**BLOODY SECRETS**
Once again, revelations of murderous CIA deeds in book on Casey.

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**Displaced block streets to demand lift buses**
Scores in wheelchairs arrested in S.F. protest

By Ron Holladay
San Francisco

“What do we want? Access! When do we want it? Now!” chanted more than 500 disabled people and their supporters outside the national convention of the American Public Transit Association (APTA). Demonstrations in which hundreds of people in wheelchairs have blocked the streets began Sept. 27 and, as of this writing, have continued for four days. At least 134 demonstrators had been arrested as of Sept. 29.

Demonstrator Paula Slavenwhite from Middletown, Conn., explained why access is so important to her.

“There are no buses with lifts where I live,” she said. “I do temporary work. I can’t get a regular job because of transportation problems.”

Paula is one of millions whose life would change if they could board a bus or subway, whether it’s to hold down a decent job or just to avoid being a prisoner on their own block. As one woman present shouted, “I want to go to the library!”

Angry disabled activists have come here from all over the country to continue their long struggle for accessible public transit. APTA, the lobbying arm of the Transit Districts and transit manufacturers, has spent millions of dollars over the years to get the politicians and courts to nullify hard-won rights to accessible transit.

Since APTA has practically been standing in the bus door barring the way to the disabled, it’s no wonder this organization has aroused such anger.

Called by the September Alliance for Affordable Transit and ADAPT (American Disabled for Accessible Public Transportation), the protests began with a spirited hour-long rally Sept. 27 at Union Square where the crowd was addressed by such supporters as Eleanor Smeal of NOW and Albin Gruhn, president of the California Labor Federation.

On leaving Union Square, the demonstrators, most in wheelchairs, showed their determination by ignoring police orders and taking over the busy downtown street. Soon an impressive array of chanting demonstrators covered two whole blocks. At the Hilton Hotel, where APTA officials are based during the convention, they confronted massive police lines while APTA hid behind the cops and refused to negotiate with the disabled.

The Alliance is demanding that each new bus bought in the U.S. be accessible to all persons. Their literature stresses this would add only 7% to the cost of each new bus. They also continue to support paratransit vans as a supplement to accessible public mass transit for all.

A federal rule requiring accessible transit existed in 1979, but was withdrawn after a successful lawsuit filed by APTA. The Transit Association had originally decreed that transit...

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**BORK**
Diverse movements join together to block ultra-rightist.

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**CONTRAS**
Despite peace plan, Congress votes funds for Reagan’s mercenaries.

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**GULF CRISIS**
Canadian expert calls U.S. attack on Iran ship illegal.

Smoke but no fire from Congress on Reagan’s violations of War Powers Act. Analysis by Sam Marcy.
Again, again, bloody secrets of the CIA

By Andy Stapp

Why has Robert Woodward, a managing editor of the Washington Post, published revelations about the late CIA director William Casey that, in effect, portrays the chief of the U.S. intelligence services as a terrorist? And why did Casey agree to grant Woodward more than 50 interviews over the past four years?

In the Byzantine world of ruling class politics, it is not always clear who is sending a message to whom, or for what purposes. Nor is it necessarily apparent what is an expose and what a threat.

For instance, when the press revealed during the 1980 Carter-Reagan race that Harry Truman had planned to flatten the Soviet Union with a sneak nuclear strike, was the story leaked to make Truman look bad or to show that the Democrats could be just as "tough" as Reagan?

While the behind-the-scenes maneuvers that led Woodward to write "Veil: The Secret Wars of the CIA, 1981-1987," are still murky, the concrete information provided in this book speaks for itself. Once again the Central Intelligence Agency has found itself up to its armpits in mud.

Their agents plant a car bomb in Lebanon killing a people's cooperative; they murder a torturer in Lebanon with electric cattle prods. Nice stuff.

But is it new? Haven't critics of the CIA charged for years that this is standard operating procedure? Didn't a U.S. Congress investigating these issues turn up all the same kind of stuff in 1975?

So why has Congress authorized more than $8 billion for the CIA this year (not counting its secret funds)? Why $600 million for more covert operations? And why the big expansion — a million square feet of space being built to double the size of the agency's headquarters in Langley, Va.?

