. But we've had a Demo­

Mitchell and others organized a demonstration to protest U.S. war threats and a forum to get out the truth about Iran. These activities also brought her in contact with the Young Socialist Alliance.

Mitchell has a seventeen-year-old daughter and fourteen-year-old son. "I don't want to see either of them go to war," she told us. I have no doubt that my daughter won't. She told me she just didn't think she would look good in uniform.

Party of labor?

Mitchell came from a union family and has worked at low-wage jobs ever since she moved to Arizona. So she is keenly aware of the intimidating effect of the state's "right to work" law.

"Time to make a statement"

PHOENIX—Sally Mitchell's decision to leave the Democratic Party and back the Socialist Workers Party candidates attracted the attention of news media here.

The October 9 Phoenix Gazette quoted her as saying it "is time to make a statement. I just see things getting worse.

"After much frustration and an ever-increas­ ing concern for our country, I now realize there really is no difference between Republicans and Democrats except the degree of dishonesty. Demo­ crats are quick on lip service but have yet to do anything concrete as far as gaining equality for all."

The October 10 Arizona Daily Wildcat re­ported: "Mitchell said she was not only disen­chanted with the Democrats in this state but also with the entire political process in the country.'

Once when working as a bank teller, she said, "I tried to talk to other tellers about organizing a union. This just wasn't done. A memo was sent around by the president of the bank that any talk of union would be put to a halt."

The Democratic Party's county conventions "were always held in a union hall in Phoenix," she recalled. "And we always had this facade of being the working people's party, the party for minorities."

Mitchell mentioned the fact that representation from South Phoenix [an impoverished Chicano and Black area] was lacking, if you asked how we could possibly be a Democratic Party in this state and not fight against 'right to work'—it just didn't happen."

She pointed to the irony of Democrats scrambling to win union priors in this state. They wouldn't have a union label, yet refusing to organize to get rid of "right to work" so that more shops might be organized.

And, she added, the Democrats "right along with the Republicans encourage corporations like Motor­ ols and IBM and Greyhound to come here because of the climate. We're told that means the sunshine, but it really means the anti-union climate.

"If we had a labor party in this state we could do a lot with right to work. But we're in a situation of farm workers sleeping on sheets of plastic under the trees, having no food and no money, and being rounded up every ten weeks or so and shipped across the border."

"We wouldn't have bilingual teachers going out­side when so many children here need bilingual education.

"People would have someplace to go when they don't have adequate medical care or because they're treated like the scum of the earth for applying for food stamps. Now there's no place to go."

"We are very serious"

Mitchell believes that Democratic senatorial no­minees William Schulz is "personally a nice man. But what Josefin Otero [SWP candidate for Se­ nate] said at the rally tonight is true. Schulz has criticized Barry Goldwater for his hawk positions, or for his statements that it's OK for war to be fought but he'd better have a pot in the kitchen making dinner when I get home."

"Goldwater says these things in public and Schu­lz doesn't say anything, thus obviously avoids of upsetting the big money here. So I welcome the opportunity to go public and say I may like him personally but it's no reason to support him."

Some of Mitchell's former associates in the Demo­ cratic Party have been "very upset with me," she acknowledged. They charge she is being "used" by the SWP.

Mitchell pointed out first that this is an insult to her intelligence and second that the truth is just the opposite. "I was used by the Democratic Party."

She chose to make a public statement of her support to the socialist candidates, she explained, because "people are upset and frustrated. They don't know what to do. And they don't think they have an alternative. They can't comprehend that someone like Andrew Pulley or you could be seri­ously campaigning. I want them to know that we are very serious about it." When Mitchell tried to fight for what she thought was right inside the Democratic Party, she was "continually told to be quiet, don't make waves, don't meet this person or that person." She's a Democrat in this state who is isolated from the others.

One of the things she likes best about the Social­ ist Workers Party, she said, is that "it doesn't matter what your income is, your education, your sex, or your race. You are welcomed and you are encouraged. And no one tells you that you shouldn't ask questions."
Arizona candidates debate

Socialist slams Goldwater on abortion

By Andy Rose

PHOENIX—Arizona Socialist Worker candidates ripped into their Demo­cratic, Republican, and Libertarian opposites at a candidates' forum here October 23.

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters and local news media, the event gave Josefina Otero, SWP candidate for Senate, a chance to debate face to face against Barry Goldwater, the archconservative Republican incumbent, as well as Democrat William Schulz, Libertarian Fred Esser, and Lorenzo Torres of the Communist Party. (Torres is running a write-in campaign under the ballot label "Peo­ple Before Profits.")

The forum also included candidates for Arizona's four congressional seats. Rob Roper, Socialist Workers candi­date for the First District, was up against incumbent Republican John Rhodes, the House minority leader, and Libertarian Irene Leitch. The candidates was on abortion, directed to the failure against Barry Goldwater, the archcon­servative Republican incum­bent. They also demanded amnesty for the Salvadoran refugees who made head­lines last summer when thirteen died in the Arizona desert fleeing repression and violence in their country. Now the Carter administration is trying to de­port the survivors of that atrocity.

"Undocumented workers do not cause unemployment in this country," Otero said. "It's the big corporations and the policies of the Democrats and Republicans that cause unemploy­ment."

She condemned Goldwater's stand for beefing up the border patrol and pointed out that Arizona and most of the Southwest used to be Mexican territory. "Mexicanos were here even before Mr. Goldwater."

Otero also declared her support for striking farm workers at Fletcher Farms in El Mirage, most of whom are undocumented. She challenged Schulz—a million­aire Phoenix landlord—to provide the farm workers blankets and mattresses from his apartment complexes. The strikers have been sleeping on the roadsides next to the fields with no shelter at all.

Esser said he too favored "open immi­gration.

Goldwater professed to be in "sub­stantial agreement" and praised the immigration of workers who built up this country. The Republican said he was for easing restrictions on immigration, although after the debate he admitted he meant through a "bracero" program where Mexican workers are brought in at substandard wages with no union rights.

Schauf said immigration could not be stopped without equalizing incomes between Mexican and American workers.

Notably absent from the response by Torres of the Communist Party was any endorsement of an open-border policy. Instead he said there should be a "bill of rights" for undocumented workers, in effect giving the workers a way to chart their own course, so that everybody knows. He didn't say what those rights should be.

Ingenuity

The reporters' questions avoided all big questions of foreign policy, the economy, and civil rights. It took con­siderable ingenuity by the SWP candi­dates to bring major issues into the brief responses they were al­lowed.

A question on Rhodes about why Arizona had lost a particular solar energy research contract, Roper was able to explain:

"I'm more for funding for solar. Unfortunately Mr. Rhodes and other Democrats and Republicans choose to subsidize the nuclear industry. I think nuclear power is too dangerous. It should be shut down immediately.

"In the short term we can convert these people to coal-firing plants. Coal can be burned in a non-polluting way and we have enough coal in this coun­try to last 300 years or more. We can develop solar and other methods for the future."

Another question dealt with flood control in Phoenix, where every heavy rain inundates impoverished areas.

Roper stated his opposition to Orme Dam, which would "flood most of the Indians' land on 300 acres. We've taken away their whole country and now we want to take away what little they have.

"There are alternatives," Roper said. "We can channel the river. We can build bridges across the Salt River.

"But we're going to have to change the way federal funding is done in this country." He called for scrapping the war budget and using it for human needs such as bridges and flood control.

Otero and Roper were also able to get across the SWP's support for nuclear dis­tribution and the draft, for nationalization of the energy industry, for bilingual-bicultural education, for repeal of "right to work" laws, and for taxing the rich instead of working people.

Class difference

What came through most sharply, though, was the class difference be­tween the candidates.

Otero pointed out that as a produc­tion worker at Reynolds Metals and a member of the United Steelworkers, "I know what it is to work for a living in a right-to-work for less state. I know what it is as a woman to not have the ERA.

"To vote for the rich landlords or the bosses—in this case they are both run­
corporations like the Democrats and
99 percent of the population. I don't repre-
called working people-about 99

spoke for just one part of the society

This drew applause from the

himself. And he said with

"Our

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"All of the storage tanks were full at
the reservoir, and several protest signs
that the "accident" occurred to make
money for storage.

Our

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The people of Kernersville are
fighting mad. They are not about to let
their town become the next Love Canal.

But what about the young
people living here.

Douglas Cooper, Socialist Workers
candidate for governor of North Carol-
in, demanded in a campaign state-
ment that the Kernersville reservoir be
kept closed. He pointed out that North Carol-
ina relies on ground water.

PHOENIX—The extreme right-
wing nature of the Libertarian Party came
out clearly in the debate here.

The main pitch of all the Libertari-
анes was that they would cut taxes and spending even more than the most conservative
Democrat and Republican.

In the course of the debate they
openly stated their opposition to Social Security, government aid to the
disabled, public schools, federal funds for solar energy programs,
and government flood control pro-
grams.

Even public highways came in
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The U.S. military was one gov-
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的权利

在核威胁面前...

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would not abolish. They said it

should be "rearranged" to save mo-

money.

Opposition to the draft—which
the Libertarians have used to make
their politics more palatable to youth—was not mentioned by any
of their candidates at this debate.

In contrast to the socialist nomi-
nation, both steelworkers—the Li-
bertarians on the platform included
a lawyer, a bookkeeper, a parolee,
and the owner of a private cop
business.

Socialist senatorial candidate Jo-
sefina Otero blasted the Libertarian
program as "racist, sexist, anti-
union, anti-proletarian people.

But her Democratic opponent
William Schulz praised the Liber-
tarian protesters pointing out that
it makes a real contribution... It puts pressur on the Democrats
and Republicans to recognize these issues.

And on the far right...

North Carolina town fights own 'Love Canal'

By Greg McCartan
KERNERSVILLE, N.C.—Residents of
this town think it could be the next
Love Canal, and they have good rea-
son.

Kernersville's aldermen voted on
October 6 to return to using a nearby
reservoir—contaminated in 1979 by
30,000 gallons of highly toxic chem-
icals—as the primary source of water
for the 6,000 people living here.

Residents immediately protested.
Within one day of the aldermen's deci-
sion, townspeople had collected 966
signatures to accompany a temporary
restraining order on the reopening of
the reservoir. Picket lines were set up
from the town hall, as well as in front
of the aldermen's houses.

The picketers were eager to talk
without fear about their cause. Robert
Stamper, one of the coordinators of
this idea, he cited the million-member
union, and antipeople.

The night of the spill, 1,000 people
in a two and one-half mile area had to be
evacuated because of the overpowering
odor.

"All of the fish in the lake died,
"Stamper, "as well as frogs.

The town then switched to Winston
water, although the aldermen thought
to go out and drink that water the
next day, with all the fish dead.

So did the Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

Twenty-five chemicals have been
identified as part of the spill, and at
least three remain unidentified.

The soil around the lake has never
been tested, and the lake's water has
been checked only to a depth of two
feet.

Stamper explained the problem
with this kind of testing. "The
chemicals are heavier than water—they
sink to the bottom. Our group is saying
to the EPA, "Don't look at the bottom.
How deep did you go?"

Claiming the clean-up operations
have not been thorough, the EPA has
given the go-ahead to the aldermen
to return to using the reservoir.

But Kernersville residents are oppos-
ing this move because they know
the water is lethal. "We tell them (the
aldermen) that if we are wrong we've
just wasted some time. But if you are
wrong, it could be a disaster," said
one picketer.

Last June, while the dump site
was being cleaned up, a seventeen-year-old
worker was killed. He was sitting
near where the drums that had held
these chemicals were being burned.

Some sludge at the bottom of one drum
soured out and hit Dudley C. Roberts
on his arm. He was dead in three
minutes of phenol poisoning.

Phenol, the most toxic chemical
decidedly identified in the spill, can be ab-
summarized through the skin and accumu-
lates in the body.

The EPA says that a charcoal filter
won't remove the chemicals from the
water, but the Kernersville treatment
plant does not have a charcoal filter.

While Kernersville officials claim
the least three chemicals remain unidenti-
fied, how does the EPA know that a
filter will remove them?

John Blaton explained that the treat-
ment plant has no back sludge

system—which means the filtered
material, including the chemicals, go right back into the lake.

Residents are very skeptical about
the EPA. They know of other cases
around the country where buildings
were lien to by the government and indu-
sory. As one sign put it, "Don't make us
the next Love Canal.

An older man explained, "The EPA
has been totally irresponsible. They
haven't done anything for older men.
I doubt if this stuff would get me.

But what about the young people?"

