

THE MILITANT

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N.Y. police begin searching passengers' bags in subway
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 69/NO. 30 AUGUST 8, 2005

Arizona miners back union fight in Utah



Militant/Tamar Rosenfeld

July 24 picnic of UMWA Local 1332 from the McKinley mine near Window Rock, Arizona. Wilbur Willey, on back of pickup truck, welcomed Co-Op miners from Utah.

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

ST. MICHAELS, Arizona—About 75 coal miners and their families attended the annual picnic held July 24 of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1332, which organizes the McKinley Mine. The local is majority Navajo. Half of McKinley, a surface mine owned by Pittsburg and Midway (P&M), is on Navajo Nation land.

A delegation of Co-Op miners traveled from Huntington, Utah, to be part of the festivities. When the Co-Op miners—Celso Panduro, Jesus Leyba, Humberto Miranda, Bill Estrada, and Alyson Kennedy—arrived they were warmly greeted by the officers and members of the local.

As people lined up for food, Wilbur
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British cops kill worker in 'antiterrorist' drive

BY TONY HUNT

LONDON, July 25—Brutally demonstrating their new shoot-to-kill policy, the Metropolitan Police shot dead a worker on an Underground train (subway) here July 22. The summary execution came a day after four failed bomb attacks here, and two weeks after the July 7 bombings in London.

The government and its police forces are using these incidents to try to legitimize increased police powers and other attacks on the rights of working people. Their proposals include measures to extend the period that cops may detain individuals without charges and steps to tighten border controls.

At first the police attempted to justify the slaying of 27-year-old electrician Jean Charles de Menezes, falsely stating that he was "directly linked" to the July 21 attempted attacks. Their story quickly fell apart, however.

Police, who had kept under surveillance the apartment building where the young worker lived with his cousins, followed him to the train in Stockwell, south London. There, according to eyewitnesses quoted in the press, more



British cop stationed at housing project during July 23 raid on house in Brixton, south London. A day earlier police shot dead an electrician in the Tube (subway).

than a dozen plainclothes cops with assault rifles started running toward the frightened worker, chased him onto a train, pinned him to the floor, and shot him eight times, pumping seven bullets into his head in front of horri-

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A visit to Venezuela's El Charcote ranch Peasants fight for land, big ranchers step up their counteroffensive

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS
AND CARLOS CORNEJO

SAN CARLOS, Venezuela—"I got the land I use registered, which I have to renew every six months. But I don't have a title, or permission to stay. I've also been approved for a credit of 26

million bolivars [\$12,000], but so far I haven't seen a penny. When the National Guard kicked us off this land a few years ago, we each got compensation of 156,000 bolivars [\$73]—a pitiful sum. We returned, though, and we've been producing. I hope we'll win."

This is what Pablo Villamizar, a peasant at El Charcote ranch, told the *Militant* July 9. His comments were typical among dozens of peasants interviewed here. The ranch is part of the Rómulo Gallegos municipality, about 10 miles south of San Carlos, the capital of Cojedes state.

Villamizar's family is among 800 that have been occupying most of the estate for five years. The 32,000-acre

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Coal bosses in Utah rewrite 'defamation' lawsuit

BY PAUL MAILHOT

SALT LAKE CITY—C.W. Mining has submitted a newly rewritten harassment lawsuit that is aimed directly at the coal miners fighting to be represented by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), and to be reinstated to their jobs at the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah. The amended complaint was filed July 13 by attorneys representing the coal boss and the allied International Association of

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Los Angeles: Socialist Workers launch campaign for city council

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

LOS ANGELES, July 24—The Socialist Workers Party here announced it is running Diana Newberry, a 32-year-old meat packer, for City Council in the 14th District. SWP campaign supporters launched a petitioning effort today to put Newberry on the ballot. The socialist candidate filed election papers yesterday. As of that date, 13 candidates had filed to run in the November 8 election.

The Socialist Workers Party opened
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Syria: Kurds press for national rights

BY SAM MANUEL

The Syrian government is facing more frequent demonstrations by Kurds inspired by the massive protests in Lebanon against Syrian domination and the advances made by Kurds in Iraq. In June hundreds turned out to demand an investigation into the death under suspicious circumstances of a leading Kurdish cleric, Mohammed Maashouq Khaznawi. Hundreds more rallied outside the Syrian state security court in May demanding the release of Kurds charged with membership in an organization advocating “secession.”

Acceleration of the fight by oppressed Kurds, one of the unintended consequences of the U.S.-led imperialist invasion of Iraq, is having widespread effect in the Middle East. The governments in Syria, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Armenia fear that the advances made by Kurds in Iraq will spur struggles for self-determination among their Kurdish populations. About 25 million Kurds live in a contiguous territory historically known as Kurdistan that spans those countries. An estimated 1.5 million Kurds live in Syria.

Syrian police used tear gas to break up a June protest, Reuters reported, organized by two banned Kurdish parties following the death of Khaznawi, an outspoken advocate for Kurdish rights. He had disappeared in mid-May and his body later turned up in a shallow grave near the Turkish border, showing signs of torture—bruises, broken teeth, and a dislodged nose.

Syrian authorities blamed Khaznawi’s death on a criminal gang but refused to allow an autopsy, according to Knight Ridder News. Amnesty International disputed the government’s account, charging that the Muslim cleric was at

least the sixth Syrian Kurd to have died as a result of torture and ill-treatment since March 2004. The government televised the confessions of two of the five men arrested in the death.

Hundreds rallied outside the state security court in Damascus in May to protest ongoing trials of some 100 Kurds arrested over the last year. They chanted in Arabic and Kurdish “Long live liberty” and “End the emergency laws,” reported Al-Jazeera. In June the court sentenced three members of the Kurdistan Workers Party to 30 months in jail for advocating independence for the Kurdish-populated regions of Syria.

Repression of the Syrian Kurds intensified with a census conducted in 1962 by the ruling Baath party that stripped 120,000 Kurds of citizenship overnight. Their offspring were classified as foreigners or *mak-toumeen*, swelling the population of

dispossessed to as many as 250,000 today. Damascus settled thousands of Arabs on land confiscated from Kurds living near the border with Turkey. The settlers were also given better facilities, such as schools and clinics. This was a similar policy to the “Arabization” campaign carried out by Saddam Hussein’s Baathist regime in Iraq that brought tens of thousands of Arabs into Kirkuk to take the place of Kurds driven from the region, in order to ensure control over the city’s vast oil reserves.

About 160,000 Kurds are denied Syrian citizenship—meaning they cannot vote, own property, go to state-run schools, or work government jobs. They carry special red identity cards that label them as “foreigners.” Another 75,000 Kurds are not recognized at all and have no identity cards. They cannot even be treated in state hospitals or obtain marriage certificates.



Shaded area shows where Kurds live in Iraq, Iran, Syria, Turkey, and Armenia.

Under pressure from a growing movement of Kurds demanding recognition and representation in the government, the ruling Baath party hinted that it would adopt measures to resolve the status of “stateless Kurds.” But the party’s 10th congress ended without taking meaningful steps regarding the Kurds. “There is a kind of anxiety and restlessness now. We are disappointed with all the unqualified promises,” Hassan Salih, a leader of the Yekiti Kurdish party based in Qamishli—a center of protests—told the *New York Times*.

Two largest U.S. unions quit AFL-CIO

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

CHICAGO, July 25—The factional fight in the top AFL-CIO officialdom over how to reverse the decline in the dues base of the affiliates of the labor federation reached a breaking point today. Officials of the country’s two largest trade unions, the Teamsters and Service Employees International Union (SEIU), announced their split from the AFL-CIO.

The move came as the labor federation opened its four-day national convention here. Officials of two other unions, the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and UNITE HERE, had said a day earlier they would boycott the

convention.

