



WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Noticias en español vea página 12

X-523

AFTERSHOCK OF STOCK CRASH: GOV'T, WALL STREET CONSPIRE TO RAISE TAXES, CUT SERVICES

By John Catalinotto



'WE DEMAND HOUSING'

Tenants, homeless and homeowners convene in New Jersey to draw up emergency action program.

9



'DON'T DUMP ON US'

California community demands action against corporate polluters.

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October 28 — On the ninth day following the market crash, the Republicans and Democrats in the government are meeting to raise taxes and cut social services.

Neither party can even claim to understand how to halt an economic collapse. Both are trying to dump its costs on working and poor people. It becomes clearer each day that an independent struggle is essential to defend the interests of the working class from further attack.

The government's and Wall Street's own experts are divided about what to do. Liberal Keynesian economists join with right-wing "supply siders" to warn against tax increases and budget cuts. "It's exactly what Hoover did just before the great depression," they say. Others demand a quick step toward a balanced budget to avert disaster.

Some other "experts" focus on the high U.S. balance of payment deficits as the cause of the market crash. Still others blame program stock trading by computers, high interest rates or overpriced stocks. Every television discussion shows five of these pundits who agree only on the number of ways they can use the word "volatile" to describe market activity.

It's time to be clear about some basic questions.

Crisis caused by capitalism

The crash was caused not by one or two accidental factors, but stemmed from the capitalist system itself. Since the birth of capitalism, it has been plagued by periodic crises of overproduction. Since the first stock market opened, there have been market panics. (See article, page 4.)

The collapse is also international in character, as anyone can see who's followed the extensive media coverage of market trading from Australia to Tokyo to Hong Kong to Singapore to Frankfurt to Paris to London.

All of these markets crashed, with the Hong Kong and Melbourne plunge even deeper than the one here. When the New York Stock Exchange caught cold, Tokyo sneezed, and vice versa. It mattered little that Japan's balance of payments was positive and its federal deficit small.

Let bankers and bosses pay for crisis!

Since capitalism itself is to blame for the crisis, it's the bosses and bankers who should pay for it, certainly not the workers and poor people.

For years the rich have been telling everyone how wonderful it is to let the "free market" control the economy. Now they're suddenly crying to the govern-

ment to step in and save them by dumping the costs on the workers. But there's no reason for the working people to let them do this.

Even before the crash, the workers had already paid dearly for the so-called Reagan recovery. During 58 months of "economic upturn," average real wages sunk, especially for those workers in the lower half of the wage spectrum.

Millions of union jobs paying from \$9-15 a hour were eliminated, replaced by minimum wage service jobs. Meanwhile the Reagan administration made huge cuts in social services, eliminating over \$12 billion from the food stamp program alone.

This week the Physician Task Force on Hunger in America issued a report on "Hunger in Blue Collar America," stating that 20 million people living in this country do not get enough to eat every day. A good number of these are among the working poor, that is, those who have jobs but whose pay is so low they can't afford to eat properly.

Politicians hold emergency meeting: no workers represented

Today representatives of Congress are meeting with Reagan administration officials to consider steps that will hurt these poor people even further. This is done in the interest of the Wall Street speculators and arbitragers, the brokers and investment bankers.

It's done to aid the super-rich, like the 48 who were

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How Persian Gulf war affects the stock market

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NYC mayor jumps to freeze jobs, cut budget

Layoffs on Wall Street

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CENTRAL AMERICA

Death squads strike in El Salvador while workers defend revolution in Nicaragua.

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LABOR NEWS

Workers are angry and fighting back, from Maine paper mills to California canneries. Teamster/AFL-CIO merger strengthens labor's clout.

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Calif. community says: 'Don't dump toxic wastes on us!'

Special to Workers World
San Francisco

Communities from around California and environmental groups have escalated their fight against the state's policies on Toxic Waste Disposal, policies which have victimized hundreds of thousands of people. On Oct. 17, 200 residents of Contra Costa County joined together in a 70-car motorcade through Martinez, a working class community plagued by industrial pollution.

The protest ended up at the front gates of International Technology, Inc., a toxic waste disposal facility which has polluted nearby areas. I.T. is now proposing to build a giant toxic waste incinerator at the location. Although I.T. has committed hundreds of violations of environmental regulations, and continues to pollute, the government is supporting I.T.'s application for a permit to go into the incineration business.

Speakers at the rally blasted the incinerator proposals, condemning a technology that would put enormous amounts of toxic chemicals into the air. One resident of Martinez said, "Incineration is a quick fix for government, a quick big profit for industry... and we pay the price." One sign held by a teenage protester said "Their profit... our health."

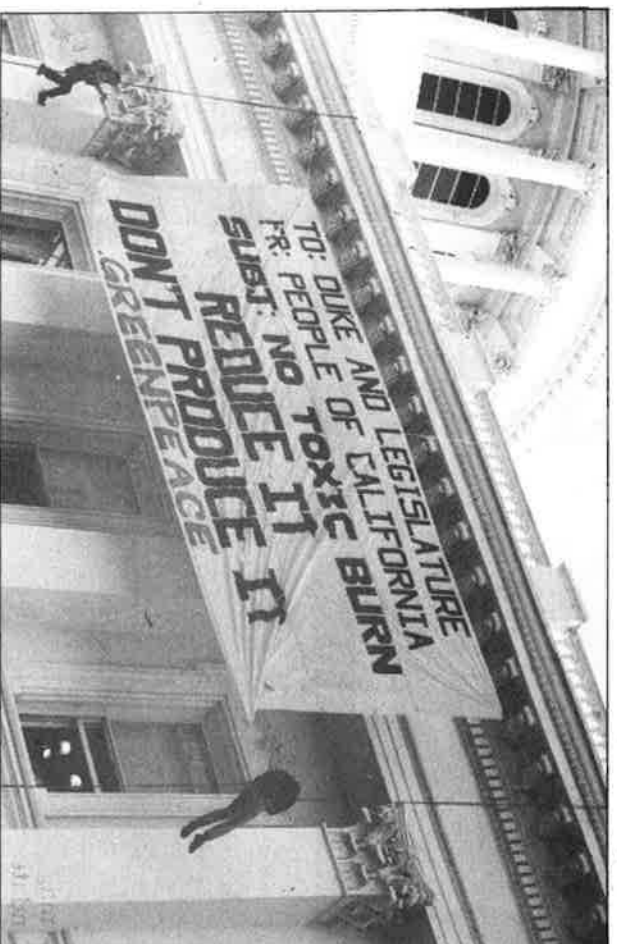
Residents of nearby Richmond joined the protest and spoke, urging all communities facing similar problems to unite. The Richmond-based members of the West County Toxics Coalition have been fighting Chevron's pollution of their community, and are trying to force Chevron to the negotiating table. Last week Coalition

members picketed a Chevron executive's home in an all-white suburb.

Richmond is a predominantly Black community and very high rates of cancer and respiratory problems have recently been uncovered by activists. The Martinez rally ended with hundreds of black balloons being released into the air, as a warning of the toxic pollution that will occur if the incinerators are approved.

Communities around the state are calling on industry to immediately stop producing toxic waste, as there is no safe way to dispose of it. In the past toxic waste was put in landfills, but

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High-climbing protesters want state to force corporate polluters to pay for toxic cleanup. WW PHOTO

— Aftershock

Continued from page 1
named billionaires by Forbes magazine the week before Oct. 19, some of whom are now "only" worth hundreds of millions.

Among the measures being considered by both Democrats and Republicans are excise taxes, a kind of specific sales tax that comes down heaviest on working people. These big-business politicians have also agreed that all budget items except Social Security can be put on the chopping block, and even that may be next.

National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci was invited to the meeting, reportedly to argue against military cuts. But have any trade unionists or representatives of the poor been asked for their presence at these meetings? No, not one! That's how capitalist "democracy" works! The Democrats have already shown

they have no program to defend the interests of the workers. All they can propose is a tax increase, and it won't be on the swollen profits of the rich, either. If these representatives were serious about cutting costs, they could propose a withdrawal from the Persian/Arabian Gulf to make some immediate savings. An end to Star Wars research would help, as would stopping the \$26 billion B-1 bomber program, including its \$6 billion cost overrun.

But Washington won't do any of this. What's needed is an independent struggle to defend the interests of all working and poor people, with special attention to Black, Latino, Asian and Native people and all others who are especially victimized when the bosses make an attack on the working class.

The program of this struggle should be aimed not at ending "turmoil" in the market or stopping stock "volatility." That's not possible anyway, and only means pouring the people's tax money down an endless rathole. The

point is to make sure it's not the workers who pay the costs of the crisis.

This means fighting for no cuts in any social programs, in fact for increasing outlays for vital programs like food stamps, housing and research on AIDS. It means fighting against new taxes that take money from anyone but the rich. It means fighting to keep factories open and stopping all layoffs, especially as recession threatens.

One such fight is the struggle for a moratorium on plant closings, led by the 'A Job is a Right Campaign.' This is a national effort with its strongest roots in the hard-hit industrial Midwest, especially in Michigan.

This campaign demands federal and state legislation to place a moratorium on all plant closings and layoffs, and to guarantee a job at a decent wage for all working people. Its wide acceptance among auto workers, hit again this week as Chrysler announced more layoffs, is a sign that such a fightback is the way to go.

You're invited to a meeting



WORKERS WORLD opens its doors regularly for forums, meetings, classes, and progressive film showings. These are exciting educational gatherings where people hear talks on various topics of national and international importance, raise questions, carry on lively discussions about current political issues.

Being able to provide space for meetings is a vital and necessary part of **WORKERS WORLD's** work. We want to acquaint more and more working and oppressed people with our revolutionary politics and perspective. But we can't if the landlord puts us out in the street. That's another reason why we need to buy a permanent home for **WORKERS WORLD**. Invest today in **WORKERS WORLD**. For your future. And the future of humanity.

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Bring the troops home! Save money — and lives

By Andy Slapp

Reagan and the Democratic Congress are now meeting to find ways to raise more taxes and cut billions more off the government budget. Twenty-three billion is slated to be eliminated from government outlays automatically by the Gramm-Rudman bill, but bankers and businessmen are complaining that this is not enough, that the magnitude of the Wall Street crash mandates far deeper spending reductions.

Social Security must be trimmed, and Medicare, they say. Mass transit, student loans, subsidized school lunches, job training and housing assistance, funds to rebuild bridges and roads, the money budgeted for cleaning up toxic dump sites — all face the axe. People are going to be asked to pay more in taxes for less in social services.

Trim the real fat!

Here's a better idea. Why not take the Pentagon off the gravy train? For more than 40 years, the U.S. military high command has been given everything it asked for and more.

Two trillion dollars by Reagan alone.

According to a report last year by the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, interest payments on the national debt, combined with the military budget, absorbed all of the federal income taxes paid in 1985! Any additional government revenue had to be raised by borrowing.

The generals and the bankers got

the whole tax revenue for themselves. Every bit of it. This is what spawned the incredible deficit, which coincidentally happens to be a little more than \$2 trillion, the amount Congress and Reagan have given the Pentagon since 1981.

The U.S. military now employs 30% of the country's engineers and scientists. The value of the physical capital directly owned by the Pentagon is 46% as large as the value of the physical capital owned by every U.S. manufacturer combined!

Military spending is the de facto U.S. industrial policy, and one that we can see from recent events leads to chaos and ruin.

Why should Lockheed get a new \$500 billion Star Wars contract when school lunch programs are going down the tube? Why another \$6 billion for the B-1 bomber?