John Blaton explained that pits
be lined with either concrete, clay,
rubber or plastic. The Kernersville pit
is located on the water shed to the
reservoir. Any leakage will affect the
ground water used for drinking in the
general area and beyond, as the water
travels in underground streams. Some
99 percent of the rural population
and 60 percent of the urban population
in the state relies on ground water.

Unfortunately, the danger at Ker-
ersville is not an isolated situation. A
recent state report outlined the danger
from chemical dumps around the state.
The report found that 197 out of
683 dump sites, or 29 percent, pose a
severe threat for ground water contami-
nation.

The people of Kernersville are fight-
ing mad. They are not about to let their
town become the next Love Canal. But
they are finding little sympathy from
local, state or federal officials.

"We wired the governor, the White
House, and talked with our congressman,"
said Stamper. "They said that it is election year and I can't take

Douglas Cooper, Socialist Workers
candidate for governor of North Carol-
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What are the dangers of nuclear
radiation? What caused the Three
Mile Island nuclear accident? What
are the alternatives to nuclear
power? This pamphlet answers
these and other questions about
the problems and dangers for nuclear
power. Also included is a statement
"John Blaton, with his baby in the
Nuclear Power" by Andrew Pulley, Socialist
Workers Party candidate for presi-
dent.
40 pp., $95 Order from Pathfinder Press, 410
West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Enclose $7.50 for postage.

On the nuclear peril
By Duncan Williams

As of October 27, $60,000 has been collected in the fall 1980 Socialist Workers campaign fund drive. Important contributions yet to be sent in are the pledges made at local rallies held for Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann this fall.

These pledges, along with outstanding pledges from the national SWP campaign rally last August and donations from Militant readers and other supporters, must be paid in the next week to ensure the success of the fund drive.

The money collected thus far has gone to print hundreds of thousands of campaign brochures and to finance the tours of Pulley and Zimmermann. The success of those tours has been duplicated by the experiences of the dozens of socialist workers running as candidates in state and local elections.

Like Patricia Mayberry, a rail worker and SWP candidate for Congress in New York's Twenty-eighth District, Peter Thierjung of the SWP branch in Schenectady writes: “Over the last few weeks about a dozen rail workers and electrical workers have stepped by the campaign office, which is right next to a loading that has railroad tracks running past us. We put up a sign in the window facing the railroad tracks which says 'PUT A RAIL WORKER IN CONGRESS, VOTE FOR PAT MAYBERRY.'

"So the other day the train came by, the workers brought it to a halt, and they jumped out to come up to the office to see Pat. Nearly every day now they come by and someone will wave at us or ring the bell on the engine."

Harold Sudmeyer, another rail worker, is running for Congress from Colorado's First District. "There's a lot more to politics than voting in elections," he told a reporter for the Rocky Mountain News. The article continued: "He cited Socialist Workers Party activism in opposing the Vietnam War, backing the Equal Rights Amendment, supporting workers on strike, opposing nuclear power and pushing for the closure of Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant.

"A national labor party working 365 days a year on these issues, he said, 'would give them a massive boost.'"

Sudmeyer and SWP senatorial candidate Silvia Zapata have received wide news coverage in their campaigns.

Bella Ettlinger, a laid-off member of United Steelworkers of America Local 1014 in Gary is the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Indiana. In September she and several supporters went to Lafayette, Indiana, to join 1,000 people in a protest of twoKKK-style cross-burnings on the campus of Purdue University.

She has toured around the state, stopping at Muncie, Terre Haute, Anderson, and Kokomo. In the last city, she participated in a picket line at the unemployment center. Several women, laid off from their jobs, were demanding an end to the bureaucratic red tape and arrogance they had suffered in the unemployment office.

Ettlinger got the best response to the demand to "open the books" of the unemployment office. "That's what we need, some control!" one woman said. Often unemployment officials had claimed that forms were incomplete or files mislaid to deny the beneficiaries their benefits.

Sharon Grant is the only candidate opposing Republican incumbent Paul Trible in Virginia's First Congressional District. A shipyard worker in Norfolk, she traveled up to Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, last weekend to congratulate the J.P. Stevens workers there on their recent union organizing victory. Her campaign was also featured on a half-hour program on the local educational television station.

Another steelworker candidate temporarily out of work is Linda Mohracher of Pittsburgh, running for U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania. In an interview with the Philadelphia Tribune, the major Black paper in Pennsylvania, she focused her remarks on foreign policy:

"The Pentagon isn't there to defend Black people or anyone else. It only defends the interests of major corporations. I don't think any money should be spent by the Pentagon."

The interviewer noted that "Ms. Mohracher feels that foreign policy should be drastically altered, also. She wants the United States to support the efforts for majority rule in South Africa. She says that U.S. aid and trade with that country should cease totally until it is once again ruled by the Black majority. She also defends the right of Cuban troops to fight against the South African troops to advance those efforts."

Your contributions have made it possible to run campaigns like those described above. But funds are still needed, especially to meet our final expenses. So if you've already given, please give again as generously as possible. And if you haven't contributed yet, it's not too late.

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Socialist Workers $75,000 Fund Drive

$10,000 $20,000 $30,000 $40,000 $50,000 $60,000 $70,000 $75,000

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ELECTION RALLIES

Hear Pulley and Zimmermann live Nov. 4 over national telephone hook-up

Socialist Workers campaign committees across the country will host election-night rallies and celebrations. Andrew Pulley, in Chicago, and Matilde Zimmermann, in New York, will address the rallies via a national telephone hook-up. For information on the election-night gathering in your area, call the Socialist Workers campaign headquarters listed on page 27.

Andrew Pulley

will speak at 9:10 p.m. CST from Chicago at 434. S. Wabash, Room 700.

Matilde Zimmermann

will speak at 10 p.m. EST from New York at 108 E. 16th St.
Facts uncovered on Buffalo Klan-Nazi activity

By Osborne Hart

Mayor John R. Lapham of Buffalo's Black community believe the person or persons responsible for the murders of six Black men, found hanging in a locker room at the University of Buffalo, are members of the Ku Klux Klan or Nazi involvement with the murders.

District Attorney Edward Coagrove, a former FBI agent who is in charge of the overall investigation, concedes the possibility, but is quick to deny the existence of the Klan or Nazis in the Buffalo area.

Mayor James Griffin, interviewed on the ABC news show "Nightline," said the likelihood that an organized racist group is responsible for the murders.

The evidence, however, supports the contentions of the Black community.

There were two cross burnings during the period of the slayings.

On October 13, a cow's heart was found hanging in a locker room at the Lackawanna plant of Bethlehem Steel Corporation.

A note attached to the heart, which read, "Ku Klux Klan or Nazis," was found alongside several other incriminating items.

On October 16, a cow's heart was found in a locker room at the Buffalo police department.

A note attached to the heart read, "Ku Klux Klan or Nazis." This was in obvious reference to the two victims, who had been heartless.

And during the 1977 mayoral campaign, Mayor James Griffin was enrolled by the Ku Klux Klan.

A local newspaper, the Buffalo News, published a student journalist collective that serves the University of Buffalo and State University of New York at Buffalo campuses, is featuring a series on Klan and other right-wing activity in the city.

An article entitled, "Klan Alive and Active in Buffalo," in the October 16 issue, reveals some interesting facts.

The Press reports: "Despite District Attorney Coagrove's statement in The Buffalo Evening Times that there are no no-Klan or Nazi groups operating in Buffalo, both groups exist but they have formed an organization called the C.R. (Council of Revolution). The CR was formed as a union organization comprised of representatives from the four national Ku Klux Klan organizations and various Nazi groups.

One product of this union was the formation of the White Unity Party (W.U.P.), a neo-Nazi organization that ran Wayne Whiteside, the local Knights of the KKK, for mayor of Buffalo. . . . Money was raised for the W.U.P. at a benefit held three years ago at the Paderewski Drive American Legion Hall, the same hall where the State University of New York at Buffalo, University Police held their benefit three years ago.

"Sources close to the Alternative News Collective have alleged that the Klan was allowed to operate with immunity in the community as late as January 16 as well as being protected by the police from December 16. When Karl Hand, Jr., a major national Klan figure, was arrested for shooting a black youth, police from precinct 16 crossed into precinct 16 to make the arrest because police from precinct 16 would not make the arrest.

"Buffalo police detective Gerald Cronin who was working on the case was a local Klan activist. Charges against Hand were later dropped and the Buffalo police apologized for the mistake, no suspect was ever arrested."

The Press also reports that Buffalo is a center for a number of Klan publications: "Buffalo also served as the headquarters of the Shield and Eagles, a national Nazi/Klan publication which serves as the white supremacist movement's main vehicle of distribution. The Shield and Eagles, which was printed locally, was distributed nationwide. Also printed locally is the Party, the monthly newsletter of the Western New York Klan Youth Corps. The Klan claims that the youth corps has been very successful in recruiting from local High Schools, especially in the Niagara Falls area. . . . Money was raised for the Shield and Eagles publication through a series on Klan and other right-wing activity in the city."

Come to the Young Socialist Alliance National Convention

The Young Socialist Alliance Twentieth National Convention will be held December 27-30 at the Hilton Inn, Monument Circle, in Indianapolis.

Registration will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 26. The registration fee is $13, or $5 for high school students and unemployed.

Rooms at the hotel range from $8.50 to $30.00 per night for each person. Inexpensive housing will also be available.

For information on transportation or other convention arrangements, or for materials to publicize the convention in your area, write or call.

YSA, P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station, New York, New York 10003, telephone (212) 989-7570, or YSA, 4850 North College, Indianapolis, Indiana 46205, telephone (317) 283-6149.

Latino youth in San Francisco blast cops

By Steven Dornbusch

SAN FRANCISCO—Angry Latino youth demonstrated here October 13. Their immediate grievance is police harassment of "lowriders." Designing their own low-rider cars is a very popular activity among Latino youth here.

The demonstration protested the shutting off of the "Lot," which had been a central gathering place for lowriders and other youth. But the anger spilled over on to other issues as well.

As more than a hundred youth marched through the mainly Latino Mission District, they chanted, "We want the Lot!"

"Stop police brutality!"

"Hell no, We won't go!"

"We want more jobs!"

"We want to own our place!"

Most of the protesters were in their teens, a few even younger. They wore jackets with various lowrider club emblems, and there were flags from different Latin American countries, including Cuba.

They marched from the Mission to the city's new $40 million Opera House.

One demonstrator explained, "The Lot used to be open to us. They shut it off. First they wrote tickets. Then they put nails and tacks down. Then barri-cades."

Jeanette Leoner, vice-president of City Sweats, a women's car and social club, explained why they went to the Opera House.

"Our main purpose," she said, "is to open the Lot. . . . We feel injustice comes in when there's a $40 million Opera House and no money over here for our place."

Ricardo Diaz de Leon is a leader of the Mission Community Alliance, which called the protest, and also a member of La Raza Unida Party. He told the Militant, "We want to say that Raza people should govern themselves. We want self-determination."

"Lalo," fifteen, said he came to the march to protest police brutality and harassment . . . If you're dressed as a 'cholo' or a 'pachuco,' especially if you're in a group, they pick you up."

Another fellow, seventeen, told his own recent experience. Police, he said, "grabbed my hair and punched me. . . . They took me in an alley and punched my ribs. He showed handcuff marks clearly imprinted on his wrists. They were six weeks old."

While this reporter was talking to demonstrators, the cops arrested a Black man nearby. They didn't tell him anything, but simply yanked him by the arm.

"It underlined the protesters' point about the cops. . . . They shut it off. First they write tickets. Then they put nails and tacks down. Then barricades."

Can women fight Reaganism by backing Carter?

By Suzanne Haig

Betty Friedan and New York liberal leaders announced on the National Organization for Women announced their endorsement of President Carter at a news conference October 25. Joining them were Joyce Miller, president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women; Jewel Jackson McCabe, president of the Coalition of 100 Black Women; and others.

They promised to mobilize their constituencies to vote for Carter.

"We believe it is critical for Ronald Reagan to be defeated," is the way New York NOW President Kathe Rauch explained the move. "We do not have the luxury of protest votes."


In comparison, speakers said that Carter was now promising to make the campaign for ratification of the ERA a "top priority" and to "commit the full resources of the White House and the entire Carter administration to the effort."

But what's that he said in 1976?

He promised to give women three more state ratifications if the women's movement would get the fourth to make the total thirty-eight states needed for ERA's passage.

But what happened? Women met with betrayal, defection, and backstabbing in state after state.