In mid-June, the presidents of the four dissident unions had formed the “Change to Win Coalition,” a bloc outside the AFL-CIO. The Laborer’s International Union and United Farm Workers have since joined the coalition. Top officials of these unions, which comprise about 40 percent of the labor federation’s membership, also said they won’t serve on the AFL-CIO’s executive council. The Carpenter’s union, which quit the AFL-CIO in 2001, has joined the Change to Win bloc too.

Before the split, the AFL-CIO had some 13 million members and 56 affiliates. The Teamsters and SEIU have a combined membership of 3.2 million.

Anna Burger, SEIU secretary treasurer and chair of Change to Win, said the group’s differences with the AFL-CIO leadership under the watch of its president John Sweeney had become “irresolvable.” When pressed by reporters to explain, UFCW president Joseph Hansen said AFL-CIO funding for union organizing was inadequate.

Only 12.5 percent of the U.S. workforce is unionized today, the lowest figure in decades. Among privately owned companies the rate is 7.9 percent. At

its high point 50 years ago, when the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations merged, the rate was 33 percent.

Leaders of Change to Win claim to be more responsive to the needs of workers. But the group proposes the same basic course as the AFL-CIO leadership. Its calls to use half the federation’s budget for organizing are “more alike than different” from those of the Sweeney-led group, as an AFL-CIO statement put it. Officials in both camps favor growing union mergers—like that between UNITE, which organized garment and textile workers, and the hotel and restaurant workers union HERE—that weaken the industrial character and potential power of the unions.

“We are witnessing a fight over who gets to preside over a declining labor movement,” said an opinion column in the July 26 *Wall Street Journal*.

Sweeney, who was elected AFL-CIO president 10 years ago on the unfulfilled promise to reverse declining union membership, condemned the split as a “grievous insult.” As is customary, a host of capitalist politicians, mostly Democrats, addressed the opening of the AFL-CIO convention.

THE MILITANT

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Venezuelan doctor Joel Pantoja in the April 19 neighborhood clinic in Valencia, Venezuela, where he is trained by Cuban doctor who lives on premises.

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N.Y. cops start searching commuters' bags

BY PAUL PEDERSON

NEW YORK, July 25—Police here began setting up checkpoints at the entrance to major subway stations during the rush hour July 21 to search bags and packages of commuters heading onto the transit network. City authorities used the July 7 bombings that targeted the transportation system in London to gain acceptance for the move.

New York police commissioner Raymond Kelly told the *New York Times* that the police had considered instituting the searches for a year and a half, but that the timing wasn't right until the London bombings. "Searches are intrusive," Kelly said. "The issue is what the public will accept. You still need an event to get public support."

Last year, the police department had sought and failed to get permission to conduct random searches of protesters outside the Republican National Convention in New York. During the Democratic Party convention a month earlier the Boston police instituted such searches in that city's subway system.

The New York search policy has been extended to the city's regional rail lines. New Jersey cops have followed suit on the commuter rails from that state. Police say those who do not consent to be searched will be barred from entering the station.

The New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) has announced it may challenge the policy on constitutional grounds. NYCLU executive director Donna Lieberman said the

searches were "not workable" and "will not make New Yorkers more secure."

Officials of Transport Workers Union Local 100 announced that the union has hired Rafael Ron, former head of security at Israel's Airports Authority, to train the workers in the city's subways and buses to police the public transport system for "terrorist activity." Union officials railed at the Metropolitan Transit Authority for not providing enough "antiterrorism" training to union members.

"Transit workers are the first line of defense against terrorist activity," said union president Roger Toussaint in an editorial published in the *Times*.

In addition to Republican mayor Michael Bloomberg, the four Democratic Party candidates in the running for New York mayor all came out in support of the move. "I have consistently asked the mayor to develop a complete plan to maintain the security of the subways," said Virginia Fields, one of the mayoral hopefuls.

Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate Martin Koppel spoke out against the measure at a campaign rally July 23. "The moves by the city government have nothing to do with 'fighting terrorism,'" Koppel said. "The random searches are part of the effort by the ruling class to chip away at the rights and political space of working people. They are designed to generate public acceptance for attacking the right to privacy and other rights working people need to defend our



Militant/Paul Pederson

Police officers search bags of subway riders at a police checkpoint at the Herald Square subway station in midtown Manhattan July 22.

standard living against attacks by the employers."

The atmosphere set by the cop searches has already led to unjustified detentions and disruptions of public transportation here. On July 24, heavily armed police swarmed a Gray Line double-decker bus full of 60 tourists at Times Square. Cops in riot gear escorted passengers out of the bus and handcuffed five men. According to

the *Daily News*, a Gray Line dispatcher had called 911 and told the cops the men were looking South Asian and had backpacks and their pockets "stuffed." The five were quickly freed after it became apparent they were tourists. The same day, the police shut down Penn Station for more than an hour when a passenger allegedly claimed he had a bomb in a suitcase, which proved to be harmless.

Four weeks, 1,035 copies to go on 'New International' sales campaign

BY PAUL PEDERSON

With four weeks to go in the campaign to sell 3,350 copies of the two newest issues of the Marxist magazine *New International* (see front-page ad), a big effort lies ahead to sell the more than 1,000 *NIs* needed to make the goal.

Seventy-nine copies of the two magazines—published in English, Spanish, and now the first of the two in French—were sold in week 17. An average of 259 copies per week need to be sold over the next month to meet the international target.

As we go to press, socialists have begun selling the *Militant* and *New International* at auto plants in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and South Carolina. This is part of the effort to join with workers resisting the attempt of the auto barons to bust the United Auto Workers union.

"The team just got back from selling outside the big Honda assembly plant in Lincoln, Alabama," Susan Lamont, an organizer of the effort, wrote July 26, the first day of a weeklong effort. "This is the first time that we've sold at that plant gate. We set up at one of the entrances to the plant and at a nearby gas station.

"One worker, after hearing that the *Militant* supports unions, said, 'The way they treat us, we need one,' as he picked up a copy of the paper," Lamont said. "The Lincoln police stopped the team from selling after an hour, but not before we had sold a dozen papers."

An earlier campaigning effort to the Midwest meatpacking region has continued to bear fruit. Joe Swanson reports that five of the new issues of *New International* and three *Militant* subscriptions were sold during follow-up visits to Storm Lake and Marshalltown, Iowa.

"A number of workers had asked us to come back when they had money to pick

up a copy of the *NI* and to get the paper," Swanson said. "During the visit to Marshalltown we had a number of discussions on the importance of workers in the United States unifying with workers internationally. In Storm Lake, where a union-organizing campaign failed to win the necessary votes last year at the large Tyson hog slaughterhouse, workers were again discussing fighting to bring the union in."

British cops institute shoot-to-kill policy

Continued from front page
fied passengers.

Police spokesmen said the worker seemed "suspicious" because he had run from the cops and because he was wearing a "padded jacket."

The next day the cops changed their story, admitting that de Menezes was not a suspect and calling the killing a "tragedy." Metropolitan Police Commissioner Ian Blair reaffirmed the shoot-to-kill policy, however. "Somebody else could be shot" in future police actions, he said, but that everything would be "done to make it right."

The police unit that was involved, SO19, is trained in "tracking and killing terrorists" by the SAS, the British army's special forces.

The family of the slain worker, who had emigrated from Brazil three years ago, condemned the police. The cops "have to pay for that in many ways, because if they do not, they are going

to kill many people," his cousin Alex Pereira told the BBC. "They killed my cousin; they could kill anyone."

Kenneth Livingstone, the mayor of London and a member of the Labour Party, said, "the terrorists bear responsibility" for de Menezes' death, not the cops. He reaffirmed the shoot-to-kill policy.

Khalid Mahmood, a Labour Member of Parliament who is viewed as a leader of Muslims, said that "shooting to kill is justified." Shami Chakrabarti, director of the civil rights group Liberty, also defended the shoot-to-kill policy, insisting that "our police are not trigger-happy."

Plainclothes cops toted assault rifles as they patrolled a street in North West London, a few hours after the killing of de Menezes. Earlier they had tear-gassed and raided a house in the area. Another armed raid took place July 23 in a working-class area of south London.