Of course, those senators are afraid of the CIA themselves. Even the staff of Barry Goldwater, an unreconstructed martialist, twice found agents listening devices planted in his Capitol Hill office during the time Goldwater headed the Senate Intelligence Committee! But more important, they support the terrorist methods used by the CIA to bolster U.S. capitalist interests abroad, regardless of all their brave talk about bringing democracy to the world.

Marcos, Duarte on CIA payroll

Woodward names some names, including a few CIA heads of state — supposed leaders of sovereign nations who were on the agency's payroll. One was Bashir Gemayel, the fascist president of Lebanon who was killed by a car bomb in 1982. His death came after a lot of gambling in the Washington establishment that Gemayel had become an ingrate, had forgotten his old master and was becoming too attached to the Israelis.

Then there is Ferdinand Marcos. According to Woodward, Casey ran 12 separate "security and intelligence assistance operations" to keep Marcos as a coca-crooner. The author apparently forgot to ask Casey about the operation that killed Benigno Aquino as he stepped off a plane bringing him back to the Philippines from the U.S. But perhaps it would be too tacky to rake that up again, now that the Marcos regime has found Washington's favor and Marcos has been retired to Hawaii.

Jose Napoleon Duarte, the "president" of El Salvador, is described by Woodward as "a paid informant of the CIA from way back. No information on just how much this man got paid, but it must have been a lot. It's tough work being the head of a "struggling democracy" all day and then at night having to go through tireless debriefing with a CIA "handler."

Woodward did have a dollar amount for Dominica President Eugenia Charles. The agency gave Charles $100,000 for an appearance at the UN supporting Reagan's invasion of Grenada. Duarte also backed it, but he probably gets a flat yearly fee for everything.

President Mubarak of Egypt has conciliated to U.S. imperialism's Mideast strategy, collaborating with Israel and reviving Libya, but Woodward writes that the CIA bugged his phones anyway.

The only real dispute over Woodward's book seems to involve his allegation that Casey admitted to him in a deathbed confession that he ordered funds diverted from Reagan's Iranian arms sales to the Nicaraguan contras. Casey's widow, who keeps busy with "The Casey Fund for the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters," denies it. Diversions of funds would, after all, have been against the law.

The U.S. shepherding of the contras, is, however, a matter of historical record. Casey, says Woodward, "believed that the Nicaraguan people would flock to a new force that espoused both democracy and nationalism." But the only flocking came from Somosa's old fascist National Guard.

Without seeming to note the incongruity, Woodward also reports that the CIA director, while championing "free elections blazed by every other CIA director over the past four decades. "Veil" confirms everything the left has said about the CIA since its founding. But how valuable is the unsurpassed expose of this international mastermind? The facts have long been in.

VIDEO ALERT!

Attention all video buffs. Workers World Party is planning to make a video of its 1988 presidential election campaign.

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Bork nomination sparks all-movements fightback

By Leslie Feinberg

Whether or not notorious ultrarightist Robert Bork is confirmed or defeated in his nomination to the Supreme Court, the vigorous fightback movement that has formed in reaction to his nomination shows great promise for bringing together an objective coalition of all who have been victims of Bork.

In the months since Bork’s nomination, trade unions, Black and Latino communities, women’s movements, and other concerned groups have launched educational demonstrations, press conferences, postersing and newspaper advertising campaigns, marches, and petitions and other visibility vehicles to keep Bork from taking a seat on the Supreme Court.

The outrage at this nomination was clearly expressed at the NAACP’s national convention in Chicago the first week of July, when more than 15,000 delegates took the unusual step of passing an emergency resolution unanimously opposing Bork, pointing out his record of racist decisions.

Gay and Lesbian Community News voiced the sentiment of the lesbian and gay community: “In Boston, New Haven, Washington D.C. and other cities, gay men and lesbians joined labor activists, people of color and feminism as a growing, activist and oppositional, aggressively opposed to abortion rights, lesbian/gay rights, and civil rights.

On Sept. 15, the day the Senate confirmation hearings began, demonstrations took place across the United States. The National Organization for Women (NOW) sponsored an anti-Bork rally in Washington.