Moreover, every year since Carter has been in office, including this year, Congress has voted to restrict federal funding for abortions. Under Carter, federal medical abortion services have been cut from an estimated 300,000 in 1976 to 2,421 in 1982.

Carter's support for registering women and men for the draft, his endorsement of nuclear power, and rising unemployment and inflation have rightly earned him the enmity of millions of women.

Helping to reelect Carter will not take away the threat of what Reagan stands for. It will only disarm the women's movement at the very time when we need a strategy to stem the attacks against us and drive the fight for equality forward.
Among the guests invited by the Sandinista Workers Federation to attend the celebrations of the first anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution July 19 was the Brazilian workers leader Luis Inácio da Silva better known as "Lula".

Lula heads an important layer of working-class leaders who have been instrumental in the powerful strikes and mobilizations of metal-workers in the industrial suburbs of São Paulo during the past few years. An independent working-class Workers' Party (PT), has emerged out of these and other struggles. Lula is the president of the PT.

The following interview with Lula about his visit to Nicaragua appeared in the August 23 issue of the São Paulo newspaper 'Em Tempo'; it was conducted by Flavio Andrade and Marcelo Zagadi. The translation is by 'Intercontinental Press'.

Question. What is your overall impression of Nicaragua after one year of the Sandinista revolution?

Answer. Magnificent. When I left Nicaragua I told the compañeros we should spend about three days without talking to anybody, just reflecting, before coming back to Brazil. What we saw there was a really different world—the people's participation, their happiness, the extent of interclass democracy—in a country fully in power. What is unfolding in the country can become a new political model for Latin America. The joy in children's faces, the willingness to rebuild the country, the desire of the trade unions to establish effective unions, the literacy plan that is under way, the agrarian reform—all this shows how certain the people are that they are building something for themselves.

Every sector participates in all the plans and projects of the society; they don't involve the government alone. Contrary to what certain people here in this country think—that popular participation in such affairs is more advantageous than discussing whether the country is moving toward socialism or not. Nicaragua is now going to provide an example of how popular participation alone can assure a successful government.

Q. Did you have any contact with the Nicaraguan armed forces? What impression did you get of their discipline and democracy?

A. The military aspect also made a great impression on us—not a difference or distinction could be seen between the army and the people or between the police and the people. On the contrary, the army and militias are the people themselves. For example, in the streets, the popular festivals organized by the Sandinista Workers Federation, in the neighborhoods, it is common to see soldiers, armed youths with machine guns on their shoulders, dancing normally with civilians as if they were not soldiers at all.

There is mutual respect between the people and the authorities. Just to give an example, all the people relate to each other as compañeros. A minister of foreign affairs calls the janitor of a building in the presidential palace, and the janitor does the same with the foreign minister.

Q. What was the extent of mobilization you saw during the activities on the first anniversary of the revolution?

A. It was astonishing: in a country of just 2.5 million inhabitants, half a million—practically one million—of the country—were in the plaza the day of the celebration. That is not an easy thing to imagine, it was all because of the close relationship between the government Junta, the union federation, and the people.

Q. What did you think of Fidel Castro's speech? It was said in the press here that the Cuban leader's presentation was very moderate.

A. The Cuban leader impressed me greatly. The ultralefts think he was very moderate; those on the right think he was extremist. But I think his speech was just right. Because Fidel didn't have to prove to anybody that he is a revolutionary—that is already clear to everyone. What was necessary was to have the right kind of call for aid to Nicaragua. And that was what he did.

His charisma is fabulous. Really, he was like the host of the festival—everybody expected him to be the central figure of the day. The people were anxious to see the legendary Fidel up close.

Q. What about the economy, and the situation of the cities under reconstruction?

A. Managua today is a city destroyed by war. Now, as part of the postwar reconstruction, they will plant gardens on the barren lands that the city has because of earthquakes. I hope this will soon make Managua the city with the most gardens in the world.

As for the economy, the situation is more advantageous than that of Cuba. Nicaragua is not tied to one-crop agriculture. They have various options and now they are also discovering gold in great quantities in the country. So I think they will have more latitude.

Q. Did you visit any factories under workers control?

A. Yes, I visited two factories administered by the workers, a metal factory and a food enterprise. It would be quite important for someone from the Brazilian government or some businessman to visit these factories as well. They would see first that the working class having the means of production is not a bad thing for the country. In the metal factory, for example, the workers were soon producing 40 percent more than the output of the most productive period in previous times. In addition, the perspective of the workers in this factory is clear: they do not want what belongs to the owner or the business's capital. What they really want is to gain what is just, what they actually produce. I think this is fundamental in order to debunk the myth that there is a dictatorship of the proletariat in Nicaragua; the Nicaraguan people are a long way from that. They could change, however, depending on what attitude the capitalist class takes. I think that the capitalists will have to learn to coexist, obtaining profits but permitting the working class to at least win what is just.

Q. Going on to a brief question, but one that is also broader and more general, do you think socialism is on the order of the day in Nicaragua?

A. Look, I think it is rather premature for people from outside to be talking about this. Leaving aside what each member of the junta or each trade union leader thinks, I believe there is something much more important than discussing whether the country is moving toward socialism or not. I think it is a question of time. It will depend on what happens in Nicaragua in the next few years.

Every leader in Nicaragua could have socialism in mind. But they are leaving that for a second phase, so that the people themselves can discover through their own struggles what model is best. The leaders have put in place first the organization of the people, the recovery of the country. Later the people will decide what is the best kind of society for the country. And I think that is the important thing—they want to advance by means particular, a third way that you would agree with?

A. No, that's not it. I suppose that if the workers think that way it is precisely because of the short time the revolution has been going on in the country. I think they areconscious that capitalism could return to Nicaragua—not to imply that capitalism has already been finished off there—but I also think they are passing through an apprenticeship. I sincerely cannot say what is best for them. But I am sure of one thing—there will never again be a regime like the one here in Brazil or like the one at Somoz's time. But whether or not there is some other alternative, I prefer to rely on the creativity of the Nicaraguan people.

Q. Do you see more similarities than differences between the Nicaraguan process and the process that took place in Cuba?

"Nicaragua can for all Latin America" Interview with Brazilian Worker

Left to right, literacy brigadista at se ceremonies for FSLN leader Carlos vegetable seller 11, 1979; member of Nicaraguan AMPRONAC, sign reads 'worn struggle'; literacy training in rural area
A. I think the differences could be said to result from different moments in history. There is one common aspect between what is happening in Nicaragua and what happened in Cuba—the people are in power. For me, that is a great similarity. If in Cuba, the people are represented by Fidel and in Nicaragua by a Front, those are secondary differences. What is important is to know that the people are governing their own country.

Q. At the beginning of the interview you were talking about a new model for the entire continent that is being demonstrated by the Sandinistas. Could that model be summed up by saying, the people in power?

A. I would not say that is the way forward for the continent as a whole. Look, by saying "the people in power," what we mean is the working class.

Q. Let's finish up this point. Both processes involve—to use the term we've been using here—the people coming to power. In Nicaragua and Cuba this took place through violent, armed revolution, liquidating in a radical way the violence imposed for centuries by the dominant classes on those dominated. You say the message "the people for the entire continent that is being collectively represented by Fidel and in Nicaragua the Sandinistas Front has the wisdom to advance according to the gains of the people themselves. Because it isn't enough to have power, it is necessary to know what to do with it.

Q. Did you perceive any disagreement, conflict, or clash between the mass organizations and the Sandinista Front that could serve as a point of support for an eventual imperialist intervention?

A. No, there is a perfect link-up. They have achieved the unification of something much more serious and important; that's why the Nicaraguan people are so calm. There does in fact exist the danger of an imperialist intervention, since the local bourgeoisie has no armed forces at its disposal. There are those who say, for example, that if Reagan wins in the United States, this danger would be still more immediate. My personal opinion is that any stupid action by the United States would cause Nicaragua to ally with Russia, Cuba, or some other socialist country.

Q. You said you met people in Nicaragua from other countries who are interested in building parties like the PT. Could you tell us something about these contacts?

A. This was quite a surprise for me. I met compañeros from Mexico who told me that in their country they were discussing the need to organize the workers in their own political party, the need for a party of the workers. And they told me they also knew people in the United States that had the same idea. So, I think it's important to discuss these ideas more thoroughly, to see what can be done about common initiatives.

Q. After this trip through Latin America, what seems to you to be the central question facing the workers of the continent today?

A. What the PT expects and wants for the workers of the continent is that they organize themselves in a political party of their own. This has to be a party that unifies the workers massively, beyond the ideological positions of any group.

It is fundamental that the people begin to organize politically on the basis of their grass-roots organizations. The time has come to stop being slaves. What is lacking is organization.

There is a very old and hackneyed phrase, "Workers of the world, unite." It is necessary to put it into practice, to do the organizational work so that such unity can exist. And this goes for the workers of the poorest imperialist country, the United States, as well.

There is one thing that is important—pacifism. It always fails to the workers to express pacifism. For the bosses there is no commitment to be a pacifist. If there were, there wouldn't be so many exploiters as there are today. For the owner of Ford it's the same thing to make money in the United States, in Brazil, in Russia, and so on. What interests them is making money, it doesn't matter where.

The problems of the North American workers are the same as ours. Even though they live in a different country, more democratic than ours, the problem of racism still exists, the problem of unemployment. In general, the problem there is also that it is the exploiters who are in power. If it is true that the United States is democratic today, I think it could be much more democratic if the workers had someone to vote for and did not have to vote for the bosses as they have been doing.

We have to be conscious that the workers' problems are the same throughout the world. That is very important that the workers understand that their well-being is linked to the well-being of the American people, or of the German people, is now based on the poverty that is based on the people of Africa, of Latin America. So I think that if the workers were in power in all countries, there would not be such misery in the world as there is today. That is why I think that the North American workers also need to begin to discuss their political organization instead of serving as mere instruments of the bourgeois parties.

From Intercontinental Press

THE MILITANT/NOVEMBER 7, 1980

15
Puerto Rico union leader runs for Gov.

The following is taken from an article in the October 20 issue of 'Perspectiva Mundial,' the Spanish-language sister publication of the 'Militant.'

By Richard Ariza

General elections will be held in Puerto Rico on November 4. These elections will not solve the problems faced by the Puerto Rican people. Nonetheless, election campaigns there serve as a forum for discussions of politics and the future of Puerto Rico.

At the center of the debate is the question of Puerto Rico's status in relation to the United States. Since 1898 the island has been a U.S. colony in the classic sense—one country ruled by another. It is a nation that cannot make its own laws, decide its own foreign relations, or control its own economic life; a nation that must struggle to preserve its culture.

Because of the current revolutionary upsurge in Central America and the Caribbean, Puerto Rico is taking on special importance for Yankee imperialism. It serves as a base for nuclear weapons and military forces. Thirteen percent of Puerto Rican national territory has been converted into an imperialist fortress, occupied by U.S. military bases. The forces that helped to overthrow the democratically elected Arbenz government in Guatemala in 1954 departed from these bases, as did the marines that invaded Santo Domingo in 1965. Today soldiers are being trained in Puerto Rico for a possible invasion of Cuba.

Puerto Rico is a colony of the richest country in the world. It suffers unemployment and inflation as percent and unemployment of nearly 20 percent. While the PDP calls for maintaining the island's current status as a "Free Associated State"—that is, a colony, the Puerto Rican independence movement is repressive in the elections by the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) and the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP).

The PSP and its candidate for governor, Rubén Berrios, consider the colonial relationship with the United States to be the root of all the island's problems. The PSP opposes both the colonial regime and the capitalist system. They call for a pro-independence unified front with forces such as the AMWSU and the PSP thinks that independence can only be fully achieved by bringing the working class to power.

The PSP candidate for governor is Luis Lussell. Lussell is a member of the electrical workers union (UTIER). He was in New York September 28 for a campaign fund-raising tour. Among the nearly 200 people who attended the event were independence fighters, representatives of Central American and Caribbean solidarity movements, and activists from several New York trade unions.

I spoke with compañero Lussell briefly.

* * *

Question. What does your campaign mean for the independence movement?

Answer. This is the first time in the political history of Puerto Rico that a worker, a trade-union leader, has ever run for governor.