Cops have so far arrested five individuals they claim were involved in the July 21 failed bombings of three Underground trains and a bus. Police spokesmen have said they are targeting individuals of East African background. Meanwhile at a July 21 meeting with Prime Minister Anthony Blair, police chiefs and heads of the secret police proposed that cops be allowed to hold "suspects" without charges for up to 90 days, an increase from the current 14-day limit.

They also called for "setting up a special border force consisting of Customs, immigration, Special Branch and uniformed police," according to the *Times* of London.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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London	200	185	93%
Edinburgh	55	48	87%
UK total	255	233	91%
NEW ZEALAND			
Auckland	55	47	85%
Christchurch*	20	15	75%
N.Z. total	75	62	83%
SWEDEN*	45	35	78%
UNITED STATES			
Chicago	115	102	89%
Washington	100	84	84%
Philadelphia	100	82	82%
Houston	105	85	81%
Miami	110	88	80%
Twin Cities	140	106	76%
Atlanta	115	87	76%
New York	325	237	73%
Seattle	130	94	72%
San Francisco	205	146	71%
Birmingham	95	66	69%
Los Angeles	225	154	68%
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Des Moines	105	67	64%
Newark	125	79	63%
Boston	120	71	59%
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Salt Lake City	15	7	47%
U.S. total	2,291	1,650	72%
AUSTRALIA	60	38	63%
ICELAND	32	18	56%
World Youth Festival	250	0	0%
pathfinderpress.com	200	135	68%
Int'l totals	3,358	2,315	69%
Goals/Should be	3,350	2,712	81%
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N.Y.: 20,000 sign to put socialist ticket on ballot

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK—The room burst into applause as the chairperson of the meeting, Róger Calero, announced, “As of tonight, we have collected more than 20,000 signatures to put the Socialist Workers Party ticket on the ballot.”

Calero, organizer of the petitioning drive here, was opening a July 23 rally, attended by more than 90 people, to celebrate the success of that 12-day effort. Campaigners gathered more than double the 7,500 signatures required for ballot status in the city elections.

The speakers included the four candidates on the SWP ticket here: Martín Koppel for mayor, Dan Fein for city comptroller, Arrin Hawkins for Manhattan borough president, and Sarah Katz for Bronx borough president.

Jay Ressler, SWP candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh, spoke about the recent victory the SWP campaign won in that city. Following his refusal to sign an “antisubversive” loyalty oath, the board of elections accepted the SWP

campaign’s petitions.

The success in the New York petitioning drive “builds on the victories for political rights won in Pittsburgh and Seattle,” said SWP national campaign director Argiris Malapanis. In Seattle, he noted, the party won an exemption from the city’s requirement to publicly disclose names, addresses, and jobs of campaign contributors.

The rally was a sendoff for campaigners who were about to leave for Los Angeles or Birmingham, Alabama. In Los Angeles the party is launching a drive to place its city council candidate, Diana Newberry, on the ballot. A sales team is being organized out of Birmingham to sell the *Militant* to auto workers in plants throughout the South.

“The Socialist Workers campaign links up with workers in struggle,” said Fein. “We present first and foremost the need to organize unions and to strengthen those that we have.”

Fein, who works at the Hunts Point Meat Market in the Bronx, pointed to



Militant photos by Paul Pederson

July 23 rally celebrates completion of effort to put Socialist Workers ticket on New York City ballot. SWP mayoral candidate Martín Koppel (left) addresses the meeting.

the warm response the socialist campaign has received from fellow workers. “Thirty-six workers at several meatpacking shops here have signed to put our slate on the ballot. At one plant the union rep posted on the bulletin board the English and Spanish brochures with the SWP campaign platform,” he said.

Arrin Hawkins explained that, unlike capitalist candidates, who reduce the political debate to narrow “New York issues,” the socialist campaign “begins with the interests of workers and farmers worldwide.” Workers in the United States, she said, need to oppose the efforts by the imperialist powers to block semicolonial nations such as Iran and north Korea from developing nuclear power and other energy sources needed to expand access to electrical power.

“We are the only working-class party running in the elections,” Koppel said. “Now, with the petitioning effort completed, we can step up campaigning. We’ll take advantage of every opportunity to reach workers and youth, presenting a revolutionary, working-class alternative to the Democrats, Republicans, and other capitalist parties.”

It’s the workings of the capitalist system itself that is preparing a world “of more turmoil, uncertainty, economic ruin, imperialist wars, and degradation,” Koppel said. The march of workers and farmers toward revolutionary openings is inevitable, he added. But to win, “a revolutionary workers party is needed—a disciplined, serious po-

litical organization with a program and strategy to lead workers and farmers to take power. That’s what we are setting out to build. If that’s what you are looking for, our party is your party and I invite you to join us,” he concluded.

The next day, Fein and a team of campaigners soapboxed on the streets of Brooklyn. Crystal Renee Luckette, a student at the High School for Legal Studies, stopped by together with two friends to learn more about the SWP campaign. As another of her friends walked by, she shouted, “Hey, come here, this campaign is important.” Luckette plans to set up a meeting for socialist candidates at her high school in the fall.

That evening, Koppel was one of several speakers at a meeting in the Bronx sponsored by Puerto Rican independence fighters to mark the 107th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Puerto Rico. “Working people in the United States have common interests with those fighting for the independence of Puerto Rico. Together we can bring down the world’s final empire and advance the fight for a world of free men and women,” Koppel said.

Los Angeles election campaign

Continued from front page

its ballot effort here the day after successfully concluding a similar campaign in New York, where 20,000 people signed nominating petitions in 12 days to put the socialist slate on the ballot (see article above). Several volunteers who helped out in the New York campaign headed for Los Angeles to aid the SWP campaign there.

The special election here was called after Antonio Villaraigosa—a Democrat who held the City Council District 14 seat—was elected mayor of Los Angeles in May. The SWP ran Wendy Lyons, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers and a meat packer, for mayor.

Newberry campaigned today in Boyle Heights, a working-class and largely Latino neighborhood included in District 14. The densely populated area of some 90,000 people has an un-

employment rate of 14 percent. In the past year, hundreds of Boyle Heights residents have been evicted from their homes in face of soaring rents.

The socialist campaigners have taken a goal of collecting 1,000 signatures to put Newberry on the ballot. The city requires 500 registered voters who reside in the district sign nominating petitions. The last day for filing is August 11. “Many were glad to see someone running with a working-class program, someone who is for unions and opposes the twin parties of capitalism—the Democrats and Republicans,” Newberry said.

A former meat packer, whose plant was shut down, said he couldn’t sign because he was on parole, but was happy to hear a candidate speaking for mobilizing union power to resist the bosses’ attacks on wages and job conditions.

Militant Fighting Fund gains support in Venezuela

C.W. Mining, owners of the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah, filed a sweeping lawsuit targeting nearly 100 individuals and unions involved in or supporting the fight of the workers there to organize into the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) (see front-page article). The Militant Fighting Fund was launched to help defend the Militant—a prominent target of the lawsuit. Endorsements and contributions to the \$60,000 fund-raising campaign can be sent to the Militant Fighting Fund, P.O. Box 520994, Salt Lake City, UT 84152. Materials on the case are posted on www.themilitant.com

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

CARACAS, Venezuela—More than a dozen workers and peasants involved in struggles for land, jobs, and union rights here have signed on as endorsers of the Militant Fighting Fund.

Juvil Yauca Cordero, Angel Sarmiento, and Eugenio Sánchez, who have been involved in a 25-year-long struggle for land on the Yauquera estate

near San Carlos, Cojedes, endorsed the fund. Peasants in Yaracuy state also endorsed, including Napoleon Tortolero, president of *Los Cañizos* farm cooperative.

Workers at the Invepal paper factory in Morón, Carabobo state, fought for two years, including through two factory occupations, to demand the government nationalize the bankrupt company (former Venepal), and succeeded. Rowan Jiménez, a leader of the workers’ struggle there, endorsed the fund along with eight other workers.