On the same day in New York City, over 100 people spoke at an eight-hour vigil held in front of the Federal Courthouse. The action was called by the Coalition for a Just Supreme Court, with the endorsement and participation of NOW, the National Abortion Rights Action League, Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, NAAACP, League of Women Voters, National Council of Black Women, Asian-Americans for Equality and many others.

Posters have appeared all over New York City with Bork’s likeness and the word “Fork” underneath it.

The Northern California Coalition Against Bork, consisting of labor, lesbian and gay, women’s, legal and other groups, held a press conference and vigil of several hundred people in front of the Federal Building in San Francisco.

A rally is planned at that site on Oct. 5. Other activities, including meetings and letter-writing campaigns, are being organized.

Last week the San Francisco-based Sierra Club publicly announced its opposition to Bork, saying that his appointment would limit access to the courts.

A public opinion poll released this week revealed that a plurality of people oppose Bork’s appointment. Just 37 percent favored him, the reverse was true, showing that the more people saw, the less they liked him.

The Bork nomination continues for several weeks, may not result in a decision until after the Oct. 15 Senate confirmation hearings on Abortion and Gay Rights, which will build additional opposition to Bork.

Labor closes ranks

At the first meeting of the New York Coalition Against Bork on Sept. 10, about 100 representatives from as many organizations strategized to defeat Bork. The breakfast meeting was held at the headquarters of the 15,000-member District Council 9 American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). It was attended by labor and Black community groups, lesbian and gay and women’s organizations, sienties and many religious denominations.

Labor organizations included the Communications Workers of America, Transport Workers Local 100, the Public Employees Federation, International Ladies Garment Workers of America, the Communications Workers of America, the Association of Professional Flight Attendants, Writers Guild of America, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union and the United Auto Workers.

In welcoming those gathered, DC37 Executive Director Stanley Hill said that “Bork’s only judicial record is poor business and anti just about everything else.”

Across the country, the labor movement has closed ranks behind the Bork nomination. This is due largely to rising consciousness as more and more Black and Latino people, women and lesbians and gays join the work force. The opposition to this known right-winger is not thinly drawn from the top labor leadership but goes deep into the ranks.

The racism struggle to stop Bork’s appointment is not merely cosmetic. It comes from the genuine anger of all those who have been victims of his right-offensive. It is these progressive forces acting in unity which will be the true foundation for the battle against the anti-people offensive of the Reagan administration.

Maine mobilizations nix Klan attempt

When a dozen Ku Klux Klansmen arrived on Saturday at 3:30, close to 1,000 people turned out in less than eight towns in protest.

Driving through Hinckley, a white man from up in Old Town, came to Rumford with a group of his friends. “The Klan is like a cancer,” he told the reporter. “And you don’t ignore a cancer, you deal with it."

Attempt to divide workers backfires

Rumford, a small town of 4,500 people in west-central Maine, was the site last year of a bitter strike fought by the United Paperworkers Internation- al Union (UPIU) against the Boise-Cascade paper company. A Connecticut-based faction of the Klan had picked Rumford to hold the first KKK rally in Maine since the 1920s, apparently to try and divert attention from the serious solidarity work that had built up around another UPIU strike, this one against the giant Interna- tional Paper Company in nearby Jay.

It was right after a 9,000-strong labor rally for the Jay workers on August 1 that KKK literature began to appear in the state. Over 400 people came to the Rum- ford rally, held at the Rumford High School auditorium. The protest had been called by a coalition of labor, church and civic groups, including the state chapter of the NAACP, the APLCIO, the National Organization for Women, the Jewish Federation of Southern Maine and the Maine Council of Churches. Elsewhere in the state, some 250 people attended a protest rally at Temple Beth-El in Portland, 150 came out in Auburn, and hundreds more met in Aroostook County.

“Keep strong, and don’t give up,” Ken Bills, a Black paperworker from Gardiner, told the radical crowd. “We all have to stick together.”

Other paperworkers came from Rum- ford and day, wearing their strike T-shirts.

Students from Colby College in Waterville joined others from Bates College in Lewiston and a group all the way from Goddard College in Plainfield, Vt. There were representatives from the Coalition Against Racism and the Maine Center for Human Dig- nity and the southern mainland, the Job Is-A-Right Campaign in Portland and the Maine Progressive newspaper, along with veterans, lesbian and gay activists, and members of Maine’s Native and Black communities.