The Pentagon has about 30 warships and 15,000 servicemen and women now deployed in the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf. This costs billions more. Bring them home!

Bring the troops home!

Forty thousand U.S. troops are in Korea. The Korean people have made clear in months of protest and demonstrations that this occupation army is unwelcome, even hated. Bring them home!

Another 15,000 are based in the Philippines, the legacy of a brutal colonial past. Bring them home!

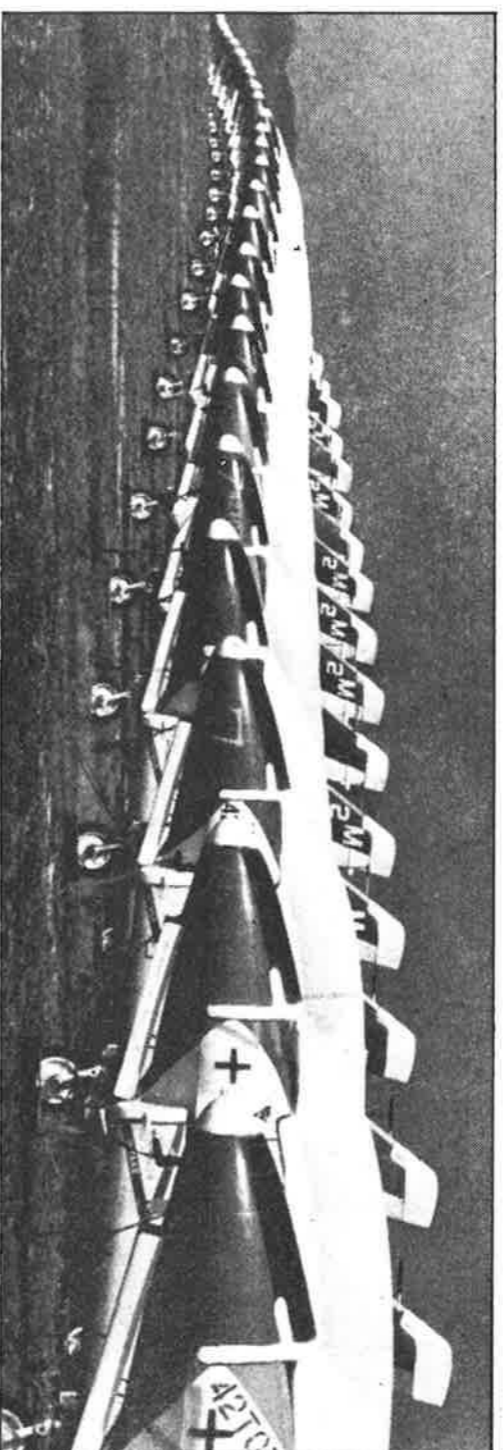
In West Germany there's another 300,000, costing a fortune every day to maintain. Do the people of West Germany, the majority of whom consider the Pentagon a threat to world peace, want them there? Bring them home! The CIA, whose budget is secret but

runs in the billions, lavishes money on death-squad dictators from Pakistan to El Salvador. Abolish the CIA and save the money! This would be more popular than raising taxes and threatening social security, gutting health care and evicting farm families.

Congress should try to be more creative. After all, this is a real crisis!

Why should 200 million people in this country who never played the stock market be forced to bail out the Porsche-condo crowd? These same "market wizards" who presided over the evaporation of \$1 trillion in October are now insisting that everyone else must "stop their reckless consumption."

Good advice, but aimed at the wrong target. The "reckless consumption" must stop where it started: on Wall Street and at the Pentagon.



Obsolete before they're paid for, jet fighters are warehoused at base in Tucson, Ariz. Trillions in military spending have helped push U.S. economy over the edge.

Persian Gulf war no cure for Wall Street blues

By Bruce Bradshaw

Citing what he called Iran's "belliose behavior," President Reagan imposed punitive economic sanctions against Iran on Oct. 26.

Such embargoes are often the prelude to a military attack, a point not lost on such rags as the New York Post, which headlined the story, "Strangle Iran." Post owner Rupert Murdoch is in a cranky mood these days, having lost a billion in the stock market crash.

Saving the fortunes of U.S. capitalism with a new war is a thought which has crossed the minds of more than a few capitalists during times of incipient economic depression. The market was hitting dangerously low levels in 1950 when the Korean conflict pulled the rabbit out of the hat and sent it shooting up again. That was the first really big injection of military spending since the end of World War II. The same scenario repeated itself in 1962, when the Kennedy administration halted a sickening downward slide on Wall Street by pumping up the arms budget in the early phase of the Vietnam war. That one turned out to be the longest armed engagement in U.S. history.

But today it's different. The trillion dollars pumped by the Reagan administration into the military over the past few years is acting as a depressant on the economy — creating a huge budget deficit, an even greater government debt and thereby strangling the civilian economy.

Oil profits behind

Washington's anti-Iran frenzy

It should be noted that there are now 70 NATO warships poised off the coast of Iran. There's a lot of oil in Iran and when the repressive shah was in power the big multi-national firms in

England and the U.S. considered the oil securely theirs. Since the overthrow of their shah they have been acting like an enraged landlord evicted from his property. They want it back.

In the minds of the folks at Exxon and British Petroleum, that oil is rightfully theirs. The Iranian people are only supposed to work at getting it out of the ground. The profits must go to Houston, London and New York.

With the oil companies in particular and the capitalists in general nervously toying with the idea of a war against Iran to brighten their gloomy economic future, who can trust the news that the capitalist media is giving us about the situation in the Persian Gulf/Arabian Sea region? Can anything be believed from an administration which only this summer wined in the Iran-contra scandal?

And what about Pentagon censorship? Arthur A. Lord, the acting foreign editor for NBC's Nightly News, described in an Oct. 24 Los Angeles Times article how the military "manages" the Iran news.

"When U.S. helicopters sank an Iranian speedboat and disabled two others in the Gulf on October 8," Lord wrote, "the press pool members were denied permission by the Pentagon to photograph the captured speed boats and Iranian prisoners. Instead, four days later, the Navy released four poor-quality photos of the boats which had been doctored for some unknown reason."

They were "doctored" for obvious reasons. The Iranian craft were not warships at all!

"There is no question that in the Persian Gulf, the Pentagon is not living up to its agreement with the American media," observes Lord. "What is going to happen," he asks, "if some-

thing really big or bad takes place?

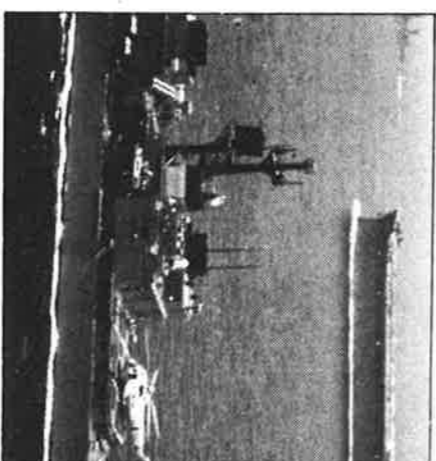
How will the American people be able to decide if the U.S. policy in the Gulf is good or bad if there is no first-hand source of information outside the government?"

But we know the policy is bad. It is the policy of the same imperialists who launched the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the invasion of Grenada, the contra war against Nicaragua. It is the same capitalist system behind it all, a system facing bankruptcy at its very heart, on Wall Street.

Whether a war would end the stock market plunge or, this time, just make it worse is being debated right now in the inner sanctums of the banks and top government offices. What is not debatable is whether the progressive movement should vigorously oppose another military adventure, along with the war economy

which promotes it.

The rich should not be allowed to make everyone else bail them out of their bad investments. Not with new taxes and social service cuts. And especially not with the blood of young soldiers, sailors and marines.



A credit-card war?

which promotes it.

DEMONSTRATE DEMONSTRATE

U.S. OUT...

CENTRAL AMERICA PERSIAN GULF

Hands off Nicaragua!
No aid to the Contras!

Bring the ships home!
No war against Iran!

SATURDAY October 31

NOON — Assemble Herald' Sq. (34 St. & 6 Ave.)
March to Times Sq. Recruiting Station for Army Navy and Air Force (42 St. & 7 Ave.)
Then march to Exxon Building (50 St. & 6 Ave.)

For further information or to endorse call the Peoples Anti-War Mobilization P.O. Box 1819, Madison Sq. Sta., NY, NY 101159 (212) 741-0633

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With indecent haste, Koch sets job freeze, budget cuts

Why should New York City have to pay for blue-chip losers?

By Bill De Vecchio
New York

In the wake of the stock market crash, New York's Mayor Koch has ordered his aides to start sharpening the budget cutting ax in anticipation of a serious recession.

Koch later announced a 90-day hiring freeze, suspended a 5% pay hike for 4,000 management-level employees and withdrew a planned \$64 million city contribution to municipal pension funds. He blamed the stock market crash and fears of recession.

"Oh, there's no question in my mind that we are going to take some action within a reasonable time," Koch said about budget cuts during a news conference on Wednesday, Oct. 21, adding that the cuts would be made before June 30, the end of the city's fiscal year.

In defending the need for a hatchet job, Koch's Budget Director Paul Dickstein said, "You've got to assume there's going to be a recession."

While trumpeting the marvels of the New York City economy in public, the Koch administration had privately been expecting a recession even before

the market crash. Koch consultants for long-range fiscal planning, called the WEFA Group, had predicted an economic slump beginning in late 1989 or early 1990. Now, thanks to the stock market crash, the time-table for a recession is much sooner.

The items in the current city budget already are divided into priority categories to speed choosing targets for cuts. But the Koch years have shown that the mayor's priorities are always the priorities of the banks and real estate developers, and not the workers and oppressed.

The people of this city are still suffering from the effects of the severe service cuts made during the budget crisis of the mid-1970s. During that time, bankers actually demanded, and got, a control over the city's spending. Up to 60,000 city workers lost their jobs during that period. Hospitals, daycare centers, schools and senior citizen centers were shut down. City workers' wages were driven down; benefits cut, workloads increased. Garbage collection was reduced, sub-

ways were allowed to fall apart, roads and bridges crumbled.

After bleeding the people of the city dry with their cuts, the bankers refinanced the city's debt with municipal bonds. The bonds allowed the restoration of some basic services, but the bulk of the cuts remained.

The new municipal bonds were created for New York and other big cities in similar crises because the bankers believed that an economic expansion would bring in adequate tax monies to repay them. But the heavy debt cannot be kept up in a recession, and new confrontations with the banks are inevitable.

Who will decide what cuts will be made? Koch expects that he will, along with his cronies on the Board of Estimate. The Board of Estimate, made up of the borough presidents, mayoral appointees, and the president of the City Council, are supposed to decide all money matters.

Why should the people of this city accept leaving these life and death budget decision in the hands of Koch

and his band of crooks? The Koch administration will go down in history as the most corrupt since the days of Boss Tweed. And the whole Board of Estimate set-up is completely undemocratic, as a recent court ruling has just confirmed.

If any cuts have to be made, let the people make them! Then we can cut the thousands of high paying, supervisory jobs that went to political and personal friends of the Koch clique. Let's cut the crooked, corrupt contracts and rehire union city workers to do the jobs that have been given away! Let's take away all those scandalous real estate tax exemptions from Donald Trump and his ilk.

If economic hard times are in the making, the people of this city can no longer afford to have Koch and company controlling the city budget. It's time for a truly democratic movement of the unions, the homeless, the Black and Latin communities, the millions of immigrants, to take back everything the bankers have taken away over the past decade.