Carlos Pérez and Manuel Figuera, two officers of the union SINTRA-LCASA at the ALCASA aluminum plant in Bolívar state, also endorsed. Workers there staged a slowdown last December to demand the company pay them 13 billion bolivars (\$1=2,150 bv) in back wages and benefits. This demand remains unresolved.

Four of the unionists from the aluminum plant and paper mill donated a total of 24,500 bolivars to help defend the *Militant*. The country’s minimum wage is 17,000 bolivars per day, which is

about what Invepal workers get paid.



Supporters of the *Militant* in Miami sent in five new endorsers. These include Andrés Gómez, national coordinator of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, an organization of young Cubans in the United States who support the Cuban Revolution; and Steve Augustine and Pedro Smith, members of the International Longshoremen’s Association Local 1416.

In Price, Utah, Johnnie Gutierrez, a retired member of UMWA Local 6363, signed on and gave a \$25 contribution. Charles Fausett, another retired miner, pitched in \$20. Both have backed the Co-Op miners’ union-organizing struggle. In addition, six Co-Op miners endorsed the Fund.

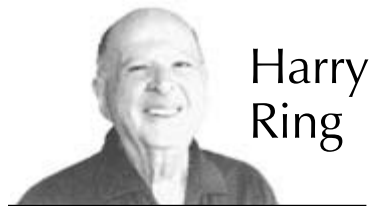
In San Francisco three immigrant rights groups endorsed the Militant Fighting Fund. They are the Northern California Coalition to obtain Driver’s Licenses, La Raza Centro Legal, and the San Francisco Day Labor Program.

Contributions to the Militant Fighting Fund are due by August 15.

Help raise \$60,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund!

Country/City	Quota	Collected	%
NEW ZEALAND			
Auckland	1,100	905	82%
Christchurch	400	140	35%
N.Z. total	1,500	1,045	70%
UNITED STATES			
Los Angeles	4,000	3,570	89%
Salt Lake City	1,000	828	83%
Boston	3,000	2,015	67%
San Francisco	6,000	3,875	65%
Houston	3,000	1,795	60%
Des Moines	1,200	700	58%
Philadelphia	3,400	1,630	48%
Miami	3,000	1,205	40%
Pittsburgh	3,500	1,355	39%
Chicago	4,700	1,722	37%
Twin Cities	2,000	687	34%
Price, UT	1,000	335	34%
New York	8,500	2,665	31%
Atlanta	3,750	1,137	30%
Seattle	4,400	1,010	23%
Newark	2,000	430	22%
Washington, D.C.	2,000	420	21%
Birmingham	750	50	7%
U.S. Other		287	
U.S. total	57,200	25,716	45%
AUSTRALIA		60	
CANADA		455	
ICELAND		40	
SWEDEN		160	
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh		40	
London		105	
UK total		145	
Int'l total	58,700	27,621	46%
Goal/Should be	60,000	45,000	75%

‘America the Beautiful’—Pine Ridge Indian Reservation—The Oglala Sioux tribe



Harry Ring

has secured funding to start a public transportation system that will serve villages in an area that will encompass two poor counties with an unemployment rate near 80 percent!

The tribe’s transit coordinator said the system will provide access to jobs for 16,000 residents.

Rub your eyes in disbelief—A partial number of Pennsylvania hospitals broke precedent, releasing the number of patients who contracted infections last year. The numbers: 11,600 patients infected and 1,500 dead! *USA Today* points to many factors, including the usual target of workers who allegedly don’t wash their hands. No mention of overworked staff, or the need for a full supply of rubber

gloves, adequate supervision, and ever present sterilization equipment.

Here we go again—“As U.S. public health officials begin planning for this year’s flu season, three companies are expected to supply vaccine for the country. But Chiron, whose entire supply of U.S.-bound flu vaccine was scrapped last year after contamination was found at it’s Liverpool, England, plant, now has trouble at a different facility.”—*News item*.

Gesundheit!—South Da-

kota—The percentage of state residents who say their health is fair at best and poor at worst has taken an unhealthy jump over the past decade. In 1993 the figure was 11 percent. By 2003 it had risen to 13 percent. Nationwide in 2003 it was at 16 percent. The stench of murder?

“U.S. Territory, Puerto Rico—Aguadilla Mayor Carlos Mendez called for the Legislature to investigate Guerrero prison where 15 people died while in custody the past nine months. The Department of

Corrections recently concluded there were no irregularities in prison treatment, saying the deceased were drug addicts who suffered heart failure during the recovery process.”—*USA Today*.

Free prescriptions—We didn’t plan an entire collection of items on the sick society. Which is ok once in a while. But, in general, diversity is better. So, a big please: Send clippings to Pathfinder Books, 4229 South Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90011. E-mail to: thegreatsociety@sbcglobal.net

Alberta gov’t bans packers strike for 60 days

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO—On the eve of a strike by 2,300 meat packers at Lakeside Packers in Brooks, Alberta, the Conservative Party–led provincial government intervened on the side of the bosses.

Under provisions of the Alberta labor code, on July 19 the government declared as illegal any strike or lockout at the plant for the next 60 days. If no contract is signed by mid-October, which will mark one year since the union was certified at Lakeside, the company may then apply for a government-supervised decertification vote against the union, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 401. “This is the first time in history that the Alberta labor code has been used in this way against workers in the private sector,” UFCW representative Larry Zima told the *Militant* in a phone interview. Zima said the government assigned a mediator to try to get talks going between the union and the company.

About 1,100 workers massed in front of the plant at 5:00 a.m. July 20 to protest the anti-labor intervention.

“We have been asking the province for help with Lakeside for the past nine months and the government never helped us,” Lakeside worker Edil Hassan said at the rally, according to the *Calgary Herald*. “Now all of a sudden they say we have to go back to work. For what? All we’re asking for is a collective agreement and fair treatment.”

That morning no one entered the plant. The company said it was closed for cleaning.

Lakeside Packers is the biggest beef slaughterhouse in Canada, handling 40 percent of the beef kill nationwide. It processes 3,500 cattle per day. According to workers and union officials, it is one of the most unsafe slaughterhouses in North America. Ten years ago the company was bought by the IBP, which was later taken over by the notoriously anti-union Tyson Foods, the world’s biggest meat processing company, which is headquartered in the U.S. state of Arkansas.

Over the past decade the composition of the workforce has changed dramatically. Hundreds of workers have been hired from Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, and other countries. Conditions have also worsened with an intense “productivity drive.” Workers say some are forced to wear diapers on the line because the foremen don’t let them leave to use the washroom in a timely way.

The union at the plant was broken

when a 1984 strike was defeated. Workers’ attempts to win back the union did not succeed until August 2004. At that time the UFCW was certified at the plant after 51.4 percent of the workers voted for the union.

Since then Tyson has refused to negotiate a contract. On June 18, some 70 percent of the workers voted to strike for a contract similar to the UFCW contract at Cargill in High River. Local 401 President Doug O’Halloran told the *Militant* that at the beginning of the year the Cargill workers won a \$2 an hour wage increase. Referring to the Tyson bosses, he said, “They want to beat the union into the ground so they can send a message to all Tyson workers that it is not worth it to fight for a union.”

On July 16 the UFCW issued a notice setting July 20 as a strike deadline and demanding a negotiated contract or binding arbitration to get an agreement. Tyson rejected the demand and began organizing to bus potential scabs into the plant. The union held picket captain meetings to prepare a walkout. Union members set up portable toilets and other necessities for a strike in front of the plant. The government then imposed the 60-day “cooling-off period”

Unionists strike bus company in Scotland



Militant/Alistair Caisley

Workers picket Annandale Street Lothian Bus depot in Edinburgh, Scotland, July 18 to demand better working conditions. Some 1,400 members of the Transport and General Workers Union plan further strike action July 30–31.

banning strikes and lockouts.