This is of course part of the Socialist Party's [PSP] conception of the struggle. It allows us to take our message to Puerto Rican workers—particularly to conscious workers who are concerned about the development and the political fate of our people, about the solution of the problem that colonialism and capitalism present for Puerto Rico as the main causes of the poverty the immense majority of our people suffer. In discussions and political debates we socialists raise our proposals with the aim of sowing in the consciousness of each worker, of each unemployed, and of the workers' families, the need to struggle for national sovereignty—for absolute and total independence, without chains that would bind us to anyone, and for the construction of a political system, such as socialism, that can resolve the grave problems that affect humanity and our country above all.

Puerto Ricans have been the victims of eighty-two years of U.S. colonialism, which kept them from considering effective political solutions to their problem. PSP has also prevented them from gaining a true understanding of the meaning of socialism and of independence struggle.

We are sowing in order to reap. Perhaps we will not reap in this decade, but we do not have the least doubt that sooner or later the Puerto Rican workers will govern our own future in a free and socialist homeland.

Q. We know that an independent committee of workers and union leaders has been formed to support your campaign. Can you tell us something about the work of this committee?

A. Yes, there is a broad committee. It is led by and made up of leaders of the most prestigious trade unions, associations, and federations that represent sectors of workers and salaried employees in our country. The committee is headed by a council that includes compañero Félix L. Laureano, president of the Teachers Federation; compañero Hernán Sánchez, president of the Brotherhood of Social Service Workers; and an extraordinary group of outstanding and progressive trade-union leaders.

* * *

While the discussion on the need to present independent workers candidates unfolds in the trade-union movement in the United States, we must pay attention to the campaign of compañero Lussell, Puerto Rican workers leader.

Australian labor: 'Keep uranium in ground'

By Jon Hillson

Seeing first hand the deadly, lingering effects of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the 1940s, a number of Australian trade unionists have been converted into antinuclear fighters. Their journey began in Sydney with the rally of the Australian Metal, Electrical, and Shipwrights Union. Australian labor movement is strongly antinuclear.

August 3 march in Sydney. AMWSU is Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights Union. Australian labor movement is strongly antinuclear.

When Fraser reported that polls showed popular support for a "return of the labor government," the audience cheered.

Having a labor party, Fraser told the Militant, "makes politics a lot clearer, defines them more in class terms. Things are less complicated. In the [United] States, you have to poke around to find who supports working people, if there is anybody at all." A labor party means the working people have more power, he said, "a way to bring their view to bear.

Fraser thought the Pittsburgh conference was "good by any standards." It reminded him of the Australian labor gathering. The union movement there, he noted, "has a tradition of taking stands on social issues."

There was a time, he said, when "the American labor movement was a shining example to us. Creative and militant, like in the '30s with the CIO." Fraser said he thought "the gutsy sort of feeling you get at this conference looks like that kind of spirit is coming back."

Unionists in Australia and the United States have much to learn from each other, he said. "Your ruling class is the same kind as ours. It's highly skilled at confusing things. Wherever there's an exchange of working class opinions, we all gain from it."

His presentation to the conference ended with the rallying cry of the Australian campaign—a labor based campaign—against uranium mining. "Keep it in the ground!" The crowd stood and cheered.

It was a hint of the international labor solidarity that's needed to stop planet-poisoning nuclear power, from Australia's fuel supplying mines to the deadly reactors they supply across the world.

[In the October 18 election in Australia, the Labor Party registered big gains, but failed to unseat the Liberal Party government. Future issues of the Militant will carry more news about the Australian election.]
Workers resist Thatcher's offensive
Why the new militancy in Britain's Labor Party

By Fred Feldman

In reporting on the conference of the British Labor Party that concluded in Blackpool, England, on October 3, the U.S. media formed a virtual doomsday chorus.

It was hard to figure out from their reports just what happened, but it was invariably complained a disaster.

But from the standpoint of working people in Great Britain—and elsewhere—the conference was a big plus.

It marked the rapid growth of working-class militancy in the face of brutal attacks on jobs, real wages, and social services by the Conservative Party government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Program to fight back

Among decisions voted at Blackpool were:

• To campaign for a thirty-five-hour workweek with no loss of pay, and to resist all plant closures.

• To demand a policy of unilateral nuclear disarmament and a massive cut in military spending. This placed the conference firmly on the side of the growing movement against the placement of Cruise missiles in Britain.

• To nationalize important components of British industry, and to renationalize state-owned firms sold by the Conservative (or Tory) government to private owners.

• To withdraw from the European Economic Community, the capitalist Common Market.

• To abolish the House of Lords, the unelected upper chamber of the British Parliament.

The conference also made constitutional changes. Instead of Labor members of parliament being nominated by the parliamentary leadership, they will have to win approval of the Constituency Labor Party in their districts.

And instead of being chosen by Labor members of parliament, the leader of the Labor Party—the chief spokesperson who in the past has also been its nominee for prime minister—is supposed to be chosen by a broader electoral college.

These changes increase the clout of the trade unions and of rank-and-file Labor Party members.

The shift responds to a deepening economic crisis of British capitalism. Unemployment is two million and rising. Inflation slashes savagely at real wages.

The Thatcher government, elected in spring 1979 after five years of Labor Party rule, is pressing anti-union, anti-abortion policies that will really be a socialist government.

The government sought to deal a crushing blow to the steelworkers, as an example to the whole working class. But the steelworkers held firm in a thirteen-week strike early this year and won a 16 percent wage increase. The government’s initial offer was 2 percent.

When waterfront employers threatened to fire 178 dockworkers—guaranteed permanent employment by a 1972 collective-bargaining agreement—two thousand workers held a delegate conference that called for a national strike. The employers backed down.

At Gardner’s, a machine tool plant in Manchester, 2,400 workers have occupied the premises to fight the planned firing of 590 workers.

And the National Union of Marine workers is pressing for a 30 percent wage increase.

Thatcher’s popularity is plummeting—her party ran 11 percent behind Labor in one recent poll—and the Conservative leadership is becoming deeply divided over whether to slow down the pace of its antiblack drive.

About 6,000 trade-union members protested unemployment October 10 outside the Conservative Party’s conference in Brighton.

The growing fightback by British workers shaped the outcome of the Labor Party meeting.

The result was a set of proposed policies, including a core formula that what is being dashed out to workers here by the Republican and Democratic parties.

What is Labor Party?

Unlike the United States, where both big parties are controlled by the corporations, the British workers have an alternative. The Labor Party was founded by and is ultimately based on the powerful and massive organized union movement.

The Labor Party proclaims itself to be socialist, but its program is based on promising to reform the capitalist system piecemeal in the interests of British workers.

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Leader of Labor Party left wing calls for

The September 25 and October 2 issues of the weekly "Socialist Challenge" featured an interview with Tony Benn, the most prominent member of the Labor Party left. The interview, conducted by "Socialist Challenge" writers Pat Kavan and Hugh Richards, sheds further light on the important developments in British politics discussed in the preceding article. Below are excerpts from that interview.

Question: What do you think of the chances of success on the three issues on democracy at the Labour Party conference?

Answer: I'm not in the business of counting the votes. One thing that I'm pretty sure about is that if the delegates who come to the conference—the trade union delegates—had an absolutely free vote themselves on all these issues, there would be overwhelming support for the three changes. I've little doubt about that.

Whatever happens at conference we mustn't get hyped up on Blackpool 1980. The slogan for democratic reform will take a very long time.

Q: What effect do you think this will have on the party?

A: I don't believe institutions of themselves solve problems, because institutions without analysis, or without campaigning or all the rest of it, can become empty vessels.

But if you do have within the Labour Party, a genuine socialist party that has been trying to get out for a long time, then if the institutions are blocked this is never reflected on the parliamentary side, or indeed for the most part. If you can clear the blockage out of the way the party would be what it is, a genuine socialist party.

I've never had any doubt that it does contain the genuine instrument for socialist transformation of the whole country.

That is the way that clear the blockage, but what comes through the pipe depends on whether there is the active end of the party.

Labour Party and unions

Q: Do you support the TUC-Labour Party Liaison Committee?

A: The Liaison Committee was set up in good faith, and it took us 2½ years to set it up. In 1970 the unions didn't want to know the Labour Party, the parliamentary party, after all the things that had happened. Finally, we got it set up in February '72, nearly two years after the election, and I think that the original concept of the Social Contract—the phrase has come to mean wage controls—but the original concept was of a joint programme for transformation of our society by collaboration between the unions and the Labour Party.

There was never any reference to wages in it, and even in the October '72 manifesto there was a phrase which I drafted myself which said that the Social Contract is not solely nor primarily about wages, it is about a change in society.

And the manifesto was ditched and reversed by the Labour government so increasingly we got back to the old scenario, that it was all due to the trade unions, and the thing ended up with a rigid 5 per cent pay norm.

But there is no reason why that should be the case. As Bob Wright¹ said, people would make all sorts of sacrifices for socialism but not for our present social structure. I think that's quite right.

It's a pity the term Social Contract has been lost because in its original formulation it was absolutely correct. It is an essential element for another Labour government in its work of transformation.

Q: There's a move to democracy within the Labour Party. Shouldn't that also apply to the trade unions?

A: I think the two go side by side. Frankly, unless you win the argument in every trade union as well as in the Labour Party you'll be frustrated when it comes to the exercise of the vote at the Labour Party conference.

I think that process is already underway, and it will intensify and become more urgent if at this year's conference it appears that the trade union vote is being used to frustrate democracy in the party.

The paradox is that the trade union block vote would be used to prevent the trade union influence from being exercised on the Labour Party.

Q: You have spoken at meetings on the role of the Rank and File Mobilising Committee in the Labour Party.²

A: The great weakness of the left has been its traditions. Both outside and inside the party there has been a splendid splinter activity: the Women's Liberation movement, the Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory,³ and so on. What to me was extremely pleasing was that the left suddenly realised that you can't win if you're fighting in penny-packages. You've got to come together.

All of a sudden, and very much to my surprise, there was the development of the Mobilising Committee in May.

When the Militant tendency came into the Mobilising Committee, which I think is important, all of a sudden it began to come alive. This is the process of building the general coalition of the left, with the women's movement, the black groups, the ecological groups, the peace movement and so on.

It will be needed first of all within the Labour Party and the labour movement, and it then becomes the launching pad for carrying this outside the Labour Party to win support. It would be a terrible pity if this process were to be brought to an end by the Blackpool conference. It's a process that has to be encouraged if it's going to continue. I think this will achieve it.

Bob Wright is a left-wing official of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, currently challenging incumbent right-wing official Terry Duffy for the top position in the AUEW—Militant.

Tony Benn says that "building general coalition of the left, with women's movement, black groups, ecological groups, and so on" is needed "first of all within Labour Party and labor movement."

Can you say what your position is on that?

A: The great weakness of the left has been its traditions. But if you have, as you do have, a genuine socialist party in Britain, why, in the left-wing and socialist organizations that I think this will emerge very strongly and I don't believe the formulation of another manifesto—particularly if it is drawn up by the Labour Party—would be a terrible pity if this process were to be continued. It would be a terrible pity if this process were to be continued.

Tony Benn says that a genuine socialist party is needed to succeed, since it has been going on now for nine or ten years. The other ones are in an earlier stage of development. They will all be won, but the Labour Party left wing calls for a genuine socialist party in Britain.

Q: Perhaps we could take an example of that. The TUC General Council's composite which was adopted with the support of the Labour representation and the Transport Union included the demand for a 35-hour week without loss of pay.

A: That has been emerging for some time, and even the engineers' strike last summer, which the AUEW was drawn into, because I'm not sure that such a victory would have paved the way for the sort of support that would be needed to carry through the alternative socialist strategy.

Q: You mentioned earlier the necessity of extending the Labour Party back into the factories and the shop stewards committees. How do you think that Labour Party supporters in the factories and the shop stewards committees should design as a party in support of events like the dockers' strike?

A: Very strongly, I think there is a slightly artificial division between what's called parliamentary politics and grassroots industrial politics. We must have both.

I've never believed that change is triggered off at the top. Change always begins at the bottom and percolates through to the top.

The vote in the House of Commons indicate what is going on, but they don't actually determine the way issues develop. Instead the Labour Party has become an electoral organization through revisionist leadership, to that extent it has failed in its historic purpose.

The combination of industrial and community activity and struggle with a process of persuasion that leads to a parliamentary majority is the historical method by which the Labour movement has advanced in the past and the way in which it has to do so in the future.

Q: You spoke about a regroupment and unification of the left in the party. What was the basis of this?