Capitalism's boom-bust cycle goes way back

By Gary Wilson

The stock market crash reminded all who might have forgotten that capitalism and crises go together like cars and gasoline; you don't have one without the other.

Crises have been a part of capitalism from its earliest days. For more than a hundred years, until the post-World War II era, the capitalist world was shaken by a crisis every eight to twelve years.

At first, the crises were localized. A bust came to the U.S. in 1819. The financial collapse was precipitated by the closing of the First Bank of the United States, which had been involved in land and commodities speculation.

By 1825, however, the crises became generalized. The collapses affected all the countries where capitalism was developed.

These general crises occurred in 1825, 1836, 1847, 1857, 1873, 1890, 1900, 1907, 1921, 1929 and 1937. While each time a specific event was blamed (such as land and commodity speculation in 1819), Marx and Engels were able to show on a scientific basis that it was capitalist relations of production that were actually responsible, even though different events had triggered the collapses.

Some of the events connected with these crises were:

1837: The Second Bank of the United States was making substantial loans for land speculation. Andrew Jackson responded by forcing all public land to be bought with gold or silver. England called in its loans. A depression followed.

1857: A worldwide crisis began with speculation in U.S. railroads and land. The failure of the Ohio Life In-

By John Calatinotto
New York

October 27 — A week after the market plunge a new specier began to haunt New York's financial district — layoffs. The specier took solid form as L.F. Rothschild, a moderate-size bro-

surance and Trust Co. began a general collapse of state banks.

1873: Big railroads and Eastern financial firms went under, closing the stock exchange for ten days. In the next six years, more than 22,000 businesses failed. More than half a million workers were left jobless, without any kinds of benefits (unemployment insurance didn't come until the 1930s). There was a global depression.

1893: A depression in Europe caused European investors to pull out of U.S. businesses. A staggering number of companies folded. Mass unemployment followed as well as militant strikes to defend workers' jobs; "Coxey's Army" marched on Washington.

1907: The collapse began when the Knickerbocker Trust Co. folded.

1929: The biggest crash of all (until 1987). The stock market continued to go down gradually after the big crash until 1932. Between Sept. 1, 1929, and July 1, 1932, the value of stocks on the New York Exchange fell from nearly \$90 billion to less than \$16 billion. By 1932 banks were collapsing. A short upturn was followed by another recession in 1937.

What's different today?

In analyzing the current period, Sam Marcy of Workers World Party wrote in his book *Reindustrialization: The Menace Behind the Promise* (World View, 1981), "In past decades, prior to the great economic crash of 1929, [cyclical economic crises] had always been regarded as 'one of those things' which occurs more or less regularly over a period of time, creates now and then considerable havoc and a modicum of suffering among some people, but is soon followed by a speedy recovery. The momentum of industrial progress then reaches a new

kerage, announced it was laying off 150 employees. A securities-industry analyst predicted up to 42,000 layoffs in the industry in the coming year.

The market crash is expected to accelerate a trend that had already begun. Even before Oct. 19, Salomon Brothers announced it would stop

and higher peak, raising the development of the productive forces and general economic conditions to a higher level.

"Of late, however, and particularly since the Second World War, these crises have been of a more malignant character. They have been overcome not on the basis of normal capitalist development but on the basis of artificial growth — resulting from war, monetary manipulation on the international arena and domestic inflation.

"And notwithstanding such tremendous technological feats as the development of the space sciences, electronics and computerization, the periods of boom following economic crisis and depression have been small and of a short duration and have inevitably been assisted by huge infusions of government aid based on deficit financing.

"Thus the normal capitalist cycle of development has been grossly distorted and its functional element, that of raising the productive forces and creating a wider area of capitalist expansion, has not worked out. . . . A capitalist crisis [today] is unlike the ones which took place approximately a century ago."

The working class, of course, needs its own independent response to this crisis in order to defend its own interests. This will be the subject of an important socialist conference being held in New York City on Nov. 14 where an analysis of the stock market crash of 1987 will be made by Sam Marcy and a fightback program will be presented by Workers World Party presidential and vice presidential candidates Larry Holmes and Gloria La Riva as well as other speakers. See ad on page 5 or call (212) 255-0352 for more information.

trading municipal bonds and sent 800 people packing. Kidder Peabody let 100 of its bond traders go.

Now that the stock prices have plummeted, 15 of the largest brokerages, like E.F. Hutton, Merrill Lynch and Prudential-Bache, face losses estimated anywhere from \$50 million to \$250 million each. They have been caught with huge inventories of stocks that they were unable to sell.

While all these big brokers claim their business will survive, some small ones have already folded. Some avoided bankruptcy only by being swallowed up by larger firms. Since even these larger firms have much of their own investments in the market, a further drop in stock prices could drag even the big ones under.

1982-1987: growth industry

From 1982 until this year, the securities industry in the U.S. has been one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy. Jobs there nationwide grew from 273,900 to 450,600 last August.

Unlike most of the low-paid and often part-time service jobs created during the "recovery" the Reagan administration boasts about, these Wall Street jobs paid a living wage, even to the clerical staff. To the technical support employees, like those working on computers, they paid substantially more than the wages in other industries.

And to the brokers, traders and analysts, who are in reality salespeople, they paid salaries in six figures. A good number of these have been casualties of the first layoffs.

Nothing is produced

What's astounding is that this entire industry produces nothing. It just services a giant crap shoot. As long as the stock prices continue to rise as they did for five years, the brokers and traders can pass themselves off as financial geniuses. After all, almost no one loses the money they've gambled if the stocks go up.

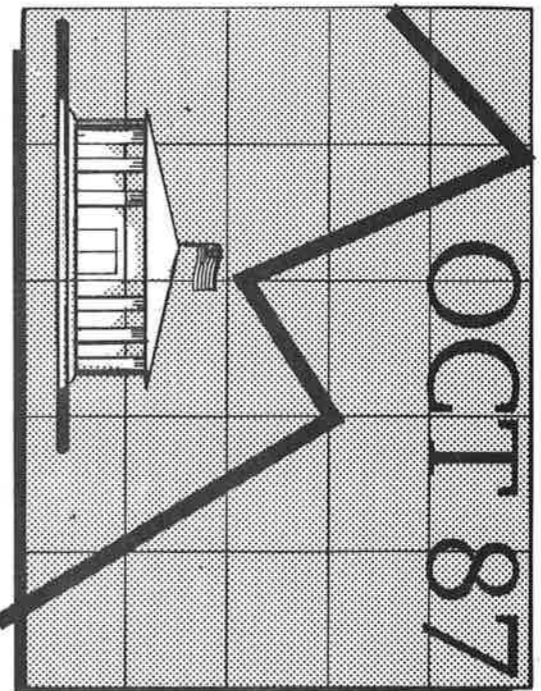
But this myth of no losers and many big winners exploded on Oct. 19, and part of paying the price will be a "belt-tightening" in the securities industry itself as fewer people play the market and fewer commissions get paid to the brokerages.

Of course, not just the big-salary brokers but much of those who service the computers or file the papers also face layoffs.

SOCIALIST CONFERENCE**■ SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

THE STOCK MARKET CRASH

- Why did it happen?
- What will it mean for workers, unemployed and students?
- Will it lead to war in the Persian Gulf & Central America?
- What is the solution to the crisis?



9:30AM

Hear a Marxist analysis by Sam Marcy

Chairperson of Workers World Party

Author of *Anatomy of the Economic Crisis*, *Reindustrialization: The Menace Behind the Promise and High Tech*, *Low Pay*

2:15PM

FIGHT BACK PROGRAM: Hear Larry Holmes and Gloria La Riva

Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates of Workers World Party, and other speakers.

4:30PM — 6:30PM

WORKSHOPS will take up:

- 1929 and 1987: What's the same, what's changed? Is capitalism stronger or weaker?
- Why capitalism doesn't work — a basic Marxist understanding of capitalist boom and bust cycles.
- U.S. banks on the brink at home and abroad — The international debt crisis, the national debt, the deficit and the Pentagon budget.
- Wall Street crash and the working class struggle. Impact on jobs, service workers, pension funds, social services, the disabled and the AIDS crisis.
- How will this affect the struggle against racism, sexism and lesbian & gay oppression?
- Their solution and ours: The bankrupt economic programs of the Democrats and Republicans.
- The growing war danger from the Persian Gulf to Central America. Can the capitalist system overcome the economic crisis through war?
- Capitalist crisis and the socialist countries. Anarchy vs. planning. Economic policies in the socialist countries in light of the stock market crash.
- International effects of the crisis from south Korea to Brazil, from the Philippines to South Africa. The global class struggle.

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Boston bus strike: saga of a good fight

By Stevan Kirschbaum
Chief Steward, Strike Coordinator (Bayside)
USWA Local 8751
Boston

At 1 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, at Boston City Hall a settlement was reached in the strike of the Boston School bus drivers, United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 8751. For 31 days the drivers had conducted a 100% successful strike — not one scab crossed the line.

Before the strike the bus companies were demanding a wage freeze in 1987-88, a 24 cent increase in 1988-89, zero benefit increases plus major takeaways. In the Oct. 10 settlement, the drivers were guaranteed a minimum wage increase over two years of 10% for buses and 12% for vans, three additional holidays, two paid sick days, and increases in life and sickness and accident insurance. The agreement includes submitting further increases in wages, company paid portion of health insurance, sick days and a pension plan to a month-long binding arbitration.

This past summer, behind closed doors in a backroom no bid agreement, National School Bus and TRANSCOM, Inc. had been promised a multi-million dollar contract to provide bus service for the city school system. Immediately, the bus companies in collusion with the School Superintendent and School Department launched a campaign to force a concession contract down the throats of the 660 Boston school bus drivers.

Union strength defeated court challenges

On Sept. 10, Local 8751 went on strike. The companies and the School Department tried a series of strike-busting tactics. First, they attempted to take away the union's right to strike with the false claim that the privately employed drivers were really public employees because they provide a public service.

Had they succeeded, it would not only have outlawed the bus drivers' strike, but would affect garbage collec-

tors, service workers — virtually any workers the bosses and their government wanted to deny the right to strike. But the union won the case in both the Massachusetts Labor Commission and a three-judge state appeals court.

More significant was the fact that the rank and file made it clear that, no matter what the courts or anyone else decided, the drivers were determined to continue their strike. In fact in the last 10 years, four of the six strikes of this union have been "illegal," yet the union struck anyway in defiance of injunctions.

The union was also brought to federal court, this time over the utterly ridiculous claim that it was "conspiring to destroy desegregation." Local 8751 has a long, proud history of supporting desegregation. Community and labor supporters, including Black leader Mel King, held a rally which quickly put this false charge to rest.

In fact, it was the racist, anti-busing forces in the School Department, with the aid of the Superintendent, who attempted to use the strike for their other agenda — to bring back segregation through "neighborhood schools," their racist code word for dismantling desegregation.

Even in the middle of the strike, the union was able to play a leading role in marshaling forces to defeat this effort. The federal court never enjoined the strike and only appointed a monitor to observe negotiations. At the same time, Chief Justice of the State Court of Appeals Morse appointed a courtmaster to try to provide alternate transportation for the special needs children. This also failed.

Not one driver scabbed

Throughout the strike, the companies and the Superintendent constantly threatened to hire replacement drivers, but could get one to actually cross the picket line and drive.

In a move reminiscent of Reagan's PATCO assault, the Superintendent directed the bus companies to discharge the drivers. The School Department would then hire its own

rious McCarthy-era witchhunts. In particular it has taken on the Teamsters union, openly seizing control of one local in New Jersey. It followed this with a decision to seek total control of the Teamsters. The government claims that the entire Teamsters union is a criminal conspiracy.