At three union meetings July 20–21 UFCW officials urged workers to return to the job and use the next 60 days to strengthen support for the union. O’Halloran said union repre-

sentatives would go house to house in Brooks and Medicine Hat, another nearby town, to speak to union members about the government action and the need to continue the fight for a union contract.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 8, 1980

CIEGO DE AVILA, Cuba—More than 100,000 Cubans gathered here on July 26 for celebrations marking the twenty-seventh anniversary of the 1953 attack on the Moncada barracks, the opening battle of the Cuban revolution.

Just as last year’s celebrations in Holguín had been, this one too was, as Cuban President Fidel Castro put it in his speech, a “Sandinista event.”

Castro had returned to Cuba only one day earlier after a week’s stay in Nicaragua. While there he not only addressed a rally of half a million in Managua July 19—the first anniversary of the Sandinista revolution—but also visited workplaces and farms, spoke to thousands at impromptu rallies at several cities, and held meetings with trade-union activists, militants of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), and with a large group of Catholic priests and nuns who support the revolution.



August 8, 1955

“It’s a project for peace,” the Eisenhower administration said in announcing plans July 30 for sending a man-made satellite cruising around the earth. At a press conference attended by prominent scientists, James C. Hagerty, White House press secretary, said the satellite would be launched “entirely for scientific purposes.”

In reality the fanfare about “purely scientific purposes” conceals quite other aims. According to Hanson W. Baldwin, well-informed military expert of the N.Y. Times, the satellite project grows out of military research and development with rocket missiles whose end product is “the so-called ‘I.B.M.’—or intercontinental ballistic missile.”

The advantage of such a weapon, says Baldwin, is that “it would nullify all known systems of detection, interception and defense, and would expose—literally—virtually all the

cities on earth to almost instantaneous destruction from these giant rockets.”



August 15, 1930

The advance of Fascism has alarmed the proletariat. The results of the Saxony elections are thoroughly discussed in all the factories, at the registry offices, wherever workers gather.

But it is not the Saxony elections alone that have refuted the blinded leadership of our Party.

In the days that Fascism utilized to prepare a mighty advance, the period of the coalition government, in this period the Central Committee of our Party did not see the growth of Fascism at all, but intoxicated itself with its own, slowly crumbling strength. On January 21, 1930, the *Rote Fahne* proclaimed:

“The German proletariat is marching to the attack with the slogan: Dictatorship of the Proletariat!”

This reckless self-intoxication, combined with the block-headed theory of “social fascism,” crippled the Party.

Venezuelan peasants

Continued from front page

cattle ranch is operated by Agroflora, referred to here as the “English company” because it is owned by the Vestey, a British capitalist family. The Vestey Group owns 14 ranches in Venezuela spanning 865,000 acres, most of them in Apure state, where the cattle are bred. It has similar investments in Argentina and Brazil.

On January 8, Cojedes governor Jhonny Yáñez sent National Guard troops to El Charcote to accompany inspectors who would determine within three months whether the Vestey had legally obtained title to the ranch. The action coincided with a decree issued by President Hugo Chávez, titled “war on the large estates,” aimed at speeding up land reform.

In March the Cojedes government said Agroflora did not prove legal title to nearly 15,000 acres of El Charcote, which were declared state land. The governor promised to turn over by September titles to peasants tilling those areas and to evict peasants occupying privately owned land.

“The governor intervened to salvage the interests of the landowners,” said José Pimentel, a leader of the occupation and a member of the Ezequiel Zamora National Peasant Front. “He has agreed the remaining land can be held by the English, who are the invaders. Six months after the inspectors went in, not a single peasant has a title yet, and many of us are threatened with removal. Since the beginning of our struggle, the National Guard evicted us once. Hit men of the English company are operating with impunity. Over the last year and a half, one peasant has been killed by the flying squads of the landowners and three have been ‘disappeared.’”

Peasants at El Charcote come from various backgrounds. Pastor Oliveros said in the 1990s he worked in factories and other companies in Valencia, about 80 miles northeast of San Carlos, but could not make a living since he was laid off from one job after another. Others were landless rural workers here.

Half decade of struggle

Some are young. Doris Freite, 21, and her family are growing corn on about 35 acres. “We are fighting for this land,” she said. “I joined the struggle when I was 16.” At that time, some 600 families occupied parts of the ranch that were largely idle. The Law on Land and Agricultural Development, which the government passed in November 2001, encouraged the peasants to persist. That law allowed peasants cultivating idle or unproductive lands to seek legal title.

“Without a title we can’t get loans and have no machinery,” Freite said. “To work the land, we have to use machetes and plant by hand. But at least now we have the right to a plot of land and they haven’t been able to kick us out of here. These days the English don’t mess with us too much. Before they used to come to insult us or let loose their cattle on our children and our crops.”

Now most peasants have fenced in their *ranchos* (shacks) and surrounding land to prevent cattle from trampling on their produce. About 5,700 head of cattle roam the adjacent pastures, according to ranch manager Anthony Richards, down from 14,000 five years ago.

Local authorities have refused to

provide running water or electricity to the peasants here, even in the areas declared state land, citing legal appeals by Agroflora. “That’s for those who have money,” said Ender Pirela, pointing to the electrical lines running parallel to the 10-mile-long road crossing the ranch. Pirela operates a van on that road transporting peasants to nearby towns, in addition to cultivating his 30 acres. “What an injustice,” he said, “to see the electricity posts meters or kilometers away and not to have access to light.” Wood is used for heating water and cooking.

While the lack of farm machinery is nearly universal, some have managed to drill wells and install manual pumps and have diversified production. Ferboss Quintero and his wife Ana Julia grow a variety of hot and sweet peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, yucca, onions, melons, bananas, and other fruits and vegetables. Recently they have also planted cocoa trees. Sesame is another common crop here. “We sell to the *Mercals* at low prices,” said Ana Julia Quintero. She was referring to government stores that provide basic foodstuffs—like rice, salt, sugar, cooking oil, chicken, canned fish, and dairy products—at prices as low as half the market cost. Mercals are now spreading across the country. “Our goal is not only to survive on the land but to provide food for the country,” Quintero said.

Venezuela imports over 60 percent of its food from Canada, the U.S., Brazil, and elsewhere. Meanwhile, about 5 percent of the population owns 75 percent of the arable land, much of which is idle. According to the government’s National Land Institute, at least 115,000 peasant families have won land titles since 2001. But most rural toilers, some 3 million people, or 13 percent of the population, remain landless. Many, like those here, have been pressing for land and low-interest loans from state banks.

Polarization between social classes

At the same time, polarization between social classes is growing. Big farmers and ranchers and other capitalists—who control the factories, banks, stores, transportation, and most media—are also becoming bolder in defending their interests. They are working with bourgeois forces within the governing Fifth Republic Movement (MVR) and with the U.S.-backed



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

Peasants at El Charcote ranch July 9 on land they’ve occupied for five years. Ranch is owned by the Vestey, a British capitalist family, and located in Cojedes state, Venezuela. From right, Doris Freite, Eugenio Sánchez, and Pastor Oliveros.

opposition, while using their own hired guns to intimidate peasants.

According to the July 1 *El Nacional*, one of Venezuela’s main dailies, the owners of El Charcote, Piñero, Paraima, and La Bendición Ramera ranches have filed suits to reverse National Land Institute (INTi) decisions to declare part of their territory state land. The first week of July, opposition deputies in the National Assembly filed a motion asking the Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional the 2001 agrarian reform law. The same week, the Supreme Court agreed to put on hold a 2003 INTi decision granting titles to peasants who had occupied the 13,000-acre Coquito ranch in Atagracia de Orituco, Guárico state.

INTi officials go out of their way to explain the government is not expropriating land. In a July 11 interview, *Militant* reporters asked Ibelis Vernet, an economist at INTi’s national headquarters in Caracas, whether the takeover of El Charcote was the first such action. Vernet replied the land was not expropriated, it was “rescued.” Since the Vestey could not prove legal title to that part of the ranch, it became state property, she said. Venezuela’s constitution, she noted, upholds the sanctity of private property.