A: The party isn't only interested in

¹. Trades Union Congress (TUC), the central union federation—Militant

². Bob Wright is a left-wing official of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, currently challenging incumbent right-wing official Terry Duffy for the top position in the AUEW—Militant

³. Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory—Militant

⁴. Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory, formed by socialists in the Labour Party to campaign for Labour candidates and urge socialist policies, was one of the initiators of the Rank and File Mobilising Committee—Militant

⁵. Supporters of the socialist weekly Militant in Britain are active in Labour Party constituencies and the Labour Party Young Socialists. They have been the target of red-baiting attacks by Labour Party right-wingers and the capitalist press in Britain—Militant

Laurie Sparham (FLI)
By Jon Hillson

GARY, Ind.—The longest strike in the history of the United Steelworkers of America's biggest district shows no sign of ending. The union-busting energy barons of Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (NIPSCO) are still stonewalling at the bargaining table. They broke off negotiations October 22.

The employers had allowed the talks to resume that day, but after two hours of discussion the session ended. Striking members of USWA Locals 12775 and 13796 were on the picket line for the 145th day.

The two steelworker units, which represent production and clerical workers, were forced out on strike June 15 by company demands for "givebacks" on work rules, seniority, benefits, and wages.

The two locals cover an area of 12,000 square miles in northern Indiana, and staff 150 picket sites with 4,200 strikers. At the same time, NIPSCO is using 2,000 supervisors as a strike force.

Anti-picket injunctions have been handed down by the courts. All this contributes to a burning necessity.

And it's begun to happen.

On October 14, activists of USWA Local 1010 at Inland Steel, along with groups of strikers, collected $3,200 at the picket gates. On October 22, USWA Local 1011 members collected more than $1,800 at Local 1394's picket line in East Chicago.

Many USWA locals have "adopted" the families of strikers, to help sustain them through the strike. This project was announced at a solidarity rally last month by USWA District 21 director James Balinoff.

On October 17, USWA International President Lloyd McRide and Vice President Lynn Williams joined the picket lines in Gary.

It's hurting, but there's no way in hell we're going to go back with what the company wants. That's giving away everything we've ever had," said one middle-aged white worker told the Militant.

"It's rough," a young Black woman says. "But this is more than a contract at stake. It's the union."

The determined resistance of the strikers is putting pressure on others to challenge NIPSCO's practices.

On October 23, Gary Mayor Richard Hatcher chided NIPSCO for "relying on suppliers to provide motor insulation by which the company must estimate the customer's monthly bill." This usually means an overcharge, Hatcher complained, noting the damaging effect of this ripoff on "the incomes of the poor, elderly, and unemployed."

NIPSCO must answer by November 3 why it should not rebate nearly $2 million to the consumers, since the company is not paying for wages and benefits during the strike.

Nearly 10,000 people have signed a USWA petition demanding the Public Service Commission to order the utility to do just that.

Support for the NIPSCO steelworkers is growing.

Send contributions and telegrams of support to: USWA Locals 12775 and 13796, 701 East 8th Avenue, Merrillville, Indiana 46410.

700 unionists show solidarity in Vermont

By David Maybury

BURLINGTON, Vt.—On Saturday, October 18, the quiet main street of this town (the state capital, with about 15,000 residents) was filled with singing demonstrators. Braving rain showers, they made their point to the Labor Day audience.

"Solidarity Forever" and "Roll the Union On."

The rally on the Statehouse steps was sponsored by the Vermont Labor Council to show support for United Auto Workers Local 2133 of Danville, Vermont.

The union has been on strike since June 16. It is demanding a union contract from Waterbury Companies, which operates a plastic parts plant in Randolph. Workers at the plant start at the federal minimum wage. After ten years, a skilled toolmaker can make only $5,91 an hour.

We picked the strikers up the day of the rally at their picket line at the Randolph plant and traveled in a convoy of southeastern Vermont.

The rallyed bus was at the downtown headquarters, 9350 S. Chicago Avenue, in Chicago.

The militant and optimistic mood. Following the rally union activists met and shared experiences at a picnic back in Randolph. Discussed organizing the unionized in New England.
On Benn's view of U.S. politics

Can labor party be built inside Democrats?

By Frank Lovell

The leader of the left wing of the British Labor party, Tony Benn, spent three days in the United States last September. He was a guest at Williams College, in Williamstown, Massachusetts, where he lectured on socialism, and participated in a panel discussion with representatives of U.S. capitalism about the future of our economy. Speaking for capitalism were the president of the Economic Club, the chairman of the American Stock Exchange, a vice-president of Ford Motor Co., and Nixon's former chief economic advisor.

In London, Benn was interviewed by Socialist Challenge, the British weekly of the International Marxist Group, on his impressions of American students at Williams College: "exactly like" university audiences in Britain, he said. The capitalists are the same too. "On the panel, all the American businessmen were saying that the government should get off their backs, and productivity was low, and all the stuff that we've been hearing for 20 years," Benn said.

He also noted that there is "considerable interest and curiosity in what we are saying in the Labor Party in Britain." And this is undoubtedly true, especially in the ruling class. The transformation which the British Labor party is presently undergoing is of great concern to U.S. imperialism, and is probably why Tony Benn, a member of Parliament, was asked to lecture at Williams College and has been invited to participate in another conference in December. The labor movement here is being driven to defend itself in the political arena. And for that reason what Benn is saying should be of some interest.

Prospects for labor party

But before we forget there is a serious prospect of establishing an American labor party. He said he thinks the formation of a labor party here all but ruled out in Britain. He also thinks it will take form "within the Democratic Party where there have been some links with the trade union movement."

Benn said he agrees with the approach of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee (DSOC), the unions who are members or expressed sympathy with DSOC include William Winpinaigner, president of the Machinists (IAM); Douglas Fraser, president of the Auto Workers (UAW); and Jerry Wurf, president of the State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

"Given the context of American society, I think the time is right. This is the time to form a labor representation committee and a socialist fraction within the Democratic Party," says Benn. "I believe the time is right. DSOC headed by Jacob Michael Harrington, and others are pursuing." The alternative course, as he sees it, is to build a socialist party. Benn is a strong believer in the Democratic party. "There's a big debate going on," he says, "as to whether socialists should link themselves with the Democratic party."

"There's a lot of debate about who they should try to form it around the Socialist Workers Party or whatever." For Benn this is a "tactical decision not for me to decide."

These are questions that touch on the crucial decisions in the union movement about the need for a third party and how it will be formed in this country. The question as to whether socialists should work inside the Democratic Party for the purpose of building a labor party or for any other purpose has been debated since 1936.

Turning point

That was the year of the apostate. It was then decided by the Communist Party, by assorted social democrats, the Social Democratic Federation and Socialist Party, and by top officials of the industrial unions (separately and collectively, each but for one or two) to re-elect the Democratic president, Roosevelt, for a second term. The mistaken idea behind this was that the Democratic Party could be transformed into a political instrument to serve the needs of working people. That was forty-four years ago.

Prior to 1936 any real promises of Roosevelt's "new deal," Marxists and others who called themselves socialists all agreed that it was impermissible to join political parties of the capitalist class. They were opposed to joining in principle. They knew that the ruling class organized and financed the two-party system as a necessary part of their governing apparatus.

The socialist movement, in the days of Eugene Debs prior to World War I, taught that the employing class and the working class had nothing in common, least of all politics, which is the art of governing.

The working class, and only the working class, is capable of reorganizing society and eliminating the evils of capitalism. And to accomplish this historic mission, the working class must organize its own political party in all countries of the world, the purpose being to establish the world socialist order for the liberation of all a mankind. This is what socialists learned from Marx and Engels. And they understood that anyone who claimed to be a socialist and joined one of the master class political institutions, which exist for the sole purpose of deceiving the voters, was a renegade.

Labor loses ground

Since 1936 this question of "working within" the Democratic Party has been debated in radical circles, and it has been put to the test by the union movement. For forty-four years the unions have been pouring millions of dollars into the coffers of Democratic Party politicians, and supplying thousands of foot soldiers to corral the working class vote for "lesser evil" candidates.

The result is that the unions are now in the weakest position they have ever been in since they embarked on the disastrous course of trying to reform the system, thinking it is "labors own." The "friends of labor" in this capitalist class political institution have proven to be labor's biggest enemies.

Michael Harrington, leader of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee even now defends "lesser evil" politics and suggests votes for Carter. He ridiculed the idea that the union movement can be transformed and that the American workers in the process can build their own mass labor party based on their unions.

Harrington said, "the labor movement in this country is supporting Carter." He then reminded us that the SWP urges workers to "think politically." According to Harrington, "the workers are thinking politically. They are thinking Jimmy Carter. That was four years ago."

A few of the unions that endorsed Carter then because they thought he would be better than Ford, the Republican candidate, have refused to be stung a second time, most notably the Machinists. And a serious discussion is developing in the union movement about the need for a labor party and how it will be formed.

Delegates who belonged to Machinists union walked out in a dispute over the formation of a labor representation committee in the Democratic Party in 1983. How union proposes discussion on forming labor party.

In this discussion the history of the British Labor Party has some useful lessons, but not what Tony Benn thinks. He says he believes the union movement is analogous to the British unions in 1888 when the Scottish socialist Keir Hardie appeared successfully for a union-sponsored workers party.

The British unions underwent considerable transformation in the decade of the 1880s. The British economy faltered at that time. A wave of lockouts and provoked strikes swept the country. The employers were demanding giveaways from the workers, much the same as they are today in this country.

In 1900 the socialists of the Independent Labor Party and other groups made their historic first breakthrough in the union movement of Britain. A few unions joined with existing socialist groups to form the Labor Representation Committee. They ran their own candidates for Parliament, independent of both the Tory and Liberal ruling-class parties.

Prior to that the British union movement had been powerless politically because it was tied to the parties of the employers. The unions in this country today are tied to the two-party system of the ruling class.

The lesson to be learned from the history of the British union movement is that it remained powerless until it broke with the "great Labor Party," and challenged the capitalist employers to dominate the working class political action. The British rulers at the turn of the century were demanding "a union-free environment," like the ruling class in this country today. One of the few taken by bicycle is the "Taff Vale judgment."

This was a judge's decision upheld by the railway workers union to pay heavy damages to a company which claimed financial loss from a strike. Such rulings are sometimes handed down by the courts that support the employers in this country today, and some states fine public employees for striking.

In 1901 and 1902, after "Taff Vale," the Labor Representation Committee grew rapidly, many more unions joined it, somewhat reluctantly. But even then both union officials and their political hangers-on who only wanted to operate as a "pressure group" soon discovered that they were more effective outside the Liberal Party than in it. And besides they had little choice in the matter.

Ramsay MacDonald, who served as secretary of the Labor Representation Committee, explained what didn't leave the Liberals, he said. "They kicked us out, and slammed the door in our faces." Isn't that what is happening here to labor lobbyists in the Democratic Party?

By 1906 a group of 50 Labor candidates were elected to Parliament. That was when the Labor Party had become a force to be reckoned with in British politics, only six years after the first definitive break with the old two-party system.

In this country today the union movement can build the third political party in government in a shorter time, once the break with capitalist politics is made and the movement for a labor party begins to roll.
By Ernest Harsch

Armed with pencils and books, hundreds of young men and women have gone out into towns, villages, and workplaces throughout Grenada in a major campaign to wipe out illiteracy. They hope, by the end of the year, to teach several thousand illiterate Grenadans to read and write.

The literacy campaign, which is being organized by the Centre for Popular Education (CPE), is one of the most significant and sustained efforts that has been undertaken in Grenada since the revolutionary New Jewel Movement gained power March 13, 1979. It is the first mass literacy drive of its kind to be initiated anywhere in the Caribbean since the early days of the Cuban revolution.

At public meetings and rallies, throughout radio broadcasts, and in newspaper articles, the leaders of the revolution are urging Grenadians as possible to participate in this battle, either directly as teachers or students, or by contributing money and teaching materials. They stress the importance of the campaign for raising production and political consciousness, and thus for advancing the revolution as a whole.

"The C.P.E. must be considered as one of the pillars of the revolution," stated an editorial in the July 15 New Jewel, the weekly organ of the N.J.M. "Through this programme, the P.R.G.'s (People's Revolutionary Government) hopes to destroy one of the greatest crimes against our people—illiteracy—and to teach our people new ideas."

To develop minds

In the early days that broadcast in early September, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop told the country: "We must determine how to increase our knowledge, our understanding, our wisdom. This way we can develop analytical minds that can grasp the complexities of modern life and unmask the negative propaganda against our revolution."

"We see the question of education as being relevant to the people growing together as one people. It is crucial to national unity, helping to get rid of all the racial, political, and sectarian differences that still plague us."