Over 100 copies of Workers World newspaper were distributed and a number of people bought subscriptions.

While it was clear that the Klan had little or no support in the state, the Klan’s attempt to mobilize anti-Klan allies. All the major media had given them millions of dollars of free publicici- ty. And a little while before the anti- Klan rally began, about ten members of the Klan showed up and briefly walked in and out of the still largely empty auditorium, escorted by state and local cops — including Chief of Police Dewey Robinson, who became notorious during the Rumford strike for his anti-union prejudice. “We’ll give you an open meeting,” the Klan told report- ers.

Perhaps in the same spirit, after the anti-Klan rally ended, about 150 people made their way to the private field about 15 miles outside of town where the 15 to 20 KKK members and their supporters were gathering to burn a cross. Held back by the police, the protesters chanted, “KKK, go away!” A group of local people burnt an effigy of a Klansman as the Klansmen burned a cross.

One of those protesting at the field was Emilia Goodine, a native of Bel- guim who was 16 years old when she was imprisoned in a Nazi concentra- tion camp in Germany. “I had to come,” she said. “This is how it started in Germany, They hate the Jews, they hate the Blacks — I can’t stand to see this.”

The next morning, a group of local Rumford residents gathered at the site of the cross-burning and covered the burnt ground with animal manure, “To out all trace of the Ku Klux Klansman’s visit to Maine.

— Disabled protests

Continued from page 1

districts could not send delegates to the convention from their mandates, the Elderly and Handicapped Advisory Committee, While APTA was forced to withdraw from previously unrepresented groups, $400 in admissal of the conven- tion still constituted outright discrimination.

Bob Kafka, an organizer for ADAPT from Austin, Texas, told the rally, “This is the last chance to say something to an important part of the community. We want our rights. We demand our rights. And we’ll have our rights.”

The protests proceeded to City Hall where Mayor Peirson had given a guarantee for free space for the delegates. When the delegates arrived, they got a hotter reception than they had expected. They chained electric strikers in wheelchairs, using mobile tactics, blocked their access, giving the impression of what inaccessible transit is like.

Police first tried to push through with metal barricades to make a path for the delegates. The people in wheel- chairs regrouped to block the path. This happened again and again. Then, police tried to push the wheelchairs out of the way.

Frustrated by the effectiveness of the strikers, cops declared the gathering “unlawful” and went on the attack. After the protesters had completely surrounded City Hall, 22 people, most in wheelchairs, were arrested by tactical squad cops using chokeholds and wristlocks.

A witness reported cops threw one woman out of her wheelchair. Those arrested were carried away in lift- equipped buses as the crowd chanted, “They can’t tell us to fall but they can’t take us to work.”

We thought they were particularly rough at City Hall,” organizer Mari- lyn Golden told Workers World after the arrests. The activists promised they would follow APTA all over the country to insist upon their rightful demands.

Demonstrations are planned throughout the week-long APTA con- version.
Labor, Black leaders rally behind striking bus drivers

By Steve Gillis
Picket Captain, USWA Local 8711
Boston

September 29 -- Today, in a massive show of support, hundreds of local school bus drivers of USWA Local 8751, labor and community leaders joined the Boston School Bus Drivers' Strike to demand a resolution of the strike. The rally came on the heels of a last-ditch string of virulent union-busting threats by the School Superintendent. In response, leaders of various unions blasted these threats, while pledging their solidarity and time and resources to the bus drivers.

Speaking for Arthur Osborn, president of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, John Laughlin condemned the superintendent's threat to hire replacement drivers. As he said, "whether in a New England Patriot uniform or a Boston school bus,

Ed Doherty, president of the Boston Teachers Union, denounced the School Department's union-busting gimmickry. "You're not going to settle this by sending children to neighborhood schools, or by making the school bus drivers public enemies.

Meizhu Liu, president of AFSCME 1490, issued a chilling warning to the drivers' strike as "a struggle for justice and equality, and in fact the last chance for the desegregation of the schools.

Other labor leaders who spoke included USWA Local 79, AFL-CIO, Secetary, Ironworkers Local 79, Dominic Bozzo, president of Local 26, HIRE, Fred Price, president of Local 266, Frank Gaye, AFSCME Council 95; and David Brenner, president of the Massachusetts Black Caucus.