Peasants at El Charcote said that Governor Yáñez, an MVR leader, sent inspectors to help Agroflora keep more than half the ranch. During a July 11 march in Caracas of some 5,000 peasants, *Militant* reporters found out that Yáñez’s actions are not an aberration. In some states the National Guard

and police have been repeatedly used to evict peasants from land they’ve occupied (see “Venezuelan peasants demand land, protest thug attacks” in July 25 *Militant*).

Hired guns of big landowners

The legal offensive by big ranchers and other capitalists is backed by intimidation and killings of peasants. It is succeeding in slowing down land reform and frustrating the efforts of thousands for land and credits. At the Yauquera, a 62,000-acre area near El Charcote that the courts recently awarded to peasants, Julio Emenegildo Rodríguez, 62, was shot dead the night of April 29 while guarding the peasants’ camp. He was one of 138 peasants killed the last six years by thugs of big landowners.

While leaving El Charcote, just before sunset, we saw one of the Vestey’s “flying squads”—two men riding a motorcycle through the fields. One of them, fairly young, carried a shotgun. Minutes earlier he had fired shots in the air.

“These hit men get on their bikes and come out only in the evenings,” said Ender Pirela. “They are cowards who get paid to intimidate us. But we are not afraid. El Charcote belongs to the peasants. We are tired of being exploited like peons. We will stay.”

Whether the peasants here, and in farms across the country, succeed in this goal or are evicted, however, depends on whether the capitalist class maintains state power.

Olympia Newton contributed to this article.

Venezuelan youth leaders build Caracas festival

**BY OLYMPIA NEWTON
AND CARLOS CORNEJO**

CARACAS, Venezuela—“We were well received in every country we visited in the Andes region where we built the 16th World Festival of Youth and Students,” Wikénferd Oliver, a member of the international commission of the Venezuelan National Preparatory Committee (NPC), said in a July 10 interview here. Oliver and Ambar Nierez, another member of the commission, toured Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia May 27–June 6. The Venezuelan NPC, the host of the international gathering, has organized similar tours to Central America and parts of the Caribbean, the Southern Cone, and Canada to promote the festival, which will take place here August 7–15.

“In Peru, we found out zinc miners were on strike and we took part in a march to protest government attempts to privatize the water company,” Nierez said. It’s likely that some of these workers will be part of the delegation of 500 from Peru, she said.

Nierez and Oliver arrived in Bolivia during the month-long blockade of La Paz, the capital city, and sustained protests by miners, peasants, and other working people demanding nationalization of natural gas and oil. “When we got to the airport, it was taken over by the army,” Oliver said. “And 200 meters away, the streets were taken by the people protesting. They were chanting and blocking the streets. Nobody could pass, so we began talking to the protestors.”

“They recognized us as fellow fighters,” said Nierez, “and they opened a trail for us to pass so we could meet with others about the festival.” About 300 delegates from Bolivia are expected to attend the festival, the two Venezuelan youth leaders said.

More than 1,200 delegates are expected from neighboring Colombia. Oliver and Nierez said they addressed a meeting of 3,000 in Bogotá about the political situation in Venezuela.

In all, at least 6,000 students, workers, and other youth are expected to attend the festival from the Americas. According to the festival’s International Organizing Committee, 8,000 delegates had been confirmed as of July 13 worldwide and more are expected.

C.W. Mining lawsuit

Continued from front page

United Workers Union (IAUWU).

In the 75-page brief, the Co-Op miners are now accused of immigration “fraud,” in addition to unfair labor practices, defamation, and other charges.

The UMWA and its international officers, the Utah AFL-CIO, and several other unions and organizations that have supported the Co-Op workers remain targets of this lawsuit. The *Militant* and Utah’s two main dailies—the *Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret Morning News*—are also cited for allegedly defaming the company by reporting on what workers had to say in the union-organizing fight at Co-Op.

At a June 14 hearing in Salt Lake City involving the three newspapers, Federal Judge Dee Benson ordered the coal company’s lawyers to resubmit their suit. Benson said the previous lawsuit was “amorphous” and did not clearly state who was being sued and what the alleged defamations were. In response, attorney Mark Hansen, who spoke on behalf of both C.W. Mining and the IAUWU at the hearing, said it would be necessary to rewrite the whole complaint.

C.W. Mining and the IAUWU filed their original suit in September 2004 and then amended it last December.

The coal bosses are using the court case as part of their campaign to counter efforts by the Co-Op miners for a union, better pay and safety conditions, and dignity on the job. The union-organizing struggle began in September 2003.

The newest allegation by the company—now at the forefront of the lawsuit—says a number of individual miners are guilty of fraud for securing employment at Co-Op with “false work papers.” Many of these miners had worked at the mine for years.

The company attorneys claim C.W. Mining was informed in May 2004 by the Social Security Administration that a number of employees did not have valid Social Security numbers. Because of this, they say, the company was forced to “terminate the employment of the fraudulent workers” last December after workers refused to “correct the problem.” The firings took place seven months after supposed government notification and a week before a union representation vote. The National Labor Relations Board has not announced yet the results of the election.

The company claims the miners were involved in “racketeering activity” because they had “devised schemes to obtain money by false pretenses.” This charge is explained as including schemes to obtain wages through “illegal employment” and schemes to obtain financial contributions from others while the miners were on strike.

The new complaint maintains the company’s charge that the UMWA and individual Co-Op miners are guilty of “unfair labor practices.” The company contends the workers were already represented by the IAUWU, which miners describe as a company-run outfit that never acted in the workers’ interests.

‘Defamations’ by the workers

In response to the judge’s criticisms at the first hearing, the company attorneys

rewrote the entire section of the case alleging who is guilty of defaming C.W. Mining and the IAUWU. Twenty-three pages now center on statements made by individual Co-Op miners. The alleged defamations include remarks by miners that conditions at the mine were unsafe, that miners were poorly paid compared to other miners in the area, that the company health insurance was so expensive it was the same as having no health coverage at all, and that workers were fighting for a real union.

The company singles out a number of miners—Ricardo Chávez, Bill Estrada, Celso Panduro, Alyson Kennedy, Gonzalo Salazar, Jesus Salazar, Juan Salazar, and Ana María Sánchez—as making the most “defamatory” statements. One miner, Raymundo Silva, who was not named in the earlier company legal briefs and did not join a 10-month strike that ended in July 2004, has been added to the lawsuit. He is cited for telling a newspaper earlier this year, “I saw the bosses laugh at the miners during the strike” and that the “abuses at the mine” got to him.

The UMWA is the subject of five pages of the complaint dealing with supposed defamatory statements against the company.

Thirteen pages of the new complaint catalog articles in the *Militant* the company deems libelous. In introducing the alleged defamations the company attorneys state, “The *Militant* and its agents made the following publications, not as reports of statements by others, but as their own representations.” They go on to cite more than 70 *Militant* news articles or editorials as being defamatory.

Other charges

C.W. Mining has included one other new charge in its complaint—it now claims a number of the defendants are

Arizona miners back union fight in Utah

Continued from front page

Willey, a member of UMWA Local 1332, got up on the back of a pickup truck and addressed the crowd. “We want to welcome our soon-to-be full-fledged union brothers, the Co-Op miners from Huntington, Utah,” he said. “They struck the Co-Op mine, a family-run business, for 10 months. How many of us can handle that? But we can do it if we have to. We use our miners’ rights. A lot of people wouldn’t be working here today if it weren’t for this great union. It’s the union that gives you a voice and it’s your voice that makes the union,” said Willey.

Local 1332 members noted that their contract with P&M expires Aug. 6, 2006. The local has waged four strikes. The last walkout, in the summer of 2000, defeated an attempt by P&M to institute 12-hour workdays.