In an earlier address, Bishop emphasized that that was a priority previously considered a privilege that was enjoyed by a minority of the population. He advanced the need for educational participation by all people." He also stated that education was "the responsibility of our revolution and the key to the development of our people."

In carrying out their literacy drive, the Grenadian revolutionaries have been directly inspired by the similar campaigns that have been carried out in Cuba. Articles in the weekly Free West Indian and speeches by Bishop and other Grenadian leaders have included lessons on how the Cuban and Nicaraguan governments have combated illiteracy in their countries through massive and organized popular efforts.

The Cubans, who have aided Grenada in many different fields, are also seeking to share their own experiences. The Centre for Popular Education sent an advisor, Angel Arrache, to Grenada to assist the CPE. It also has been distributing some of the teaching materials.

Colonialism's legacy

The widespread illiteracy and the absence of an adequate educational system are among the legacies of the revolution were a direct legacy of colonial rule.

In the nearly 200 years that the British imperialists ruled Grenada, they built only one public secondary school, in 1885. The other secondary schools were privately built, by various church organizations.

Education in Grenada fared little better under the dictatorship of Sir Eric Gairy, which took over the reins from the British in 1974. At the time of the revolution, of the sixty-two primary schools in the country, only three were considered adequate. Twelve were completely dilapidated. Many were unpainted, run down, with leaky roofs that could not keep out the torrential rains. In most schools, no sanitary facilities existed. Few teaching materials were available.

The quality of the education was abysmal. Of the 968 pupils who took the final primary school examinations in 1978, only twenty-eight passed. At the total, only 14 percent of all students went on to secondary school, where they had to pay relatively high tuition rates. In the last year of Gairy's rule, only three students were given scholarships to study abroad; one of them was Gairy's daughter.

The Gairy regime tried to claim that most Grenadians could read and write, but in reality a large portion of the Grenadian population was functionally illiterate. Upon coming to power, the new revolutionary government quickly began to tackle these problems.

Volunteer community work brigades were organized to repair and rebuild the school. Primary school children received free milk and cheap lunches. Secondary school fees were slashed to a quarter of what they were under Gairy. The country's second government-run secondary school was opened—the first in ninety-five years. Scholarships were given to more than 200 Grenadians to study at universities abroad.

And within only a few months of the revolution, the new government began to consider how to organize a campaign against illiteracy. At the National Education Conference held July 2-3, 1979, Prime Minister Bishop identified illiteracy as "the most fundamental problem of all" and projected a major drive to get rid of it.

Mobilizing for literacy

By April 1980, preparations for the literacy campaign were under way. The Centre for Popular Education launched a national registration drive to recruit volunteers and to sign up Grenadians to attend the classes. Surveys were conducted in every village to determine the extent of illiteracy and to identify particular problems and needs.

High school students, trade unionists, members of community organizations, and women's groups, teachers, and many other Grenadians were urged to volunteer for the CPE drive. Volunteer brigades were established, many of them adopting the names of heroes of the Grenada revolution.

By late July, seminars were being organized to train the volunteer teachers and to explain to them the goals of the literacy campaign.

The introduction to the teachers' manual, Forward Ever, pointed out that "an uneducated people cannot understand the causes of poverty, unemployment and disease" and cannot organize itself to solve these problems. The manual also stressed that the volunteers should be sensitive to the special needs of their pupils, many of whom are older than the volunteers themselves. It stated that for "our efforts to be successful, we must establish a close and respectful relationship between us and our students."

At one of the seminars, John Wright, an official of the Ministry of Education, told the volunteers: "You must be willing to learn in order to teach." The classes themselves began on August 18, and were projected to continue until December 18. As of mid-September, there were 1,200 illiterates receiving instruction from about 500 volunteer teachers.

This first phase of the literacy campaign is to be followed by two others.

The second phase, scheduled to begin in early 1981, will seek to continue the education process by teaching the newly literate basic mathematics and English, and at a later stage general science and basic agriculture. The second phase will involve the teaching of skills in agriculture, mechanics, electricity, carpentry and building.

Despite the promising beginning to the literacy drive, the CPE is facing some practical problems. The organizers are reluctant to come forward to register for the classes. The CPE estimates that there are about 6,000 Grenadians who cannot read and write who have never been to school.

Noting these problems, Minister of Education George Louisian emphasized the need for an even greater mobilization by the entire country to support the campaign. He appealed to trade unions, churches, and businesses to contribute to the CPE and to mobilize their members to take part. To increase participation in the literacy drive, a second registration drive was launched in September.

A seminar for CPE technicians on September 22, Prime Minister Bishop also pointed out the specific problems of attracting workers who are already tied to the literacy classes, most of which are being held in school buildings. To lessen the inconvenience of attending classes for these workers, he announced that a program was being developed to set up literacy classes in the workplaces themselves.

Literacy and the revolution

A central theme in the literacy campaign has been the direct links between education and the revolutionary process as a whole. Ultimately, it is seen as a way to ensure the success of the campaign.

Greater education, the leaders of the revolution recognized, will help increase production, and thus will help improve everyone's living standards. An editorial in the June 7 Free West Indian declared:

"We must understand clearly that the more educated a people becomes, the more productive they become. A population that is illiterate is effectively a population that can grasp, understand and utilize modern agricultural techniques and modern machines, modern technology."

"We made a revolution on March 13, 1979, to end the imperialist, neo-colonialism. But we also made a revolution to start mass education and to make the pen and the pencil and our copybooks we will open up our minds and feed them with knowledge and ideas and cutlasses we will till that rich fertile land."
Problems of Nicaragua's Sandinista leadership

By Russell Johnson and Claudio Tavarez

MANAGUA—Making the journey from Bluefields to Managua, the main town on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, is an experience. After sifting into a crowded bus, one is driven four hours to the east to Ciudad Rama, a small town on the Rio Escondido. From there it is a bumpy, fast-moving launch to Managua. The journey to Managua was peaceful, though almost the only institutions that function in that language are the police and army in Bluefields.

Bluefields

Surrounded by sea on three sides and on the other by forest-covered hills, the Bluefields area is a cluster of little wooden houses and narrow cobbled streets.

The people are mostly Black—and they speak English. Reggae music and the latest disco hits are heard as one walks down the street.

This is Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, but it's more like having landed on a small Caribbean island.

Bluefields seems idyllic, but in late September the situation there turned ugly. For four days, from September 28 to October 1, the town was paralyzed. Businesses closed, and angry, mostly Black demonstrators filled the streets—many as 1,000 demonstrators at a time.

The protesters took over boats and shot down the fishing industry. They occupied the local radio station and assaulted government officials. At one point some weapons were stolen from a fishing boat—something that happens in Europe.

The focus of the discontent was the presence of about eighty Cuban technicians who were staying in the town prior to leaving for more remote parts of the Atlantic province. The government was only too happy to blame some volunteers among the peasants.

The leaders of the disturbances demanded the immediate expulsion of the Cubans from Bluefields. To back this up, the house where many of the leaders of the disturbances were arrested and brought to Managua.

Borge's charges

Interior Minister Tomás Borge declared on October 1 a national emergency conference that the protests were part of a reactionary campaign to separate the Atlantic Coast region from Nicaragua, stimulated by foreigners and local reactionaries. He pointed in particular to counterrevolutionary propagandas broadcast from Bluefields on television, Colombian radio, and the Voice of America.

This plan, Borge said, was linked to other counterrevolutionary plots elsewhere to destabilize the country.

Borge's charges were substantiated on October 9 at a second Interior Ministry conference. Borge said that the protests were part of a reactionary campaign to separate the Atlantic Coast region from Nicaragua, stimulated by foreign agents and local reactionaries.

The leaders of the disturbances were arrested and brought to Managua.

Harrison's charges

Harrison, the Black leader of the antigovernment actions in Bluefields who was being held in Managua. After the second meeting, Harrison said that he had met with Larios three times in Managua. After the second meeting, Harrison said that he had met with Larios three times in Managua.

Harrison accused Harrison of plotting against the government and demanding the immediate expulsion of the Cubans from Bluefields.

The leaders of the disturbances were arrested and brought to Managua.

The date of the meeting was set in Managua to celebrate the completion of the literacy campaign. The plot again failed to come off, and before it could be finally put into motion Larios was arrested.

Alienated region

It was to learn more about the background to the Bluefields disturbances that we traveled there on October 3. During our stay we were able to speak with members of the FSLN, the Sandinista youth organization, and the armed forces. Our contact was a woman from the Sandinista police and army in Bluefields.

According to her, the Black population of Bluefields was not polarized as many others in Nicaragua. The worst brutalities of the Nicaragua revolution came to Bluefields. The only fighting in Bluefields was that of the Central American guerillas. The only violence in Bluefields was that of the Bluefields police.

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Atlantic Coast Region meets new challenges

The Managua news media have also reported a rethinking process inside the FSLN concerning its approach to Bluefields and the Atlantic Coast.

Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock was delegated by the FSLN National Directorate to visit Bluefields, to discuss with the Black community their grievances and to reassure policy with the local FSLN leadership.

Under the headline, “Self-criticism and reflection in the case of Bluefields,” the FSLN daily Barricada reported on October 6 that as a result of this dialogue the FSLN leaders in Bluefields had recognized that they made mistakes in responding to the disturbances and in general to the special problems of the Atlantic Coast.

“The movement that took place in Bluefields last week was not broadly thought out or understood by the broad masses. They were aided by Costa Rican television, which has a special cadres in Bluefields and elsewhere became so disruptive that the FSLN had to expel them from the community. But before the seeds of mistrust of the FSLN-led government had been sown among the local population in Bluefields.

Caceres said the FSLN was also now critically reexamining its own policies and movements. He said that the Atlantic Coast movement, which was under the pressure of the enormous tasks faced by the revolutionary government immediately after the overthrow of Somoza, had not been able to pay sufficient attention to the specific problems of the Atlantic Coast—the different languages and cultural traditions, the economic and political backwardness, and special health problems.

Organizational structures that grew out of the struggle on the Pacific Coast were imported into Bluefields, but were not suited to the consciousness and ways of doing things of the local people, Caceres said. These simply collapsed, weakening communication links between the community and the government and the FSLN, and strengthening the influence of the reactionaries.

As a result of the disturbances and of discussions with leaders of the Black community, Caceres said, the FSLN was developing a whole new policy for the Atlantic Coast, aimed at winning the confidence of the Blacks and Miskitos in the revolutionary process.

Re thinking by FSLN

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Role of Bolivarian unit

Wright turned up during the insur-

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Barricada quoted William Ramirez, minister for the Atlantic Coast, as saying at the closing session of a meeting of FSLN cadres in Bluefields.

At another meeting with the Bluefields community, Ramirez said, “We find there is a kind of self-criticism and reflection, as well as a recognition that the methods utilized were not the most correct ones.” Ramirez pointed out that the armed forces “did not use tact” in dealing with the disturbances. “We understand that from the military point of view there was a breach of discipline. But we do not justify it, and we recognize that there was a lack of communication.”

The events in Bluefields posed a big challenge to the FSLN. The disturbances there represented a particularly grave threat to the revolution, a potential beachhead for imperialist interven- tion. The FSLN now had to take seriously the problems of the Atlantic Coast.

At the same time, as Wheelock and Ramirez pointed out, the grievances and confusion on the part of the partici-

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In El Salvador, telling truth can mean death

The following is from an article scheduled for publication in the November 17 issue of "Perspectiva Mundial."

By Fernando Torres

Death threats and murders of journalists, the suppression of dynamite attacks on printing plants and radio stations, the falsification of facts—this chilling picture of El Salvador's junta's attacks on freedom of the press was the theme of an interview given by Olaciregui to La Crónica, the Panamanian newspaper.

Olaciregui is a Panamanian journalist who has been covering El Salvador for the past thirteen months. He has served as a full-time correspondent for the San Salvador daily El Independiente, as a reporter for several Central American radio stations, and is presently a foreign correspondent for the United Press International (UPI). Olaciregui visited the United States recently to attend the El Salvador Solidarity Conference that took place in Washington, D.C., on October 11-12.

"I have been threatened many times," he said. On March 15, for example, his news agency received a "strongly worded letter from the defense minister, Col. José Guillermo Garcia." In the letter, Garcia told him to stop covering El Salvador. Two days later, "I was kidnapped by a group of armed men and blindfolded. They forced us violently into a vehicle. We were threatened with death throughout the group's demands to the government. The government's response was to arrest one of our correspondents. This, in turn, forced us violently into a vehicle. We were threatened with death throughout the group's demands to the government. The government's response was to arrest one of our correspondents. This, in turn, forced us violently into a vehicle."