This is an old charge made by bosses over the decades in their never-ending attempts to undermine the organizations of the workers.

Easier to resist gov't intervention

The rejoining of the Teamsters with the AFL-CIO will strengthen the Teamsters in their fight against this government takeover bid. Obviously such a takeover would be a blow to the entire labor movement and supporters of workers' unions have hailed the unity shown against this totalitarian move by the government.

The government already recognizes that the unity shows a new strength not only for the Teamsters but for all labor. According to the New York Times (Oct. 25), the Reagan officials who wanted to seize control of the Teamsters have been set back and may not be able to go forward with their plans.

The unity also has the potential for strengthening a broader labor fight-



Gary Merchison (center), Chief Shop Steward and Strike Coordinator COTE, USWA Local 8751, addresses rally and press conference of striking school bus drivers.

PHOTO: PETER COOK

drivers directly, giving preference to strikers who would scab. But the union stood firm! A picket line was moved from the bus yards to the School Department to stop any scabs and to serve notice to the School Department that no matter who was the boss, "The buses won't roll 'till the union says go!"

The media used every slander and under handed ploy to isolate the union. But solidarity from the state labor movement and the community proved the perfect antidote for this poison. SEIU 509 gave its offices, phones and resources; many stewards from D.C. 65 walked the line; and on Sept. 30, 1987, in the largest showing of labor support in the local's history, the Bay-side line swelled to 300 with representatives from unions across the state.

After 30 days it became obvious that the only way to get the buses rolling was to reach a settlement with the union.

State, city finally step in

On Oct. 9 the State Attorney General announced that if the buses weren't rolling by Oct. 13 he would sue the City and the School Committee for not providing school transportation to

back. For one thing the jurisdictional disputes between the Teamsters and the AFL-CIO that have hindered organizing drives in various industries could now be amicably resolved.

On the other hand, Teamsters President Jackie Presser will be given a seat on the AFL-CIO executive council. This will only strengthen the most conservative elements already there. Presser is a long-time rightwinger who endorsed Reagan when he ran for President in 1980 and again in 1984.

However, the Teamsters union is no longer primarily made up of over-the-road truck drivers. It is a multinational union, with many Black and Latin members as well as a sizable percentage of women members. The new Teamsters union could be seen in the dynamic 18-month strike of women cannery workers in Watsonville, Calif., last year.

The new rank and file of the Teamsters are not yet represented in the top leadership of the union. But that can't continue forever. A new order is bound to emerge.

That could be seen at the recent leadership conference held in Cincinnati where the only speaker to receive the enthusiastic cheers of the gathered local Teamster leaders was Jesse Jackson.

Many in the strike leadership were against binding arbitration and
Continued on page 8

On the picket line

Ace Drill strike. A small strike in rural Adrian, Mich., hit the one-year mark in September. It hasn't gotten much national attention, but the strike at Ace Drill Corp. is an important example of the scores of labor struggles, mostly unnoticed by the big business media, that continuously rage throughout the country. The 44 Ace Drill workers, members of UAW Local 1397, walked out on Sept. 11, 1986, after the company demanded a major givebacks, including a \$2-per-hour wage cut and severe benefit cuts. In the year since, the strike has developed into a major battle, with violent attacks against the strikers by cops and company goons, met with militancy and courage by picketers. Support from other area unions has been a major factor in maintaining the strength of the strike, and there have been several solidarity rallies — the latest last month to mark the one-year anniversary of the walk-out. A national boycott against Ace Drill products was also called by the AFL-CIO. According to Dave Collar, Local 1397 strike captain, "After this long we are still pretty proud and even stronger. We help each other out and take care of each other more."

• • •

Willmar union loss. In another small but significant scene of labor struggle, bank workers in Willmar, Minn., were dealt a setback in mid-October when they lost a union decertification election. The workers at First American Bank and Trust, known nationally for the case of the Willmar 8 who fought and won the first-ever bank tellers' union struggle several years ago, had been forced to unceasingly defend their right to a union ever since they voted to form UAW Local 2008. Bank management repeatedly attacked the union, reportedly with

Teamster return to AFL-CIO a plus for labor

By Gary Wilson

The return of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters to the ranks of the AFL-CIO labor federation is another sign that the Reagan years, that have been marked by the retreat of the organized labor movement in the face of an all-out anti-worker attack, are coming to an end.

On Oct. 24, the AFL-CIO's executive council voted unanimously to approve the Teamsters' request to rejoin the union federation. The Teamsters, with 1.5 million members, was the biggest independent union. Its addition brings the total membership in the AFL-CIO to almost 15 million.

The Teamsters had been expelled in 1957 during the witchhunt years when Robert Kennedy, an aide to anti-communist fanatic Joe McCarthy, led a government attack on the unions. The government claimed it was fighting so-called criminal control of the unions. However, the main result of the government's actions was to create a propaganda blitz linking unions and criminals. This false image has persisted to this day.

The Reagan administration has continued the attack started by the Kennedys and others tied to the noto-

Labor supports Maine paper strike with mass rally

By Phil Wilayto
Jay, Maine

October 21 — As over 2,500 striking paperworkers and their supporters poured into the Community Center here tonight, one thing was plain to see: militant union solidarity is alive and well in Jay, Maine.

Some 1,150 members of United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 14 and 100 members of Firemen and Oilers Local 246 have been out on strike here since June 16 against the giant International Paper Company (IP). Although the company doubled its profit in 1986 to a record \$305 million, IP is demanding 7% to 12% wage cuts, elimination of Sunday and holiday premium pay, job-eliminating work rule changes and the right to permanently keep the hundreds of scabs it has hired during the strike. (Less than 50 of the 1,250 Jay strikers have crossed the picket lines to go back to work.)

IP has also forced strikes on UPIU locals in Lock Haven, Pa., and DePere, Wisc., and has locked out the union workers in Mobile, Ala. In addition, the Gardner, Ore., local has authorized a strike and may be going out soon.

Of all the issues facing the union, it's the company's use of scabs and its attempt to keep them as permanent "replacement workers" that has emerged as central to the strike.

"These scabs have got to be stopped!" Local 14 President Bill Meserve told the crowd to thunderous

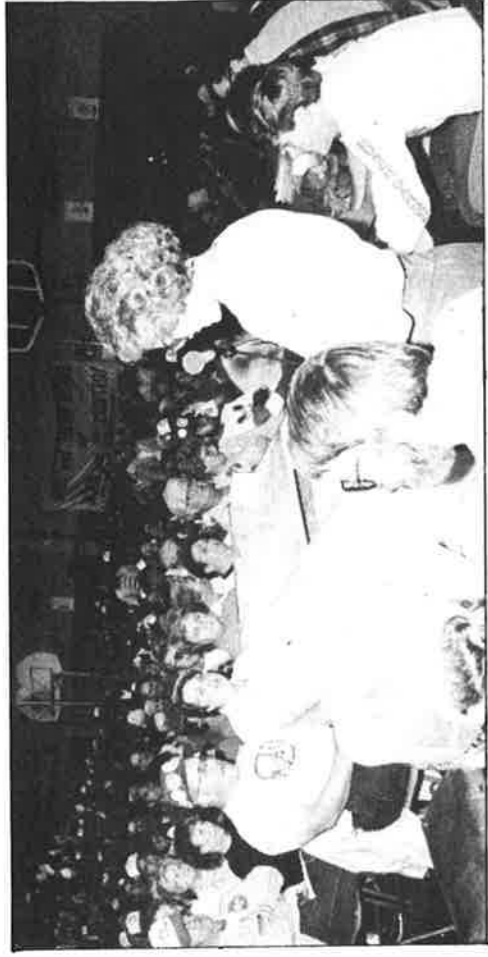
chants of "Scabs out, union in!" "We cannot allow them to take our jobs and jeopardize our lives!"

Some 200 of the scabs are maintenance workers supplied by the Alabama-based BE&K Company. This professional union-busting outfit added insult to injury last week when the Confederate flag was seen flying over the scab-operated mill. The union responded immediately by notifying the local media and public officials, demanding that it be taken down.

This incident clearly shows the true mentality of BE&K — and of IP itself — since the Confederate flag is not a symbol of the South, but of the racist slave-owning plantation bosses who ruled it more than 120 years ago. The Ku Klux Klan-type mentality that makes a business out of strike-breaking feels right at home with the brutal slavery of the cotton plantations.

Jobs campaign speaker targets governor

Because the issue of getting the scabs out of the plant is so central to winning the strike, there was an especially strong response to a statement of solidarity read to the crowd by



Maine rally for paper workers demands, "Scabs out, union in!" Speaker is Donna Pound-Graves of National Job Is a Right Campaign. WW PHOTO: PETER DINN

Donna Pound-Graves, a local strike supporter and member of the National Job Is a Right Campaign. The statement, sent to the rally on behalf of the campaign by Harold Mendlowitz, president of ATU Local 1202 (Greyhound workers in New York City, Albany and Montreal), read in part:

"In Maine, the highest political authority is Gov. John R. McKernan Jr. As head of the state, he possesses executive powers that he can use in an emergency situation. The Jay strike is

as much an emergency as any flood or fire.

"McKernan has the legal authority to order IP to get rid of the scabs and let the union and the company resolve this dispute themselves. But McKernan has already shown which side he's on. He will only act against the scabs if he feels the pressure of a strong, unified movement directed at him.

"That is what is needed in the IP
Continued on page 11

More cannery workers walk against pay cuts

company would really like to have us work with no union at minimum wage, like they already pay their people in Minnesota and Utah."

The agribusiness industry in California is blaming food imports, especially from Mexico, for their demand to cut wages. But as William, another striker said, "proportionately, the U.S. companies have actually gained tremendously in sales. For example, let's say Mexico is now picking up 3% of the broccoli market and has increased their market share by 100%. American consumers have actually increased their purchase of broccoli by 1000%! The U.S. companies are not losing out — they are creating a smokescreen to lower our wages and raise their profits."

Lisa Diaz told WW of some of the degrading ways the workers are treated.

By Gloria La Riva
Salinas, Calif.

Only last March, 1,100 cannery workers in nearby Watsonville won a hard-fought 18-month strike against Watsonville Canning Co., at that time the fourth largest frozen food processor in the country. The nearly 90% Latina women workforce faced many hardships, but their unity and widespread community support enabled them to triumph, winning nearly all the economic and working conditions they walked out over.

Now, several hundred cannery workers at two plants owned by United Foods, the second largest U.S. frozen food processor, hope to gain similar support, crucial to winning their strike which has been underway for three months. Four hundred workers, 90% of them women and nearly all Latinas, began their strike at the Salinas plant on July 30. They are members of Teamsters Local 890. Salinas, an historic center of the United Farm Workers organizing and the heart of the lettuce strikes in the 1970s, is two hours south of San Francisco.

The second struck United Foods cannery is in Modesto, on the northern edge of the San Joaquin Valley, an hour east of San Francisco. The workers there are represented by Teamsters Local 748. The main foods processed in both plants are cauliflower and broccoli.

Workers World spoke to strikers on the picketline here in Salinas. The overwhelming majority of workers have stayed out, with just a handful of scabs crossing the line. In Modesto, the workers' wages were cut from \$7.06 to \$5.05 an hour in July, 1986. They worked without a contract for over a year. At both plants United Foods is trying to reduce benefits sharply by requiring workers to get in 1,600 hours before they can qualify. Because the work is seasonal and unpredictable, this would deprive many workers of any benefits at all. The company is also demanding a reduction in vacations from 3 to 2 weeks.