The Co-Op miners set up a photo display of their 22-month battle to win UMWA representation. They said they have been holding picket lines at the Co-Op mine and invited everyone to a solidarity picnic in Huntington on August 27 (see box below).

The Utah miners also reported that C.W. Mining, the owner of the Co-Op mine, is the target of a lawsuit filed July 5 in Salt Lake City by Aquila Inc.,

New Zealand miners win national contract



Militant/Terry Coggan

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Coal miners at seven mines in New Zealand voted July 19 to approve a new contract with a national employment agreement that covers all the mines—a key union demand. Some 240 miners and maintenance workers—members of the Engineering, Printing, and Manufacturing Union—at three mines had been locked out during the contract battle.

The two-year contract includes a 5 percent wage rise in the first year and smaller raises and lump-sum payments in the second. The bosses had pressed for a three-year deal with smaller wage increases, and on July 1 suspended miners at the Stockton mine on the South Island’s West Coast, and the Huntly East and Rotowaru mines, after the union implemented load-out bans at the three sites.

—TERRY COGGAN

guilty of invasion of privacy. Their attorneys write that the defendants “gave publicity to matters concerning the Plaintiffs that placed Plaintiffs before the public in a false light that would be highly offensive to a reasonable person.”

At the end of its complaint, C.W. Mining charges the defendants with invasion of privacy, intentional interference with economic relations, and civil conspiracy. It makes these charges against individual Co-Op miners, the UMWA and its officers, the *Militant* and its editors and reporters, the oil workers’ union PACE, George Neckel and Utah Jobs with Justice, and others.

Attorneys for the defendants will

respond to the company’s legal challenge. The newspapers’ attorneys requested an extension of time to answer the complaint and were granted until August 16. Lawyers for the other defendants asked for and were given until September 1 to respond. After company lawyers file answers to those legal documents a new hearing will be set.

Judge Dee Benson said at the June hearing that he would rule first on the motions by the newspapers against the charges of defamation. He would then take up the motions having to do with the union defendants, all of whom are also alleged to have defamed the company along with other charges.

a power plant operator based in Missouri. After firing many of its workers leading up to a union representation election last December, the Co-Op bosses have been unable to produce enough coal to fulfill their contract with this customer. Aquila is suing for damages after being forced to buy coal elsewhere at higher prices.

“If you take the full impact of that contract, not having that contract and having to replace it, it could be \$10 million to \$20 million per year impact on an ongoing basis,” Keith Stamm, Aquila’s chief executive officer, told the *Megawatt Daily*. The contract between the two companies runs from Jan. 1, 2004, to Dec. 31, 2008. C.W. Mining notified Aquila in April it was canceling the contract “due to union related workforce issues” at the Co-Op mine.

On Dec. 16, 2004, a union representation election was held at the Huntington mine. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has yet to announce the results of the vote. Nearly 40 miners, mostly Mexican immigrants, were fired a week before the vote. The company claimed the workers did not have proper work documents. The miners point out they had worked for years with the same

documents and were dismissed just before the vote for UMWA representation. The union fight broke out Sept. 22, 2003, when the bosses locked out 75 miners after they protested the firing of one of their co-workers and demanded safe working conditions, livable wages, and dignity on the job. The workers turned the lockout into a strike, which lasted 10 months. They were reinstated in July 2004 after an agreement brokered by the NLRB, only to be fired again months later. The UMWA has challenged the firings, an issue also pending before the labor board.

Messages of support and contributions for their struggle can be sent to the Co-Op Miners Fund c/o UMWA

SAVE THE DATE!

Coal miners who have been fighting to win representation by the United Mine Workers of America at the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah, have set August 27 as the date for a solidarity picnic.

The picnic will take place in Huntington. For further information call UMWA District 22 at (435) 637-2037.

Working-class political action vs. terrorism

The following is an excerpt from Marxism and Terrorism, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for August. The portion below is from "On Terrorism," a 1911 article by Leon Trotsky, a central leader of the October 1917 Russian Revolution. Copyright © 1974 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

Our class enemies are in the habit of complaining about our terrorism. What they mean by this is rather unclear. They would like to label all the activities of the proletariat directed against the class enemy's interests as terrorism. The strike, in their eyes, is the principal method of terrorism. The threat of a strike, the organization of strike pickets, an economic boycott of a slave-driving boss, a moral boycott of a traitor from our own ranks—all this and much more they call terrorism.

However, it must be said that when they reproach us with terrorism, they are trying—although not always consciously—to give this word a narrower, less indirect meaning. The damaging of machines by workers, for example, is

terrorism in this strict sense of the word. The killing of an employer, a threat to set fire to a factory or a death threat to its owner, an assassination attempt, with revolver in hand, against a government minister—all these are terrorist acts in the full and authentic sense. However, anyone who has an idea of the true nature of international Social Democracy ought to know that it has always opposed this kind of terrorism, and done so in the most irreconcilable way.

Why?

"Terrorizing" with the threat of a strike, or actually conducting a strike, is something only industrial or agricultural workers can do. The social significance of a strike depends directly upon first, the size of the enterprise or the branch of industry that it affects; and second, the degree to which the workers taking part in it are organized, disciplined, and ready for action. This is just as true of a political strike as it is of an economic one. It continues to be the method of struggle that flows directly from the productive role of the proletariat in modern society.

In order to develop, the capitalist system needs a parliamentary superstructure. But because it cannot confine the modern proletariat to a political ghetto, it must sooner or later allow the workers to participate in parliament. In elections, the mass character of the proletariat and its level of political development—qualities which, again, are determined by its social role, i.e., above all, its productive role—find their expression.

As in a strike, in elections the method, aim, and result of the struggle always depend on the social role and strength of the proletariat as a class. Only the workers can conduct a strike. Artisans ruined by the factory, peasants whose water the factory is poisoning,

Seattle: Socialist Workers file for ballot status



Militant/Mark Downs

SEATTLE—Chris Hoepfner (left), Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate here, campaigns July 24 at Latin Seafair festival. The following day Hoepfner, Cecelia Moriarity, SWP candidate for King County Executive, and campaign supporters filed 4,959 signatures on nominating petitions—three times the required amount—to put the socialist ticket on the ballot.

—BETSY FARLEY

or lumpen proletarians, in search of plunder, can smash machines, set fire to a factory, or murder its owner.

In the first case, there is a social struggle, whose methods and means flow necessarily from the nature of the prevailing social order; in the second, a purely mechanical reaction identical everywhere—in China as in France—very striking in its outward form (murder, explosions, and so forth) but absolutely harmless as far as the social system goes.

Whether a terrorist attempt, even a "successful" one, throws the ruling class into confusion depends on the concrete political circumstances. In any case the confusion can only be short-lived; the capitalist state does not base itself on government ministers and cannot be eliminated with them. The

classes it serves will always find new people; the mechanism remains intact and continues to function.

But the disarray introduced into the ranks of the working masses themselves by a terrorist attempt is much deeper. If it is enough to arm oneself with a pistol in order to achieve one's goal, why the efforts of the class struggle? If a thimbleful of gunpowder and a little chunk of lead is enough to shoot the enemy through the neck, what need is there for a class organization?...

In our eyes, individual terror is inadmissible precisely because it *belittles the role of the masses in their own consciousness*, reconciles them to their powerlessness, and turns their eyes and hopes toward a great avenger and liberator who some day will come and accomplish his mission.

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Oppose N.Y. subway bag searches

We are using the editorial space this week to publish the following statement released July 26 by **Martín Koppel, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City.**

The Socialist Workers campaign opposes the newly instituted policy of searches of personal belongings and interrogations by the police on New York subways and buses. This action by the Bloomberg administration, backed by all four Democratic mayoral candidates, will be used to rationalize further attempts to chip away at the constitutional protection from arbitrary search and seizure. The target is not primarily “terrorists” but working people.

The measure goes hand in hand with other steps designed to undermine the ability of workers and farmers to resist the bosses’ mounting assaults on living standards and job conditions.