The government, however, 150 Latin American newspaper editors were at that moment meeting in Costa Rica, learning of Olaciregui's deportation they pressured the Salvadoran junta, member José Napoleon Duarte, to reverse the measure. Duarte had to apologize for the name of his government and guarantied Olaciregui's return to El Salvador on March 20.

"Since then," Olaciregui said, "I have continued my work, with the aim of being a professional, objective, and truthful journalist."

We know the Salvadoran government staff has held lengthy sessions to discuss what to do about the international press," Olaciregui said.

The reasons are obvious, he said: "In El Salvador it is only necessary to report the truth and the reality of what happens, since the facts themselves are overwhelming evidence to the junta and the U.S. government as well, since it is up to its elbows in the adventure.

On April 24 this year René Tumens Aparicio, a reporter for radio station WHUR of Washington, D.C., was kidnapped by the police in San Salvador.

On August 9 the armed forces gunned down Ignacio Rodríguez, a reporter for the Mexican newspapers El Diario, Diario de Oaxaca, and El Norte De Chihuahua. Rodríguez had gained national and international expression for the excellent photographs of repressive actions.

The Mexican government withdrew its ambassador from El Salvador following the murder of Rodríguez.

In July, Jaime Suárez and César Najarro—both editors of the San Salvador daily La Crónica del Pueblo—were kidnapped and later freed to death with machetes. Earlier, the editorial offices and printing plant of the daily had been set afire.

The government of El Salvador, Olaciregui explained, "was the newspaper that forever committed to the interest of the Salvadoran people." Since the July attacks it has disappeared from the scene.

Since January 22 of this year YSAS, the radio station of the Catholic Church, has suffered five dynamite blasts. The last one was four weeks ago—it totally destroyed the transmitters, causing losses of around $600,000.

The station had broadcast an editorial criticizing U.S. Ambassador Robert White for his total support to the fierce repression of the Salvadoran junta. White was denounced by YSAS for "serving as an accomplice to the most systematic and brutal massacre Latin America has ever known.

The print shops of the newspapers of the popular opposition have all been destroyed and their editors imprisoned. These included the Revolutionary Action Front's Action, the February 28 People's Leagues' Liguas Obreras, and the United People's Action Front of Paraguay.

In face of the terror launched against the news media by the government, the Association of Foreign Correspondents in El Salvador (ACOES) was formed in May. The group bases itself on international agreements that guarantee the right to freedom of expression.

ACOES has been an important medium for denouncing the violation of freedom of the press and speech by the Salvadoran junta. In addition, it seeks to "safeguard the physical integrity and security of its members" and all correspondents in El Salvador.

The association's first statement demanded that the Salvadoran authorities immediately present the correspondents with the "truth of the facts." On August 21, after the murders of the journalists Ignacio Rodríguez, Jaime Suárez, and César Najarro, ACOES issued an open letter to the junta. It was handed personally to civilian leader, Gen. Carlos Humberto and José Antonio Morales Ehrlich.

The document cited the abuses committed against the Salvadoran people which it said included "frequent telephone threats and personal intimations," as well as the registration offices of a list of foreign journalists whose entry into the country has been restricted.

The letter was signed by more than thirty correspondents from Mexico, the United States, Canada, France, Colombia, and other countries.

As the president of Olaciregui said, "the government has turned a deaf ear to our demands."

In the United States information about El Salvador is scarce. The capitalist press censors, alters, and distorts the news from that country. So it is imperative that the movement of solidarity with the Salvadoran people find the means to let the world know and make this information widely known.

South Korea: repression and new protests

By Janice Dunn

Depression and popular opposition in South Korea, popular opposition to military rule has not been crushed.

The October 10 Paris daily Le Monde reported that, at a time since the May insurrection in Kwangju—in which some 200,000 people demonstrated for a law and for the restoration of democratic rights—a demonstration was held October 10 in Seoul, at the Hankuk Theological Seminary.

The demonstration was broken up by police, 146 students were arrested, and the seminary closed.

In the October 15 Christian Science Monitor, correspondent Mike Chinoy reported that demonstrations have already taken place in the South Korean University in Seoul, one of the largest universities in the country. They distributed statements charging President Chun Doo Hwan of brutality in putting down the Kwangju uprising, and condemned the U.S. and Japanese governments for backing the Chun dictatorship.

More than 500 riot police quickly swooped down on the campus, and arrested several dozen student leaders.

In Kwangju, Monitor correspondent Chinoy reported, a secret trial is held at an army base outside the city, involving 172 persons accused of participating in the May demonstration. The army has declared a "state of emergency" at the time the protests were held.

Thirty of the defendants, all prominent Kwangju citizens, have been charged with sedition. They are accused of maintaining clandestine links with South Korean opposition figure Kim Dae Jung. Kim was sentenced to death September 17 on frame-up charges of "fomenting" the mass rebellion in Kwangju.

The thirteen defendants include Myong Bo Kuen, a professor of English at Kwangju's Chonnam University; Oh Byung Moon, a former dean at the same university; the president and secretary-general of the Kwangju YMCA; two priests; and several well-known lawyers and academics.

Like Kim, the thirteen are accused of inflaming the population of Kwangju's revolt, and face death penalties. This is all part of the South Korean generals' attempts to warn the country's people that if such respected figures can be given death sentences, then they should think twice before raising their voices in opposition to the regime.

Chinoy reported that armed soldiers seized an arm of the Kwangju uprising; military checkpoints are still stationed at the entrances to the city, and the network of the People's Leagues has been greatly expanded with an ongoing round-up of suspected dissidents.

"But beneath the surface," Chinoy stated, "Kwangju is bitter and tense.

"But beneath the surface," Chinoy stated, "Kwangju is bitter and tense. Posters hailing President Chun's recent inauguration were repeatedly defaced, and eventually had to be protected by armed guards. Copies of the government's just-published Constitution have been torn from low billboards.

In recent weeks, several hundred young dissidents have been tried secretly in Seoul for participating in popular rallies last spring.

Kim Tae Hong, the former president of the Korean Journalists Association, was arrested October 9 on charges of sedition and violating martial-law decrees.

The government sponsored "purification" committees have been established in factories, shops, churches, newspapers, and offices throughout the country. They are charged with rooting out all "impure elements." Thousands of people have been forced from their jobs, expelled from schools, or detained as "hoolligans" and sent to "reeducation camps.

An international campaign in solidarity with Kim and all other victims of the repressive South Korean regime is essential to the defense of democratic rights in South Korea.

From Intercontinental Press

Workers death sentences; rigged election

On October 25, five more of the Kwangju rebels were sentenced to death. The trials were rigged.

And on the same day, the constitution put forward by the military dictatorship was accepted in a referendum with a 99.95 percent yes vote with 95.95 percent valid votes.

The new constitution dissolves all political parties, disqualifies all but a handful of the 231 National Assembly seats from the voting office, and provides for the president to be chosen by a 5,000-member electoral college rather than by popular vote.

The constitution authorizes a military-dominated committee to govern the country until a presidential election late next year.
Behind toxic shock syndrome

Nausea, diarrhea, fever. A dramatic fall in blood pressure. Death.

This is the fatal sequence of events associated with toxic shock syndrome, which so far has affected mostly women—and has resulted in forty deaths. The National Center for Disease Control in Atlanta has linked the disease—thought to be caused by a Staphylococcus aureus—whose toxin enters the blood stream—with the use of tampons.

One tampon, Rely, manufactured by Procter & Gamble, was removed from the market recently because of its frequent association with the disease. Rely, one of the early tampons available, was made from cotton or cotton and rayon, claimed however, significant changes have been made on them.

Scientists claim not to know the exact cause of tampon shock, but some facts about tampon production offer insight into the causes of the disease and why it has now surfaced.

As for the dangers of using such fibers internally; the makers of tampons were never required to submit them to safety tests by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) before they were marketed.

Theology dept's—A world gathering of Catholic bishops drafted a document calling for "a much thought that counter sexuality." To see if it should be banned.

Car tips—The 1981 Rolls Royce features a digital clock. About $123,000. Or there's the DeLorean two-seater sports car, electroplated in 24-karat gold, $85,000. (You can change it on your American Express card.) For different types, there's the stainless steel model, $20,000.

So the gas station can see you coming on mail-order catalog offers a set of Xmas tree lights to string around your car.

Bon appétit!—We don't want to diminish your taste for Florida tomatoes, but they do pick them green and then spray them with a gas that turns them sickly pink.

Meet the experts—Department of Energy specialists say the best way to save energy is to wear warm clothing. My landlord agrees.

Women in Revolt

As an agency spokesman told the New York Times, "They had been used safely for forty years."

This is not a unique situation. Remember the Dalkon Shield, the IUD that was removed from the U.S. market in 19747 (it is still sold abroad.) As of March 1980 the device has caused seventeen deaths and countless uterine infections, septicaemia, and emergency hysterectomies.

Are these problems just the necessary evil of scientific advances? No. They are the outgrowth and result of a system that produces for profit. The revelations about the deadly dangers of tampons are an angry reminder that women's bodies are still held prey by the big drug companies in this country, the medical industry, and the government agencies that are supposed to protect us from them.

Their criminal disregard for our health, and the health of our children, is a powerful argument for socialism, for a society where working people run the country as it put human needs before profits.
Trotsky on Engels

Frederick Engels was a co-founder, along with Karl Marx, of the revolutionary socialist movement.

The following appreciation of Engels is excerpted from an article by Leon Trotsky. The article, dated October 15, 1935, reviews Engels’s letters and writings. Trotsky was a Marxist who later became an apologist for the German Social Democrats who backed imperialism in World War I.

Trotsky’s article is contained in “Portraits: Political and Personal,” Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Engels’s insight into military matters, based not only upon his extensive special knowledge but also upon his general capacity for a synthesized appraisal of contemporary forces, enabled him to publish in the London Pall Mall Gazette, during the Franco-Prussian War, remarkable military articles, ascribed by fame to one of the highest military authorities of the time (the Messrs. “Authorities,” doubtless revealed themselves in the mirror not without considerable astonishment). In his intimate circle Engels was dubbed with the playful nickname of the “General.”

Engels was not an orator, or it may be the case that he had the occasion to become one. Towards “orators” he displayed even a shade of disrespect, holding, not without foundation, that they incline to turn ideas into banalities.

Engels’s relations with people were foreign to all sentimentalism or illusions and permeated through and through with the temper of the time. His knowledge of philosophy, economics, history, physics, philology, and military science would have sufficed for a goodly dozen of ordinary and extraordinary professors. But even apart from all this he possessed his main treasure: winged thought.

In June 1884, when [Eduard] Bernstein and Kautsky, affecting Engels’s own likes and dislikes, complained to him of the incipient pressure of all sorts of “erudite” philistines in the party, Engels said in reply, “the main thing is to concede nothing and, in addition, to remain absolutely calm.” While the General himself did not always remain “absolutely calm” in the literal sense of the term—on the contrary, he was wont on occasion to boil over magnificently—he was always able to rise quickly above temporary misgivings and restore the necessary balance between his thoughts and emotions. The elemental side of his personality was optimism combined with humor towards himself and those close to him, and irony towards his enemies. In his optimism there was not a modicum of smugness—the term itself rebounds from his image. The soil springs of his joy of living had their source in a happy and harmonious temperament, but the latter was perverted through and through with the knowledge that brought with it the greatest of joys: the joy of creative perception.

Engels’s optimism extended equally to political questions and to personal affairs. After each and every defeat he would immediately seek out those conditions which would prepare a new upsurge, and after every blow life dealt him he was able to pull himself together and look to the future. Such he remained to his dying day.

FREDERICK ENGELS

In addition to his native tongue, over which his mastery was that of a virtuoso, Engels wrote freely in English, French, and Italian; he read Spanish and almost all Slavic and Scandinavian languages. His knowledge of philosophy, economics, history, physics, philology, and military science would have sufficed for a goodly dozen of ordinary and extraordinary professors. But even apart from all this he possessed his main treasure: winged thought.

Our Revolutionary Heritage

Letters

Would vote SWP

Thank you for your many leaflets and information that you sent me. Although I am not of voting age, I do believe in most all of the Socialist Workers Party stands on the issues and would support the SWP if I could.

When reading some socialist literature, I read that Andrew Pulley is only twenty-nine years old. Because of this I would like to ask how he could possibly win the election since the president is required to be thirty-five years of age. P.M. Cincinnati, Ohio

Wants to join YSA

Having picked up one of your brochures, I became interested in your organization. I would like information on joining the Young Socialist Alliance, and some literature.