If United Foods were to defeat the unions, these cuts would not be the last. Ellen, who has worked at the Salinas plant for 15 years, said, "The

"They say this plant is the most productive in the whole area. But the more you do, the more they want. It got to the point where, when you went to the restroom, they would time you and kept track of how many times you went."

"And then they're not willing to give a decent wage, so what else could we do? People had to stand up and fight for something, because we've already given them everything we've got."

Teamsters Locals 748 and 890 are holding a food caravan and rally on Nov. 7, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. The caravan will begin at Teamsters Local 287, 1452 North 4th St., in San Jose, and will wind up at Local 890, 207 North Sanborn Road, Salinas. For more information on the caravan or about how to support the strike, call (408) 758-6311.



WW PHOTO: GLORIA LA RIVA

The Watsonville cannery workers won. Now it's Salinas' turn.

Picketline

major financial backing from the national banking industry, which shows how important it is to the bosses to keep the tens of thousands of tellers and clerks unorganized. The workers successfully fought off two previous decertification attempts. But this time management pulled out all stops and the National Labor Relations Board colluded by allowing almost 30 management employees to take part in the vote to oust the union, thus ensuring a majority against the workers.

Bridgeport disaster: 'sloppy' bosses. The U.S. Labor Dept. announced on Oct. 22 that the April collapse of a Bridgeport, Conn., construction project, in which 28 workers were killed, was due to "sloppy construction practices...and an overall sense of employer complacency for essential workplace safety considerations." The government issued a \$5.11-million fine, the biggest ever, against the contractors for hundreds of "willful" violations of federal safety standards. But surviving workers and families of those killed were not satisfied with the government's response to the bosses' murderous "sloppiness," and told reporters they are considering filing lawsuits against the local and federal governments for their roles in permitting the hazardous conditions that led to the disaster. Textstar Construction Corporation, the company primarily responsible, has a long history of similar problems — in fact, just two months before the fatal collapse in Bridgeport, an identical collapse on a smaller scale took place at the same site. It was not reported to OSHA because the government only requires reporting if a worker is killed.

Shelley Ettinger



Congress vs. AIDS education

If there is a plague that is enveloping this country, it is the scourge of bigotry coming from the ruling summits. Over 200 years of U.S. history have shown that bigotry has always originated at the top, where there is an economic interest in such divisions among the people.

The curse of bigotry is now being whipped up over the issue of AIDS education. It started in the Senate, more properly called the Millionaires Club, 99% white, 99% male membership almost all come from the small clique that holds vast quantities of wealth.

In the week after the tremendous demonstration of half a million lesbians, gay men and their supporters in Washington on Oct. 11, the Senate threw a tantrum. They are used to responding to the beck and call of big business and the Pentagon; they despise popular mass movements.

In a speech on Oct. 14, Sen. Jesse Helms declared, "Now we had all this mob here over the weekend, which itself was a disheartening spectacle." And with that he introduced Amendment 963 to the Labor Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill.

The amendment says, "None of the funds made available under this Act to the Centers for Disease Control shall be used to provide AIDS education, information or prevention materials and activities that promote or encourage, directly or indirectly, homosexual sexual activities."

All the Senate jumped on the bandwagon. Sen. Ted Kennedy, the Democratic liberal, ponderously declared, "On balance I support this amendment." Alan Cranston, another liberal, who was able to beat a far-right challenger last year because of a large gay vote, also cravenly declared his support for Helms' amendment.

It was a landslide. The vote was 94 to 2.

Within two weeks, the amendment was also introduced in the House of Representatives by William Dannemeyer, another ultra-rightist like Helms. And again the Democrats gave their support, with only a handful opposing. The final vote there was 368 to 47. The bill is now in a joint House-Senate committee for final approval.

What would be the immediate effect of this amendment, once it goes through? The Helms Amendment is clearly aimed at cutting off any funding to the AIDS service groups that have sprung up in the lesbian and gay community. Of course, these are the organizations which have been providing the most effective educational services to those most at risk of contracting AIDS — gay men.

According to the New York City-based Gay Men's Health Crisis, many AIDS education programs would be forced to be shut down. Progressive groups are urgently calling for protests over the bill, which was quickly sneaked through the House with no public notice.

Once again, as it has so many times since the AIDS crisis was first recognized and understood, Congress is diverting attention away from its lack of any kind of credible program to fight the AIDS crisis. Instead, it offers only attacks on those who are most deserving of support, those in the gay and lesbian community providing effective education about how to engage in safe sex and thus avoid contracting AIDS.

The role of the liberal Democrats who regularly masquerade as so-called friends of the people is most illuminating. For any who doubted, it is proof that the Democrats like the Republicans are servants of big business. The only road to progress is a political movement that is independent of both parties and fights for the interests of the people.

Two systems: a new look

Until Oct. 19 the economic "experts" of capitalism spent a good deal of their energy explaining the supposed superiority of a market economy over a centrally-planned, socialist society. Now these same pundits are busy apologizing for a market plunge they can neither control nor explain. It's a good time to take

a look at exactly what the socialist countries have accomplished.

This look is especially appropriate since the two major countries in size, population and economic weight, where capitalism has been overthrown, are themselves at a point of evaluation. The Soviet Union is just about to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Revolution of Nov. 7, 1917. In People's China the Communist Party is holding its 13th Congress and discussing new economic steps now that the revolution there is 38 years old.

Some obvious advances of a planned economy can be shown by a list of things which haven't happened since these revolutions. There was no crisis brought about by overproduction. There were no economic recessions. There is no speculation with the economy. There was no market crash.

Instead, in the USSR there has been steady industrial growth since the time central planning was introduced, interrupted only by the Nazi attack in World War II. And when the war ended, the advance revived with vigor, propelling the USSR into the space age.

China's peasants no longer face the threat of famine that was a daily fact of life in pre-revolutionary China. For all the difficulties in bringing a nation of one billion people from feudalism into the modern era, People's China has introduced medicine, electricity, education and industry into its vast countryside.

Perhaps even more important is that the advances in these societies were made without the superexploitation of workers in oppressed countries, without the pillage of colonies that brought so much wealth to the U.S., Japan and Europe. Not only did the USSR advance from an impoverished semi-colonial country to a major world power, it did so without stealing the wealth of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Not only did People's China end famine, it did so without exploiting the labor of Indonesians, Koreans or Filipinos.

The newspapers have reported that the present leaders of the Chinese Communist Party are considering using capitalist techniques to try to increase productivity and may even open a stock market. Their plans, however, were laid just before the Hong Kong market reopened and stock prices there plunged by one-third. Perhaps this nearby experience will spark a reevaluation, and strengthen the resolve of those in the Party who oppose the present rightward course. It is certainly called for.

Letters

Harassed by Marine Corps

I wish to subscribe to Workers World for \$10 for one year.

I currently have a trial subscription and wish to continue receiving your fine paper. I am a very concerned 26-year-old lesbian who, after being discharged and harassed in the U.S. Marine Corps because of it, have no blind faith in the government. I find more truth in your paper than in the major newspapers.

I am a government worker and student, very active with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance on the university campus.

I would like to distribute your paper as well. Enclosed is my check for my subscription.

B. C.
Fresno, Calif.

Black activist

Having read the Workers World I noted your article entitled "Cops Stage New Attack on Black Activists in Brooklyn."

I am totally unfamiliar with the two transgressions that you spoke about, though I did hear word of mouth something to the effect concerning covert operations in New York.

As the years of my awareness have passed I've become more conscious of the gains as well as the transgressions against (us) the Black and minority

peoples. Because of my incarceration I am limited in giving man hours — but I chair the African American Cultural and Studies Group here at Attica Prison and continue through friends and loved ones to make my contribution in the various ways needed.

It is of interest to me and I wish to be informed concerning those attacks you wrote about. I trust you'll be able to inform me or direct me to persons, groups and/or articles and dates.

Having been a New York City resident prior to my incarceration I am somewhat annoyed that this got by me. Our group here addresses all aspects of civilization, social changes and happenings, and would surely have addressed this.

Leonard Loti
Attica, New York

Gay rights march

Your coverage of the Washington gay rights march, was excellent. It stands in stark contrast to the token reports by big business controlled media.

I am proud to have been an eyewitness to the events you so vividly and accurately described. My arrest at the Supreme Court steps for making a political statement (money for AIDS, not for war) is now a special memory to me. I will never forget the beautiful people among whom I was detained, including members of Workers World Party.

Lloyd Clarke
Saginaw, Mich.

— Bus strike

Continued from page 6

would have preferred to rely on the power of the picket line as the arbiter of the remaining issues in dispute. The strike leadership, however, is determined to take the power and determination of the picket lines into the arbitration hearing room to wring from the bus companies and the City every drop of economic justice possible.

During the course of this strike there developed a new layer of leaders —

Black, Latin, white, women and men. They exhibited initiative, sacrifice, determination and a new level of organizational maturity, setting up mobile units, a canteen, phone banks, leaflet production, distribution and rally organization.

Many are looking forward to executive board and stewards' elections this year. The union rank and file learned many rich lessons from this strike. They won not only this settlement but more importantly, the consciousness of the union's strength, power and solidarity — a gain more lasting than dollars and benefits.

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Jersey housing convention maps action program

By G. Dunkel
Jersey City, N.J.

October 24 — Tenants, small homeowners and the homeless joined forces here today in adopting a militant action program to respond to the housing crisis in highly urban Hudson County, across the river from New York City.

"We will stay right here and fight for safe, decent, affordable housing," Ruth Hines, co-chair of the Tenant, Homeowner and Homeless Convention, told the opening session of the all-day meeting held only a mile from the huge, half-finished Newport City luxury housing development.

"Four of the developers of the Hudson County waterfront made the list of the 400 richest men in the U.S. They claim they've moved the poor and working people out. But we're here and we intend to stay and fight," was how Rachel Duell, Coordinator of the Billion Dollar Housing Coalition, summed the day up.

The members of dozens of tenants', small homeowners' and homeless groups who met at the Martin Luther King School here heard speeches in the plenary sessions analyzing the political and economic factors affecting housing in Hudson County. They also held six workshops to soberly and practically discuss their concrete problems with obtaining shelter.

The workshops focused on tenants' rights, condo conversion, getting jobs, fighting all forms of discrimination, taxes and mortgages, and the cruel conditions the homeless, especially women and children, face. Translation into Spanish was available for both the speeches and the workshops.

While most of the participants came from Jersey City, there were representatives of tenant groups from all over Hudson County — Union City, North Bergen, Hoboken, Weehawken, West New York and Bayonne. The Grace Temple Young Adult Choir and the cheerleaders of Mt. of Prayer Deliverance Church provided entertainment during lunch.

Hudson County, which is entirely urban with about a half a million people, lies across the Hudson River from Manhattan. Unemployment overall in New Jersey is 4.5%, but in Hudson County it's nearly double that — 7.9%.

While Jersey City became a major

Calif. students protest cuts in education

By Ron Holladay
San Francisco

October 19 — 1,400 student athletes, coaches, and their supporters marched today on the School Board and City Hall to protest 50% cutbacks in the city's public school athletic programs. The \$500,000 cut is part of a larger \$17 million being cut out of the San Francisco school budgets. This takes place in a state which once was among the leaders in public school education, but has now fallen to worst in the nation in class size.

Thirteen-year-old Mary Scherer who protested in her brown and gold cheerleading uniform is a competitor in softball, volleyball, gymnastics and track. "Students keep their grade point average up to stay on the team," she said. "Now they've lost their interest . . . and lots of them are just sitting around doing nothing."