These “homeland security” measures include:

- wider powers for the FBI and other political police to carry out wiretapping and other forms of spying and harassment;
- moves to institutionalize use of the federal armed forces at home, including the stationing of National Guard troops at train stations and other sites;
- probes to legitimize the use of “preventive” detention—with no charges—and secret courts;
- federal and state laws aimed at turning drivers’ licenses into a de facto national ID card;
- “no-fly” lists at airports;
- curtailment of habeas corpus and other constitutional rights of the accused.

The U.S. rulers are pushing for public acceptance of these anti-democratic measures in anticipation of resistance by workers and farmers to the increasingly devastating consequences of the capitalist economic crisis. The message is: Get used to the presence of National Guard troops with automatic weapons. Get used to the announcements about “reporting suspicious packages.” Get used to the increased presence of cops on the subways and the random bag checks. Get used to “mistakes” such as the July 24 storming of a tourist bus in Manhattan by heavily armed cops and the handcuffing of five British citizens, deemed “suspicious” because they were of South Asian or Middle Eastern descent, and had “bulging pockets.”

The main problem facing the bosses and the government that represents their interests is not al-Qaeda. It’s the working class. Because it’s our class the employers must take on to reverse the long-term decline of their profit rates. The only way to do that is to brutally squeeze more profits from the labor of working people by making us work harder and longer hours, driving down wages, and cutting benefits.

Washington’s wars and occupations abroad are an extension of the bosses’ assaults on working people at home. The Socialist Workers campaign calls for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of U.S., UN, and other imperialist armed forces from Iraq, Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, Korea, Colombia, Haiti, and Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. We say: hands off Iran and north Korea. End Washington’s economic war on Cuba! U.S. hands off Venezuela!

Above all, the purpose of the “homeland security” campaign is to convince working people to subordinate our struggles—for improved wages and job conditions, for Black rights, for women’s equality—to appeals for “national unity” and to rally “Americans” behind the “fight against terrorism.” Liberal critics of the Bloomberg administration promote the argument of “protecting *our* security,” accusing their Republican opponents of not doing enough to safeguard *our* city.”

But for working people there is no such “we.” The American government is not *our* government—it’s *their* government and *their* twin parties, the Democrats and Republicans. There are two New Yorks and two Americas: on one hand, that of the tiny handful of ruling billionaire families, and on the other, that of working people—the vast majority, who produce the wealth. Working people have no common interests with our exploiters. Our interests lie with fellow workers, farmers, and the oppressed worldwide.

What’s important is what working people learn as they engage in struggles against the employers and their government. By standing up and refusing to let up their struggles, those workers—from copper strikers in Arizona and Texas to construction workers fighting for a union in New York—set an example for all working people. Opposing the searches by New York cops is part of defending rights working people need to organize and act in the interests of our class.

How Blacks in South defended themselves against Klan violence

BY ARRIN HAWKINS

In her letter to the editor printed below, reader Wendy Banen asks for examples of armed self-defense by Blacks against the racist violence endemic to Jim Crow. Legal segregation in employment, housing, schools, and other aspects of life was smashed by the mass movement for Black rights in the 1950s and ’60s.

Armed defense against racist attacks in the South is a lesser-known part of Blacks’ resistance to the Klan, White Citizen councils, and other ultrarightist

REPLY TO A READER

outfits. Racist violence, condoned by federal and state authorities, was aimed at defending segregation and punishing anyone who opposed it. When faced with Blacks prepared to defend themselves, their property, and the lives of civil rights workers, however, racist vigilantes retreated.

One example is the Union County NAACP chapter in Monroe, North Carolina, led by Robert F. Williams. Blacks there starting in 1957 organized armed “civil defense groups” to counter Klan attacks.

“Since the city officials wouldn’t stop the Klan, we decided to stop the Klan ourselves,” Williams recounts in his book *Negroes with Guns*. “We started this action out of the need for defense because law and order had completely vanished; because there was no such thing as a 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution in Monroe, N.C.”

In 1965, young fighters in McComb, Mississippi, organized all-night armed patrols to deter Klan “joyrides” in Black neighborhoods. McComb was the scene of some of the heaviest Klan violence against the civil rights movement. While hundreds of civil rights workers were participating in Freedom Summer in Mississippi in 1964, some 16 bombings occurred in McComb.

Members of the Young Socialist Alliance visiting the town met with some of these militants in McComb. “Armed self-defense was actually initiated by two teen-aged girls,” Joel Britton wrote in the March 22, 1965, *Militant*. “They were fed up with the bombings of Negro homes and churches and took to sitting up nights on the porch with guns. When their parents and other adults discovered how the girls were spending their nights, they decided it was a good idea, but shouldn’t be left to the youngsters alone to carry on.”

Another militant example is the Deacons for Defense and Justice, which was formed in Jonesboro, Louisiana, to protect Blacks from Klan raids. In July 1964, after Blacks tried to implement the Civil Rights Act in public accommodations, a 30-car motorcade of Klansmen rode through the Black neighborhood escorted by the Jonesboro police. “We decided that if the power structure would do that for Klan, then we had better do something for ourselves,” said Earnest Thomas, a leader of the Deacons in Jonesboro.

The Deacons had chapters across Louisiana, including in Bogalusa, Baton Rouge, and New Iberia. The group declined by 1968, as desegregation advanced.

Speaking at a Militant Labor Forum in New York in December 1965, Deacons leader Charles Sims said, “We let him [the Klan] know that everywhere the civil rights workers went, he might not see them, he might not know who the Deacons might be, but somewhere close to him we were there.”

Deacons for Defense, a 2003 film directed by Bill Duke that dramatizes the story of the group, shows the Deacons succeeding in desegregating a Louisiana saw mill.

Praising the combative example set by the Deacons, an editorial in the June 21, 1965, *Militant* said, “The Deacons will help the civil rights movement win further victories, by reducing the terror which helps prevent Negroes from winning new rights and exercising rights already won on paper.... Everyone who is for civil rights and Negro equality should give the Deacons every support and encouragement, and should defend their right to exist and grow, free from government harassment.”

NAACP holds national convention

BY SAM MANUEL

MILWAUKEE—Extension of the 1965 Voting Rights Act was the focus of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) convention, held here July 9–14. Prominent capitalist politicians, both Democratic and Republican, addressed delegates and pledged support for extension of the civil rights legislation, which is expected to pass.

The convention also highlighted a program launched by the NAACP this year aimed at recruiting more young corporate executives who are Black to the organization. It elected a retired Verizon executive, Bruce Gordon, as its new president and CEO.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act enacted on Aug. 6, 1965. Key provisions of the act are due to expire in 2007.

For the fifth year in a row President George Bush declined an invitation to address the convention. But several Republican leaders did. Joining NAACP chairman Julian Bond on the platform, Republican congressman James Sensenbrenner told the delegates, “The Voting Rights Act will be extended during this session of Congress and in its current form.” Sensenbrenner, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said the Republican leadership supports extension of the act.

In a later session Republican party chairman Kenneth Mehlman took the opportunity to court Black votes. “Some Republicans gave up on winning the African-American vote, looking the other way or trying to benefit politically from racial polarization,” Mehlman said. “I am here today as the Republican

chairman to tell you we were wrong.”

Democratic politician Jesse Jackson urged support for an August 6 march and rally in Atlanta calling for reauthorizing the act. Convention delegates voted to back the march and rally.

On other issues, the NAACP convention called for the administration to appoint a “moderate” judge to the Supreme Court, to establish a “timeline” for the gradual withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, and for sending more U.S. troops to Haiti to help “stabilize” the country.

LETTERS

Self-defense by Blacks

In the July 4 *Militant* Sam Manuel and Arrin Hawkins state the SWP called on “Blacks to organize and arm themselves for self-defense against racist violence.” Would you please give examples of when the Black community in the South actually did organize and defend themselves and how would all workers participate and support such actions should they occur again?

Wendy Banen

New York, N.Y.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.