H.K. Claremont, California

Our party is your party

THE MILITANT is the voice of the Socialist Workers Party

IF YOU AGREE with what you’ve read, you should join us in fighting for a world without war, fascism, or exploitation—a socialist world.

JOIN THE SWP. Fill out this coupon and mail it today.

British miners back socialists

The members of Bolswor “Colliery” group send warmest fraternal greetings to all involved in the Pulley-Zimmerman circulation campaign. In particular we greet Tom Moriarity, representing the working class against the bosses and coal owners of West Virginia.

As miners, fighting against Thatcher’s bosses’ government and for class struggle politics within our own Union, we recognise his fight as ours. The fight against capitalist austerity measures, productivity deals, and nuclear power unites workers internationally.

We give our full support to your fight against the attempts by Thatcher and Carter to plunge the world into a new round of imperialist war. For international workers solidarity!

Against the draft in America!

Against the siting of cruise missiles in Britain!

No to nuclear power!

For workers power and socialism!

Notts, England

Our Revolutionary Heritage

High school senior

I am a senior in high school. I have become very interested in your party and would like to help. Being a senior, vice-president of the key club at my school, and president of the student council, I come in contact with very many voting-age people. These people have expressed dissatisfaction with the existing government and also the Democratic and Republican candidates in the upcoming election.

Because of this situation and my capabilities, I know I can be effective in helping you gain support from my schoolmates.

Thank you for receiving my letter, and I hope to be hearing from you as soon as possible.

D.C., Poland, Ohio

Wants button, stickers

I want to join the SWP. I would like to contribute an effort whose goals go well beyond the personal career ambitions of the candidates running, and whose ideas of relevant issues are so well advanced of the present “bipartisan” being so hotly debated by the bosses.

P.O. Chicago, Illinois

Campaign echos views

I have seen two of your ads in recent issues of The Progressive. To say the least, I was surprised that the main planks in your platform duplicate all of my concerns, some of them echo my strongest feelings.

Here is a small check. If possible send me some buttons and campaign literature. If you have a mailing list I’d appreciate it if you put me on it, I guess I’m a closet socialist.

J.G. Asheville, North Carolina

Wants posters

Enclosed is a contribution for some materials.

Please send me as large a selection as possible.

The posters and stickers should be good visibility items around polling places. In how many states is the Socialist Workers Party on the ballot? The capitalist media (of course) keeps all mention of the SWP quiet.

D.L. Lemoyne, Pennsylvania

Send $300

Enclosed is a check for $300.

I’d be glad to be able to contribute an effort whose goals go well beyond the personal career ambitions of the candidates running, and whose ideas of relevant issues are so well advanced of the present “bipartisan” being so hotly debated by the bosses.

P.O. Chicago, Illinois

Need buttons, stickers

We are a group of thirty students working for the election of Andrew Pulley. Please send buttons, stickers, literature, and any other materials we can use to promote the Socialist Workers Party.

D.C. Hubbard Woods, Illinois

Wants pamphlets

Enclosed is a copy of the statements of “Why Working People Need a Labor Party.” Enclosed is $3.00.

D.B. D.B.

Oregon, Wisconsin
Learning About Socialism

Engels on the labor party

There is an exciting discussion going on in the British Labor Party, which is reported elsewhere in this issue. For many years the reactionary policies pursued by British Labor Party governments in the past—support to the Vietnam War, sending troops to Northern Ireland, and improving austerity measures for working British workers—did not make it an attractive example.

But now growing numbers in the British unions and the Labor Party are demanding withdrawal of British troops from Ireland, opposition to NATO and the placement of nuclear missiles in Britain, support to women's rights, and a fight against the capitalist austerity measures.

These developments in Britain will encourage the labor party discussion in the United States.

They should also encourage increased interest in the history of the labor party in Britain by workers there and here.

Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and their supporters played an important role in that struggle.

In the October 10 issue, this column carried an article by Marx about the election campaign of one of his supporters, Ernest Jones, as an independent labor candidate in 1902.

This week's column is taken from an article written by Frederick Engels in 1881, called, "A Working Men's Party." It appeared in the July 25, 1881 issue of the London paper, the Labour Standard.

The political strength of British working class organizations has declined somewhat in the last two decades.

In the 1880s, an intensive discussion took place about the tactics and strategy for workers in Britain. Many different currents in the labor movement were involved in that discussion.

The perspectives put forward by the Marxists stood far above all the others in pointing the way. Marx died in 1883, in the early years of that round of discussions, but Engels lived another twelve years.

The article below and a few others that are available in the book Articles on Britain, by Marx and Engels. The book is available for $2.95 from the offices of the Socialist Workers Party.

... Stu Singer

How often have we not been warned by friends and sympathizers, "Keep aloof from party politics!" And they were perfectly right, as far as present English party politics are concerned. A labor organ must be neither Whig nor Tory, neither Conservative nor Liberal, or even Radical, in the actual party sense of that word. Conservatives, Liberals, Radicals, all of them represent but the interests of the ruling classes, and various shades of opinion predominating among landlords, capitalists, and retail traders. If they do represent the working class, they most decidedly misrepresent it. The working class has interests of its own, political as well as social. How it has stood up for what it considers its social interests, the history of the Trades Unions and the Short Time movement shows. But its political interests it leaves almost entirely in the hands of Tories, Whigs and Radicals, men of the upper class, and for many years the working class has contented itself with forming, as it were, the tail of the "Great Liberal Party."... Anti-Carter

Thanks so much for the Socialist Workers Party campaign literature I received recently. I wanted to let you know it's been put to good use. I took it all to San Juan City Hall to greet President Carter yesterday, and it was great how many people were interested. I am equally impressed with the Militant. More power to you! M.S.

San José, California

THE M I L I T A N T / N O V E M B E R 7, 1980

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UNIONTOWN, Pa.—Braving chilling temperatures and rain, 500 anti-Klan demonstrators gathered here on the steps of the Fayette County Courthouse October 24. The rally was called to protest a well-publicized KKK rally and cross burning scheduled for later that evening fifteen miles from Uniontown.

With a little more than one week to build the anti-Klan protest, rally organizers reached out to the five counties in southwestern Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia. By the time of the rally more than eighty organizations agreed to “take a stand against the Klan.”

The rally received broad sponsorship from Black, labor, religious, women’s, and political groups throughout the region.

Rally participants, who were more than a third Black, included a large contingent of steelworkers from United Steelworkers District 15. Coal miners came from United Mine Workers Districts 4 and 5 in Pennsylvania and District 31 in West Virginia. The unionists were highly visible, carrying their signs and helping in the organized security of the rally.

Addressing the rally was Paul Lewis, director of UMWA District 4; Jim Kelly, director of UMWA District 4; and Lou Antal, director of UMWA District 5. An endorsement was also brought to the rally by John Hlamian, representing the Monongalia-Preston County Labor Council of West Virginia.

Lewis spoke to the rally about labor’s obligation in the fight against bigotry, and complimented the organizers for their determination in taking on the Klan.

Two steelworkers from USWA Local 1860 addressed the rally, and together they delivered a resolution of support to the rally.

Brenda Frazier, co-chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee to Counter the Klan and a national Black leader of the National Organization for Women, was the rally coordinator. Demonstrators chanted enthusiastically when she read a telegram of support agreed by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Significant support and endorsement came from the Black community in the Pittsburgh area, including five branches of the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women-Pittsburgh Section, Black Catholic Ministries, Urban League, and Hill House Association.

Other speakers included Dr. Va Shans, president of the Uniontown-Brownsville NAACP; Roger Fairfax, Sr., deputy director of the Pittsburgh Urban League; several clergy, the mayor of Uniontown, several Fayette County commissioners, and Congressman Austin Murphy.

Later that evening the Klan rally and cross burning took place in Point Marion, Pennsylvania. It was the first open KKK activity in Pennsylvania in thirty years.

Prior to the rally, press coverage in Pennsylvania and West Virginia emphasized quotes Billik Ukrain, “The Racial Wizard” of the Louisiana-based Invisible Empire of the Knights of KKK.

Wilkinson predicted 2,500 would attend the KKK rally. But Andy Gasmeyer, reporting for KDKA-TV from the Klan rally, put the figure at 200 persons including twenty-five from media and a number of young curiosity seekers.

Gasmeyer called Wilkinson’s speech a “rambling monologue filled with racial slurs” and concluded that “the Klan has apparently very few followers in western Pennsylvania.”

钢属联盟谴责KKK

The following anti-Ku Klux Klan statement by President Lloyd McBride and the four other international officers of the United Steelworkers of America was released October 24 from the union’s international headquarters in Pittsburgh. The statement was issued in response to the Klan rally in Fayette County, Pennsylvania October 25.

The United Steelworkers of America deplores attempts now being made to reactivate and expand the Ku Klux Klan in this and other regions of our nation.

We urge public officials and other community leaders of the area to join in a call to citizens to remain away from any and all Klan activities. By doing so, all persons can help prevent the spread of the cancerous hatred and division the KKK seeks to sow.

At the same time, the danger of a resurgence of the Klan should be made plain to all. While avoiding physical confrontation with the Klan rally, protest meetings or vigils have a legitimate educational purpose in providing warning about an organization devoted to secrecy which describes itself as an “Invisible Empire.”

The United Steelworkers believes it is proper and wise for law enforcement authorities to monitor the activities of the Klan and prosecute violations of the law, which are likely to occur because of the Klan’s belief in terrorist methods.

Both the Klan’s methods and its doctrines are totally alien to the very principles of democracy and equality upon which our nation and our union were founded.

Additionally, let there be no mistake about it, the Klan fully shares the views of a union hating right-wing movement that seeks to destroy American labor unions and the process of free collective bargaining in our country.

Five days in troubled times that too often engender the search for scapegoats and simplistic solutions that can explode in violence.

The white supremacy philosophy of the KKK that is anti-Semitic and anti-Catholic as well, is an extreme example of such thinking. Because America has made enormous strides in race and religious relations in recent decades, we are fully confident that our citizens will utterly reject false and irrelevant tenets espoused by the KKK.

The American people we believe know well that the real problems of today can only be vastly worsened if we set group against group. They will be solved only with good will, hard work, and understanding attained in facing those problems forthrightly and together.

钢属联盟谴责KKK

Oakland, Calif. community rally opposes KKK

By Kathe Latham

OAKLAND, Calif.—More than 500 people gathered October 14 at Laney College in Oakland at a “Community Speak Out Against the Klan.” The meeting—co-sponsored by the Raza Student Union, Young Socialist Alliance, the Mexican-Latin American Studies Department, and Henry Bryant, chair of the Ethnic Studies Department, agreed with other speakers that this was not “just a KKK issue.”

Bryant pointed to the large percentage of southern politicians who have always supported the Klan.

Bryant also told the audience of the brutal murders of his two grandfathers in the South, where he grew up. He described how one of his grandfathers was surrounded by the Klan on a fishing trip and shot to death.

J.B. Ingram, chair of the Civil Rights Committee of International Association of Machinists Local 284, spoke of the importance of Black people who have “risen up against what’s rightfully ours.” He talked about the need for affirmative action to hire all the discriminated against Black people and other minorities face on the job, and the need to fight for better jobs for all working people.

JoNina Abron, spokesperson of the Black Panther Party, said “The Klan is a manifestation of a much larger problem for Black people in this country.” She explained the importance of uniting with other groups outside of the Black community in coalitions as the only way to win the struggle for Black equality.

Miguel Angel, of the Mexican-Latin American Studies Department, agreed with other speakers that this was not just “a KKK issue.” He described the Klan attacks against undocumented workers.

Angel also pointed to the example of Cuba, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, where people have fought against racist domination of their countries and won. “This should be a good example of what we can do here at home,” he said.

Mel Mason, Seaside city councilman, drew the most applause as he explained the connection between the Klan and the FBI. “We have to remember that when you talk about taking on the Klan you’re talking about taking on the government of the United States,” Mason said.

“Don’t tell me the government doesn’t know how to get rid of the Klan. They knew how to get rid of the Black Panther Party. They knew how to get rid of Malcolm X.”

They knew how to get the FBI involved with the KKK. “This is an example of what we can do here at home,” he said.

Mark Friedman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress running against Klan-Democrat Thomas Metzger in San Diego, pointed to the need to build a united movement against the Klan led by Blacks, Chicanos, labor, and women.