On the picket line were dozens of parents, children, students, Puerto Rican activists and leaders, the All-Peoples Congress and the Disabled Peoples Liberation Front, three clergymen, Rev Graylan Ellie-Hagg, Rev. Victor Carpenter and Rev. William Alberts, also spoke in support of the drivers.

Attack on desegregation

In a decision that has made national headlines, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit on Sept 28 to tentatively end Federal Judge W. Arthur, Garrity's, authority over the Boston school system. It was Garrity who in 1974 ordered desegregation and busing following a mass anti-racism movement and lawsuit by Boston's Black and Latino communities.

This week's decision was immediately lauded by Louisa Day Hicks who, as a School Committee member in the 1970s, led the full-school desegregation fight, and by current School Committee member Joe Casper, who gleefully announced an "end to the sad era of forced busing.

Last week the School Committee is a 7-2 vote to maintain a plan to return to neighborhood schools which had been proposed by the bigots as a way to further "stop the busing. Ironically, the attorney who represented the Black parents in the original case, now in Federal Court that it is the bus drivers who are conspiring against desegregation.

In response, Black community leader Mel King defended the bus drivers' position. "Most drivers are parents whose children benefit from desegregated schools. The drivers' union has a long history of support for desegregation.

Chicago jobs campaign takes big first step

By P. Kimbell
Chicago

September 19 -- For a living they have made stove, "hair, kerosene, instruments, baking powder; they had sorted mail and operated a bus terminal. Today nearly a hundred such workers from the Chicago area joined forces to protect their right to a job.

The first public forum of the Illinois AFL-CIO is a Right Campaign brought together representatives from union locals and community groups who in the past have had to fight plant closings and layoffs in isolation from each other. Working women and men, Black, white and Latin, conducted the meeting, staffed the tables where butter and T-shirts were sold, and discussed their job situations from the floor. It was a workers' meeting from start to finish.

From the now-devastated steel industry to the shuttered downtown department store, tens of thousands of workers here have lost their jobs in the last decade. Recently Sears Roeback closed its giant west side distribution center; Greyhound fired all the union workers at its downtown terminal; and General Motors has announced plans to close its Willow Springs assembly plant just south of Chicago.

Willie Hill, a chief mechanic and a veteran of nearly 20 years with General Foods, told the forum, "The Can- nest breading powder plant will close in October 1988. I can't plan a future for my children. Our jobs are going, going, gone."

Most recently, General Electric has declared it will close its Hotpoint appliance factory in neighboring Cicero. But the bosses are in for a fight, declared John Agrella, president of Sheet Metal Workers Local 6571: "GE is going to get the struggle of its life. We are going to take whatever steps are necessary to save our jobs and our plant."

Today's activity was held in the cafeteria of a parochial school virtually in the shadow of Stewart-Warner's Diversified Avenue plant. This investment maker, recently acquired by the British conglomerate BTR, has been threatening to close the plant for three years. It has been kept open largely through the efforts of the Coalition to Keep Stewart-Warner Open, which has united the union (UAW-UE Local 1150) with neighborhood groups and residents.

Workers from Stewart-Warner and from the Stop Plant Closings Committee of United Auto Workers Local 558 (as Willow Springs) were active in getting the Chicago Jobs is a Right activity underway, and took turns chairing different portions of today's event. Speakers included Carole Travis, recipient of UAW Local 718 at the layoff- wrecked Electromotive Division of GM, and Nell Burke, business agent for the Stewart Warner UAW-UE local.

Job is a Right organizers from Detroit and New York addressed the crowd on the history of the campaign, which began in Michigan after GM threatened the jobs of thousands. "Some people said, you're too late, you can't be effective," said Joyce Crutchfield of UAW Local 15, "But nobody expected Martin Luther King to be effective either. There is work to be done. We have to set up committees now to explain the situation to workers and the people in the community."

"Our campaign is not going to be won only because it is just," warned New York organizer Gabrielle Gaff. "We have to change people's minds. They say, don't the corpora- tions own it? Doesn't it belong to them? But who is to say that Willie Hill doesn't have a right to his job? We have to establish that we have a right."