Shouting "Save our sports!" the students carried signs that read "Sports helps kids" and "We can spend millions on a bridge but not on our kids" (referring to the millions

if all the plans filed so far are completed, about 10% of all the tenants in the county will lose their homes in the next three years.

A.J. Thomás, a small homeowner in Jersey City, pointed out that all the tax breaks given to the developers on the waterfront have meant that small homeowners face some of the highest tax bills in New Jersey, as well as an increased number of foreclosures.

But landlord and developer greed is not limited to evicting people from their homes. Marsha Goldberg, a tenant activist from Hoboken, described how four of her neighbors were burned to death in a suspicious fire two weeks ago. She tied this atrocity to the more than 50 arson deaths that have occurred in Hoboken in the past four years, almost all concentrated in the Puerto Rican community. Goldberg said, "If landlords and developers are going to use such extraordinary measures against us, we have to prepare to respond in kind!"

Convention platform

The convention unanimously adopted a concrete, hard-hitting action program that contains the following demands:

- that the city, state and federal government take emergency measures

Ruth Hines, co-chair of convention.

"to alleviate the suffering caused by this situation";

- that condo conversions, evictions and tax foreclosures be stopped during the emergency;
- that the state provide "immediate housing for the homeless" and an "independent investigation, which must include family and community . . . in all suspicious arson fires";

• that the state of New Jersey use its \$500 million budget surplus to build 2,000 low-rent units in Hudson County;

- that federal government spend a billion dollars on 20,000 affordable

Continued on page 11



Small home owner A.J. Thomas supports program calling for emergency low-income housing in New Jersey.

WW PHOTOS: NEVILLE EDWARDS



WW PHOTO: JEAN BOWDISH

Protest U.S. neglect of AIDS. Chanting "Act up, fight AIDS, fight back!" over 400 people demonstrated their anger toward the U.S.'s criminal lack of attention to the AIDS crisis. The event took place across from the United Nations on Oct. 20 during a World Health Organization meeting on AIDS. Demonstrators crossed police barricades to block traffic on busy First Avenue for 15 minutes. Fifty-three people were arrested and released. Although the established media were in evidence, not one newspaper, radio or TV station reported the activity.

Sara Loring

Killing of popular Colombian leader sparks outrage

By Enrique Gutierrez

Militant protests erupted throughout Colombia the second week of October after Jaime Pardo Leal, candidate of the Patriotic Union for the Presidency of Colombia in the last election, fell to assassins' bullets on Oct. 11 in the town of La Mesa, just 50 kilometers from Bogota.

Pardo Leal had been born to a peasant household in the town of Ubaque, Cundinamarca, one among many that suffered the never-ending rounds of violence between the Liberal and Conservative parties. He had dedicated his life to struggle, fighting alongside the oppressed — as an incorruptible federal judge, as a just magistrate, as a steadfast trade union leader or simply as Companero Pardo Leal, national leader of the Patriotic Union.

Pardo Leal exposed military link to death squads

He had been elected National Chairman of the Patriotic Union when this new political movement held its First Congress in 1985, a movement that had grown out of the cease-fire, truce and finally the peace agreements signed between the corrupt capitalist government of Belisario Betancur and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). His name had appeared recently on the "Death List," put together by the military against the combined democratic and revolutionary movement.

In May of this year, Pardo Leal had, with characteristic boldness and overwhelming evidence, linked over 100 active-duty members of the military to acts of torture, disappearances and the murders of Colombians. Among those whom he exposed was the present Defense Minister, General

Rafael Samudio Molina, who had attempted to justify the creation of the "self-defense" gangs of butchers and hired guns. The open discussion of the criminal conduct of the military by the leadership of the Patriotic Union, in the interests of the people, stimulated the hatred of the reactionaries, who further heightened their violence against the people.

Never before has a political movement in Colombia paid such a high price in its determined struggle for peace, democracy and respect for human life: more than 500 activists murdered, among them eight congressional representatives, 12 city councilors, 16 mayors (all representing the Patriotic Union), political headquarters dynamited all around the country, mayoral candidates in the upcoming elections assassinated. All bear witness to the great sacrifices made by this movement as well as its uncompromising spirit of struggle.

It is evident that a plan of systematic extermination against the popular movement, aimed at paralyzing the growing strength of the masses through terror and generalized violence, has been put into effect. There can be no doubt about the participation of the Colombian military high command in carrying out "Plan Condor," inspired by the counter-revolutionary strategists of U.S. imperialism.

The existence, acknowledged by government minister Cesar Gaviria, of 149 paramilitary groups (death squads) that have committed more than 1,006 murders and 1,650 disappearances during the last 12 months illustrates the severity of the crisis wracking Colombian society.

The government of President Virgilio Barco is responsible for the bloodbath



Demonstrators protesting murder of Jaime Pardo Leal fight police in Bogota, Colombia.

to which Colombia is now being subjected. The monstrous assassination of Jaime Pardo constitutes a grave provocation against the fragile social order of the country.

Colombian reactionaries, the military and its Pentagon mentors want to destroy the U.P. and all the people's organizations: the united front of revolutionary armed groupings in the Simon Bolivar Coordinator, the Unified Workers Center (CUT), and the cooperation and unity of organizations representing indigenous people, campesinos and students.

While there is both anger and sadness in Colombia, there is also hope as a result of these advances. As the unity of the people matures, their organizations have grown broader and stronger. The terrorism of the militar-

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Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society. All work together in this organization — Black and white, Latin, Asian and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian and gay, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

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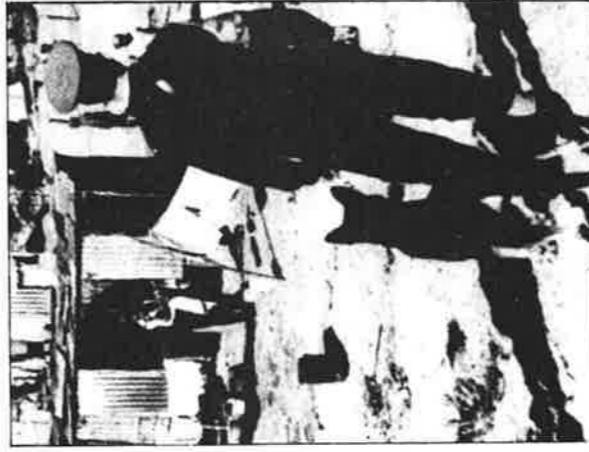
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Anti-apartheid rally backs challenge to Thatcher



number one out of every 12 Namibians," he said. "But the struggle has extracted a very high price. We have compelled Pretoria to spend \$2 million a day on the war."

Toivo Ja Toivo demanded democratic elections for Namibia as well as sanctions. "A long accusing finger must be pointed at South Africa for its failure to engage in a negotiated settlement," he said.

President Kenneth Kaunda, of Zambia, the final speaker, said, "We're talking about an abominable system that is being tolerated. Sanctions against South Africa must be strengthened."

All speakers were interrupted many times by applause from the multi-racial Canadian audience. This meeting and conference helped to push sanctions against racist South Africa to the top of the agenda at the Commonwealth Conference.

sanctions have shown signs of working."

Dr. P. Mocombe, the foreign minister of Mozambique, detailed the destruction brought by the South African-backed RENAMO war against his country. He said RENAMO attacks have destroyed 1,500 shops, 1,800 schools that served 315,000 students, and numerous hospitals. A half-million people have died due to this war.

Responding to those who want to portray RENAMO as a political force, Mocombe said, "RENAMO is guided and controlled from South Africa. There is no civil war in Mozambique. RENAMO has no political program. They are agents of destruction and death."

Secretary General Toivo Ja Toivo of SWAPO painted a similar picture of the South African occupation of Namibia. "South African troops

CALENDAR

DETROIT

Sat., Oct. 31: The stock market crash and the U.S. war in the Middle East: what the crises mean for poor and working people. Featured speaker Vince Cope land. Childcare provided (with costume party, games and refreshments for Halloween). 2:00 p.m. at 1945 Grand River, call (313) 962-4979.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sun., Nov. 1: Film — "Ten Days That Shook the World," by Eisenstein. Celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the October Revolution. Free. 7:00 p.m. at 2489 Mission #30, call (415) 826-4828

Murder in El Salvador linked to U.S. aid

By Sharon Shelton

Only days after the Reagan administration announced it was shipping off \$7 million to shore up its puppet torturers in the Salvadoran police, the head of the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission was brutally gunned down by death squads on Oct. 27.

Herbert Ernesto Anaya had been president of the Commission, which is highly critical of human rights violations on the part of the U.S.-backed regime.

The human rights activist was shot at point-blank range in a small parking lot as he left home to take his children to school. The children witnessed the murder, which was carried out, according to a spokesperson for the Commission, by heavily armed members of the notorious death squads.

Although the Reagan administration has tried to explain away the death squads as loosely organized groups of "extremists," these butchers are not only intimately connected with the regime, but they have been

trained in their methods of torture and murder by U.S. imperialism.

Notorious for having murdered over 25,000 civilians in a two-year period alone, the death squads are composed of members of the Salvadoran police and military. In 1980, the squads came to public attention worldwide for their murder of 600 people in what is known as the Sumpul Massacre.

Trained by U.S. advisers

El Salvador's hated police are trained by U.S. advisers, as are its military personnel. The FBI carries out the training of a judicial police unit, and other U.S. officials work closely with a special political "counterterrorist" unit. Sophisticated weapons are also provided by Uncle Sam.

The U.S. program to train and arm foreign police was begun back in 1952 and resulted in the training of thousands of officers in 77 countries. What were they really being trained for? The New York Times (Oct. 22) has admitted that in El Salvador "American aid was used for police training in the 1950s and 1960s, and many officers in

the three branches of the police later became leaders of the right-wing death squads that killed tens of thousands of people in the late 1970s and early 1980s."

Alarmed by the growing awareness in Latin America and elsewhere that U.S. imperialism was training its puppets in torture methods to put down internal opposition, Congress in 1974 banned the programs from being conducted — at least openly. In 1985, however, Reagan succeeded in getting a compliant Congress to agree to sneak a special section into the Foreign Service Act to allow open training programs in Central American countries that "respected human rights."

\$22 million for police

Contrary to all the evidence, the Reagan administration then proclaimed El Salvador as one of those countries and that same year authorized a \$22 million "regional counterterrorist program" for Central America. The program provides for extensive police training throughout

the region.

The White House, which knows full well what the real situation is in El Salvador, claims that its El Salvador stooges have "improved in the area of human rights," just when they are killing the very leader of the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission!

All this takes place even as the Duarte regime, which signed the ceasefire plan, is supposed to be seeking a cease-fire with the popular revolutionary forces of the FMLN-FDR. This murder shows how U.S. imperialism and its puppets intend to "honor" the plan, which has raised hopes among many in the region that the U.S.-contra war against Nicaragua will end.

With the U.S. economy now in deep financial crisis, and the politicians talking about even further cutbacks into already decimated social services, it is more urgent than ever to oppose the Reagan administration's efforts to ship off gargantuan sums of money for war against the revolutionary masses of Nicaragua, and to repress the peoples of El Salvador and elsewhere.

What revolution means to Nicaraguan workers

A visit to 'El Triunfo' textile factory

By John-Peter Daly

"Buenas, I'd like to know if I could speak to the manager to visit the factory."

"The manager can't make decisions like that. You have to speak with the union."

The Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua has placed workers in a powerful position. Last August, in several visits to a garment factory in Managua called, "Industria-El Triunfo" (named after the 1979 triumph over the oppressive Somoza dictatorship), this writer met representatives of the 650 garment workers there who told of their role in building a people's Nicaragua.

For the first time the workers are organized. They belong to the CTS (Committee for Sandinista Workers), the umbrella workers' organization. El Triunfo has eight elected union rep-

resentatives, each with a specialized task: general secretary, finance, arbitration, labor relations, production, propaganda, political education and sports.

The women in the factory, constituting 85% of the workers, have made great gains and now hold seven of the eight leading union positions. Women in Nicaragua, said Rosa Jarquin, a union representative, now earn salaries equal to those of men. This equality, added Jarquin, never existed before.

The women also receive free care for their small children at the nearby CDI (Center for Infant Development), a government-run child care center.

— IP strike

Continued from page 7
strike today: a mass campaign that demands that McKernan take action against IP's use of the scabs."

Even with the use of professional strike breakers, however, along with the management personnel and assorted other scabs, IP is still having problems. President Meserve related how a sympathetic trucker told the union the company offered him \$100 for each time he would drive away from the plant in low gear to make it look like he had a full load, even though he was only carrying two rolls of paper. Another driver had told of seeing machinery sitting idle in the middle of a normally busy workday.

The unity and militancy shown by the Jay strikers has been such a source of inspiration that representatives from UPIU locals in Lock Haven, Pa., Nashua, N.H., Westfield, Mass., and Ticonderoga, N.Y. were at the rally tonight. Tomorrow they will attend seminars to learn from the Jay experience in organizing publicity, a food bank and the "road show," in which strikers travel to other union locals to spread the word of the strike and build support for the united struggle.

In addition, state AFL-CIO President Charles O'Leary called the IP strike the "number one priority" of the Maine labor movement and announced that part of the November 4-6 state AFL-CIO convention would be held in Jay, so that delegates could feel for themselves the unity and spirit of the strikers.

— Toxic

Continued from page 2

now government and industry are attempting to shove incinerators down the throats of communities nationwide. As government is unwilling to force industry to reduce toxic waste, communities and environmental groups are stepping up their fight to force industry to act.

On Oct. 20, protesters from all over California converged on the State Capitol building in Sacramento to emphasize their demands: No incineration; close leaking toxic landfills; and force industry to reduce toxic waste.

As a press conference ended, climbers from the environmental group Greenpeace appeared on the roof of the State Capitol building, and to the cheers of onlookers unfurled a 30 by 15 foot banner against incineration, calling for reduction of toxic waste. The climbers then suspended themselves and the banner from ropes they attached to the roof in a dramatic protest.

Three members of Greenpeace were arrested in the action, which received favorable publicity statewide. Activists vowed to continue their protests on Oct. 23 in Los Angeles, where they will be on hand to picket a keynote address by the Governor on the toxic waste issue.

but of a different material.

In order to produce more, the workers have agreed to volunteer, after their 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. shift, for four more hours without pay. During the regular shift the workers get breaks in which they receive free breakfast and lunch. Those who volunteer until 8 p.m. eat dinner for free at the factory cafeteria. Nearly all the workers without other commitments stay the extra hours.

Hourly and incentive pay

How do workers get paid in El Triunfo? They get an hourly wage and an incentive production-based wage. Monthly evaluations can increase the production wage.

Surprisingly, workers in El Triunfo cannot be fired. If a worker slacks off in production or creates problems on the job, the union calls a meeting with the worker. The union tries to resolve the problem, whether it be personal, economic, medical or whatever. Follow-up meetings then check to see if the problems have been eradicated.

If the worker refuses the help and is still behind in production, only the production wage is cut. The worker then has the option to resign.

In the monthly union meeting, the workers confer on problems and progress of the factory. Workers high in productivity are publicly recognized with awards and gifts of three yards of material. As the material is distributed, revolutionary slogans are chanted by the union members (95% of whom attend meetings regularly) like, "Without youth ready for sacrifice, there would be no revolution!" "Sandino lives," and slogans about women's liberation.

At a union meeting, 18-year-old Secretary General Hanibal Martinez told the workers that their efforts were crucial in developing Nicaragua. He was cheered as he followed with, "We won't sell out Nicaragua like Somoza did."

Because of the U.S.-funded contra war and the trade embargo, Martinez stressed that El Triunfo's job is first to clothe Nicaragua, not to think of their job as just earning a salary.

In four visits to the factory, it was clear that the Nicaraguan workers truly believe in the Sandinista's 1987 theme, seen written on walls and murals everywhere, "Aqui no se rinde nadie" — "No one gives up here."

— Housing

Continued from page 9

units that would resolve the housing crisis;

• that there be "no racial discrimination by landlords. No discrimination against the disabled, against people with AIDS, against women with children or gay and lesbian people."

John Jones, co-chair of the convention and coordinator of the Billion Dollar Housing Coalition, felt "the whole day was a success. The people who came today — Black, Latino and white, tenants, homeowners and homeless — put together represent the real majority of Hudson County. I'm especially proud the homeless felt welcome."

Nancy Richardson, a homeless woman interviewed in Journal Square the day after the convention said, "It was one of the greatest days of my life. It gave me hope."



El colapso de 1987 y la anarquía capitalista

Por Angela Vera

La espectacular caída de la Bolsa de Valores de 1987, marca profundos efectos económicos y seguramente transformará la situación política.

La pérdida de medio billón de dólares dentro de 36 horas es en sí mismo un enorme factor que no se puede enmascarar con un subsecuente resurgimiento de la Bolsa, incluso si se recuperara una cantidad considerable, queda todavía el otro medio billón de millones — que perdió paulatinamente entre el 25 de agosto y el 19 de octubre.

Es absolutamente sin sentido decir que estas son meras pérdidas de papeles. Si éste sería el caso, los administradores de los bancos centrales y de los gobiernos capitalistas, los financistas, corredores de bolsa y las hordas de consultantes económicos y financieros no hubieran llegado al borde del pánico, sin contar con las reacciones de los accionistas y propietarios de bonos.

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reales, y algún resurgimiento del mercado no toma en cuenta a quienes han sido eliminados completamente, como tampoco toma en cuenta a los millones que dependían en el valor de sus acciones y del valor que podrían haber obtenido.

Es importante señalar que pese a que pocos trabajadores tienen acciones, más del 80% de los jefes de familia en este país no la poseen, sin embargo muchos trabajadores ya han perdido con la caída de la bolsa del 19 de octubre, y otros millones de trabajadores y gente pobre están amenazados con futuras pérdidas.

Además se espera que estas pérdidas no solamente vengan de esta caída sino también de los banqueros y los ricos dueños de acciones que tratan de poner el peso de la caída sobre los hombros de la clase pobre.

La clase trabajadora y su familia perderá a través de la devaluación de sus pensiones, como también de sus ahorros.

¿Qué demuestra este colapso? ¿Qué pueden sacar como conclusión los



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Esto confirma la concepción marxista de la economía capitalista. Demuestra que en el análisis final ni los más hábiles manipuladores, ni los más versados financieros en el globo con la tecnología más sofisticada en comunicaciones, pueden controlar las fuerzas del caos y la anarquía capitalista.

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Esta gran caída a nivel mundial del mercado de valores de 1987, de-seguro va a revivir el interés en el marxismo.

Desde que Carlos Marx y Federico Engels revelaron los principios científicos del capitalismo, toda la burguesía económica ha tratado de desconocer al marxismo. Por décadas, los economistas burgueses han dicho que los ciclos económicos que Marx señaló, no existen más y que la introducción de un gran conglomerado a nivel mundial, junto con las regulaciones del gobierno, significa que otra bancarrota no podría pasar, además; se jactaban de que la economía había sido estabilizada. Sin embargo el mercado de valores cayó estrepitosamente.

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COLOMBIA

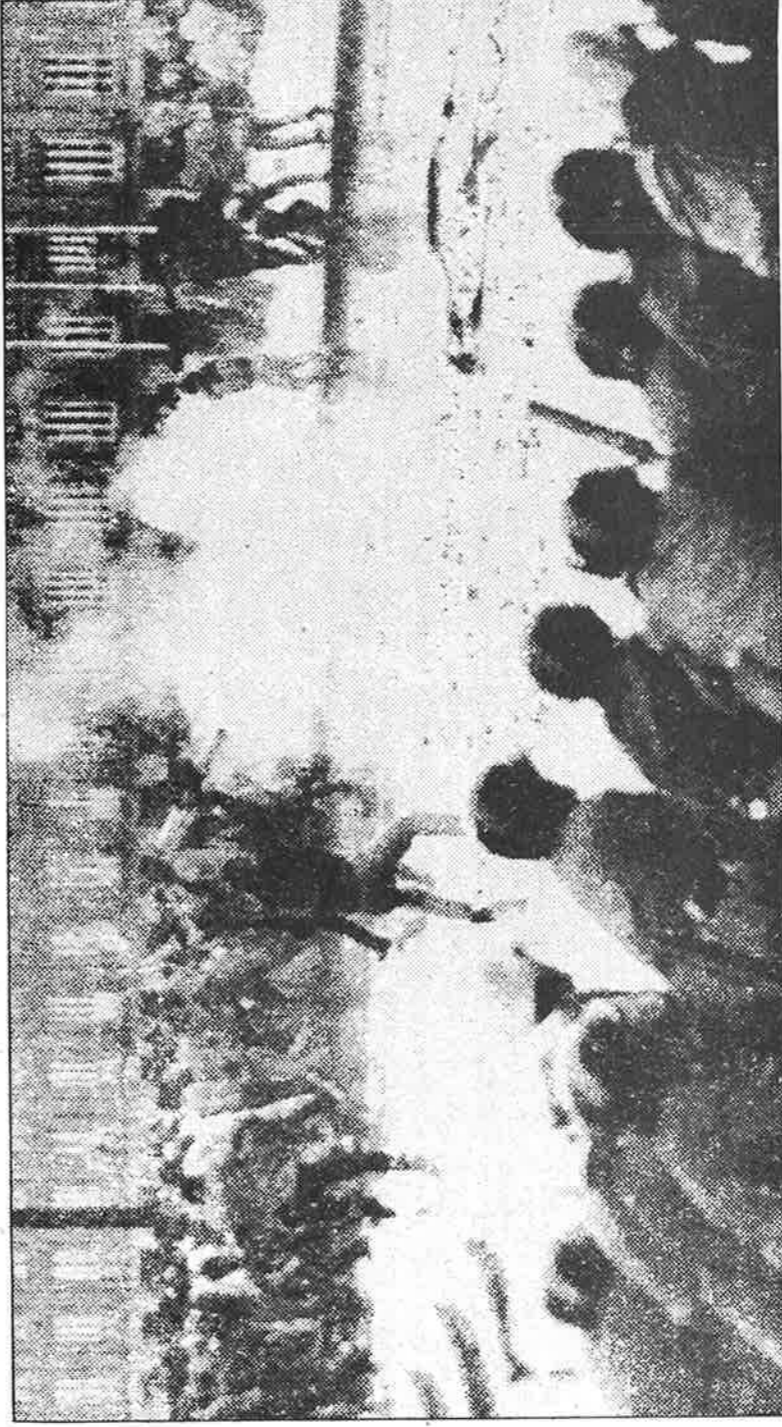
El pueblo lucha contra terror militarista

Por Enrique Gutierrez

Jaime Pardo Leal, ex-candidato presidencial de la Unión Patriótica, cayó asesinado el 11 de Octubre en la cercana población de La Mesa, Departamento de Cundinamarca, a sólo 50 kilómetros de Bogotá. Había nacido en Ubaque, Cundinamarca, en un hogar campesino de los muchos que sufrieron la vieja violencia bipartidista. Había dedicado su vida a la lucha al lado de los oprimidos, ya como insubornable juez de la República además como recto y justo magistrado y como firme dirigente sindical de la Asociación Nacional Judicial (ASONAJ), o simplemente como el compañero Pardo Leal dirigente nacional de la U.P. Desde junio de 1985 cuando la Unión Patriótica realizó su Primer Congreso, había sido elegido Presidente Nacional del nuevo movimiento político surgido de los acuerdos de cese al fuego, tregua y paz entre el gobierno de Belisario Betancur y las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC). Su nombre apareció recientemente en la sinistral "lista de la muerte" elaborada por el militarismo contra el conjunto del movimiento democrático y revolucionario.

En mayo de este año, Pardo Leal había denunciado con su característica valentía a más de 100 militares activos comprometidos con torturas, desapariciones y ultimación de ciudadanos, presentando pruebas contundentes entre los cuales se encuentra el actual Ministro de Defensa General Rafael Samudio Molina, quien además había defendido la creación de los grupos de "autodefensa" en un claro intento de legalizar los grupos de matones y sicarios.

Los debates de la bancada de la U.P. contra el militarismo y en defensa de los intereses populares exacerbó el odio y la violencia reaccionaria contra el pueblo. Nunca antes en Colombia un movimiento político ha pagado tan alto precio, su decisión de lucha por la paz, la vida y la democracia; más de



La policía en Bogota, Colombia intenta a reprimir manifestantes protestando el asesinato de Jaime Pardo Leal, líder popular de la Unión Patriótica.

500 activistas asesinados, entre ellos 8 congresistas, 12 concejales, 16 alcaldes, dinamitadas sus principales sedes políticas en todo el país y asesinados varios de sus candidatos a las próximas elecciones populares de alcaldes, son testimonios de su alta cuota de sacrificio y persistencia y de su innegociable espíritu de lucha.

Es evidente que está en desarrollo un plan sistemático de exterminio contra el movimiento popular; dirigido a paralizar el ascenso de las masas por la vía del terror y la generalización de la violencia. No existe duda alguna de la participación y ejecución de los altos mandos militares en el Plan Cóndor, de inspiración imperialista contra los movimientos populares. La existencia reconocida por el ministro de gobierno Cesar Gaviria de 149 grupos paramilitares que han perpetrado más de 1006 asesinatos y 1650 desa-

pariciones de individuos en los últimos 12 meses, evidencia la gravedad de la situación que atraviesa Colombia, con el trágico ingrediente del silencio y la impunidad que el gobierno brinda a los grupos de sicarios; esta conducta responsabiliza al gobierno de Virgilio Barco del baño de sangre al cual esta siendo sometido Colombia. El vil asesinato de Jaime Pardo se constituye en una grave provocación contra la poca estabilidad del país.

El militarismo ha querido cobrar a Jaime Pardo Leal, la U.P. y al conjunto de organizaciones populares, la Unidad Guerrillera anunciada por todas las agrupaciones armadas en la Coordinadora Simón Bolívar, la unidad de la clase obrera en la Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT) y la unidad campesina, indígena y estudiantil en sus respectivas organizaciones.

Hay tristeza e indignación en Colombia, pero también hay alegría y esperanza. El pueblo madura su unidad y fortalece sus organizaciones, acumula fuerzas y en medio del asesinato de sus dirigentes, sus banderas y ejemplo se erigen nuevamente.

El terror militarista no detendrá al pueblo colombiano que utilizando todas las formas de lucha y desarrollando la más amplia convergencia contra el fascismo, construirá un mañana diferente.

Corrección

En la edición con fecha de octubre 29, 1987 por error fue omitido el nombre de una de las autoras del artículo entitulado: "Miles de Latinas y Latinos..." Este artículo fue escrito por Petra Guerra y P. Santiago.

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Por Enrique Gutierrez

Jaime Pardo Leal, ex-candidato presidencial de la Unión Patriótica, cayó asesinado el 11 de Octubre en la cercana población de La Mesa, Departamento de Cundinamarca, a sólo 50 kilómetros de Bogotá. Había nacido en Ubaque, Cundinamarca, en un hogar campesino de los muchos que sufrieron la vieja violencia bipartidista. Había dedicado su vida a la lucha al lado de los oprimidos, ya como insubornable juez de la República además como recto y justo magistrado y como firme dirigente sindical de la Asociación Nacional Judicial (ASONAL), o simplemente como el compañero Pardo Leal dirigente nacional de la U.P. Desde junio de 1985 cuando la Unión Patriótica realizó su Primer Congreso, había sido elegido Presidente Nacional del nuevo movimiento político surgido de los acuerdos de cese al fuego, tregua y paz entre el gobierno de Belisario Betancur y las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC). Su nombre apareció recientemente en la siniestra "lista de la muerte" elaborada por el militarismo contra el conjunto del movimiento democrático y revolucionario.

En mayo de este año, Pardo Leal había denunciado con su característica valentía a más de 100 militares activos comprometidos con torturas, desapariciones y ultimación de ciudadanos, presentando pruebas contundentes entre los cuales se encuentra el actual Ministro de Defensa General Rafael Samudio Molina, quien además había defendido la creación de los grupos de "autodefensa" en un claro intento de legalizar los grupos de matones y sicarios.

Los debates de la bancada de la U.P. contra el militarismo y en defensa de los intereses populares exacerbó el odio y la violencia reaccionaria contra el pueblo. Nunca antes en Colombia un movimiento político ha pagado tan alto precio, su decisión de lucha por la paz, la vida y la democracia; más de



La policía en Bogotá, Colombia intenta a reprimir manifestantes protestando el asesinato de Jaime Pardo Leal, líder popular de la Unión Patriótica.

500 activistas asesinados, entre ellos 8 congresistas, 12 concejales, 16 alcaldes, dinamitadas sus principales sedes políticas en todo el país y asesinados varios de sus candidatos a las próximas elecciones populares de alcaldes, son testimonios de su alta cuota de sacrificio y persistencia y de su innegociable espíritu de lucha.

Es evidente que está en desarrollo un plan sistemático de exterminio contra el movimiento popular; dirigido a paralizar el ascenso de las masas por la vía del terror y la generalización de la violencia. No existe duda alguna de la participación y ejecución de los altos mandos militares en el Plan Cóndor, de inspiración imperialista contra los movimientos populares. La existencia reconocida por el ministro de gobierno Cesar Gaviria de 149 grupos paramilitares que han perpetrado más de 1006 asesinatos y 1650 desa-

pariciones de individuos en los últimos 12 meses, evidencia la gravedad de la situación que atraviesa Colombia, con el trágico ingrediente del silencio y la impunidad que el gobierno brinda a los grupos de sicarios; esta conducta responsabiliza al gobierno de Virgilio Barco del baño de sangre al cual esta siendo sometido Colombia. El vil asesinato de Jaime Pardo se constituye en una grave provocación contra la poca estabilidad del país.

El militarismo ha querido cobrar a Jaime Pardo Leal, la U.P. y al conjunto de organizaciones populares, la Unidad Guerrillera anunciada por todas las agrupaciones armadas en la Coordinadora Simón Bolívar, la unidad de la clase obrera en la Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT) y la unidad campesina, indígena y estudiantil en sus respectivas organizaciones.

Hay tristeza e indignación en Colombia, pero también hay alegría y esperanza. El pueblo madura su unidad y fortalece sus organizaciones, acumula fuerzas y en medio del asesinato de sus dirigentes, sus banderas y ejemplo se erigen nuevamente.

El terror militarista no detendrá al pueblo colombiano que utilizando todas las formas de lucha y desarrollando la más amplia convergencia contra el fascismo, construirá un mañana diferente.

Corrección

En la edición con fecha de octubre 29, 1987 por error fue omitido el nombre de una de las autoras del artículo entitulado: "Miles de Latinas y Latinos..." Este artículo fue escrito por Petra Guerra y P. Santiago.

WORKERS WORLD

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

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WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

'WE DEMAND HOUSING'

Tenants, homeless and homeowners convene in New Jersey to draw up emergency action program.

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WW PHOTO

'DON'T DUMP ON US'

California community demands action against corporate polluters.

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AFTERSHOCK OF STOCK CRASH:

Gov't, Wall Street conspire to raise taxes, cut services

By John Catalinotto

October 28 — On the ninth day following the market crash, the Republicans and Democrats in the government are meeting to raise taxes and cut social services.

Neither party can even claim to understand how to halt an economic collapse. Both are trying to dump its costs on working and poor people. It becomes clearer each day that an independent struggle is essential to defend the interests of the working class from further attack.

The government's and Wall Street's own experts are divided about what to do. Liberal Keynesian economists join with right-wing "supply siders" to warn against tax increases and budget cuts. "It's exactly what Hoover did just before the great depression," they say. Others demand a quick step toward a balanced budget to avert disaster.

Some other "experts" focus on the high U.S. balance of payment deficits as the cause of the market crash. Still others blame program stock trading by computers, high interest rates or overpriced stocks. Every television discussion shows five of these pundits who agree only on the number of ways they can use the word "volatile" to describe market activity.

It's time to be clear about some basic questions.

Crisis caused by capitalism

The crash was caused not by one or two accidental factors, but stemmed from the capitalist system itself. Since the birth of capitalism, it has been plagued by periodic crises of overproduction. Since the first stock market opened, there have been market panics. (See article, page 4.)

The collapse is also international in character, as anyone can see who's followed the extensive media coverage of market trading from Australia to Tokyo to Hong Kong to Singapore to Frankfurt to Paris to London.

All of these markets crashed, with the Hong Kong and Melbourne plunge even deeper than the one here. When the New York Stock Exchange caught cold, Tokyo sneezed, and vice versa. It mattered little that Japan's balance of payments was positive and its federal deficit small.

Let bankers and bosses pay for crisis!

Since capitalism itself is to blame for the crisis, it's the bosses and bankers who should pay for it, certainly not the workers and poor people.

For years the rich have been telling everyone how wonderful it is to let the "free market" control the economy. Now they're suddenly crying to the govern-

ment to step in and save them by dumping the costs on the workers. But there's no reason for the working people to let them do this.

Even before the crash, the workers had already paid dearly for the so-called Reagan recovery. During 58 months of "economic upturn," average real wages sunk, especially for those workers in the lower half of the wage spectrum.

Millions of union jobs paying from \$9-15 a hour were eliminated, replaced by minimum wage service jobs. Meanwhile the Reagan administration made huge cuts in social services, eliminating over \$12 billion from the food stamp program alone.

This week the Physician Task Force on Hunger in America issued a report on "Hunger in Blue Collar America," stating that 20 million people living in this country do not get enough to eat every day. A good number of these are among the working poor, that is, those who have jobs but whose pay is so low they can't afford to eat properly.

Politicians hold emergency meeting: no workers represented

Today representatives of Congress are meeting with Reagan administration officials to consider steps that will hurt these poor people even further. This is done in the interest of the Wall Street speculators and arbitrageurs, the brokers and investment bankers.

It's done to aid the super-rich, like the 48 who were

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150 years of capitalist panics

NYC mayor jumps to freeze jobs, cut budget Layoffs on Wall Street

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CENTRAL AMERICA

Death squads strike in El Salvador while workers defend revolution in Nicaragua.

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LABOR NEWS

Workers are angry and fighting back, from Maine paper mills to California canneries. Teamster/AFL-CIO merger strengthens labor's clout.

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