The meeting applauded a letter of support from Michigan Rep. John Conyers, read by Willow Springs organizer Dwight Davenport.

It was also announced that the next -- Continued on page 10

Detroit workers ready to fight GM layoffs

By Jerry Goldberg
Detroit

The Michigan Job is a Right Campaign met Sept. 20 and mapped out a strategy aimed at stopping mass lay- offs, particularly at General Motors. Workers attended from UAW Locals 15, 22 and 174 (representing the GM Flint, Port Huron and Flint guide plants, respectively, all slated for shutdown), UAW 596 (Buick City, going down to one shift Oct. 1), and UAW 598 (Chevy Truck and Buick). Also on hand to contribute their ideas were unemployed and displaced SEIU and Newspaper Guild members; and auto workers from Chrysler and Ford.

The meeting planned a campaign to target General Motors as Public Enemy No. Bill Roundtree, campaign organizer, explained how. "In the past nine months, as a result of many rallies and demonstrations, the concept of the right to a job has become more and more popular. Since the Ford con- tract, the demand for a moratorium or ban on plant closings is being dis- cussed everywhere.

"The arena for struggle is now GM. The time is ripe to press the demand for a moratorium at GM and to demand the reversal of the company's scheduled plant closings and layoffs. This demand will be taken to both the city and state governments as well as the federal government, where Bill HR 1248 is pending. The UAW must not be left alone to take on the largest com- pany in the world."

"It was emphasized that the snow- ball effect of GM's plant closings will lead to the loss of 250,000 jobs in Flint, Pontiac and Detroit, Mich., alone."

"The campaign will target the huge tax abatements which have been given to GM right out of the city and state treasuries. It will expose how GM demanded concessions from both the workers and communities and is now closing down much of its civilian pro- duction while shifting to military research. GM has become the second- ary recipient of Star Wars con- tracts in the country."

This week a broadsidesheet GM and including a poster demand- ing an immediate end to its scheduled plant closings is being printed. Plans were discussed to distribute thousands of these bulletins at plant gates, unemployment offices and in the community. Further organizing meet- ings are being planned for Detroit, Flint and Saginaw.

Organizers emphasized that a vic- tory in the moratorium effort at GM would be a tremendous boost to win- ning a guaranteed job for all working people. Contact the Job is a Right Campaign at (313) 831-1335 to help with this important battle.
Two weeks before the Oct. 11 National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights, there are many signs that it will be a truly mass movement, with thousands of participants. There are also signs that a thousand volunteers will be needed to help on the day of the march.

In Washington, D.C., "more and more volunteers are streaming in all day," Reports the Los Angeles Times. "They're coming from as far as Seattle, Los Angeles and Florida," Judy Greenpan, logistics coordinator for the march, told Workers World.

"Trains and planes in and out of Washington on the weekend before the march are already totally booked. So are the hotels. We're rearranging thousands of alternative housing spaces," People are coming for the entire weekend," she said.

This is because the march on Washington has grown into more than a one day event. From Oct. 5 through Oct. 13 there will be ten days of national meetings, strategy sessions and demonstrations. A list published by the march organizers gives the details for 42 different events and more are still being planned.

The National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays is holding a national meeting. So is Black and White Intersex Lesbians and gay men. Black and White Lesbians and gays are planning a reception. Seniors and older lesbians and gay men are planning a meeting. And there will be meetings to organize support for Sharon Kowalksi, a lesbian who was disfigured in a car accident that has been derided by the right to see her as a woman.

A Solidarity Reception at the headquarters of the AFL-CIO will bring together lesbian, gay and straight union activists on the day before the march.

Also on that Saturday, hundreds of lesbian and gay couples will be married in front of the IRS building. This wedding ceremony is being planned as a demonstration to demand legal recognition for lesbian and gay relationships.

A national AIDS Activists Mobilization and Planning Meeting will be held on Mon., Oct. 12. It is being organized by AIDS activist groups from around the country. The meeting is being held at a hotel in New York City, AIDS Action Pledge from San Francisco and others.

And on Tuesday, Oct. 13, there will be a civil disobedience action on the steps of the Supreme Court.

People with AIDS will lead off Early Sunday morning over two thousand six foot by three foot patchwork panels with the names of people who have died of AIDS will be laid out on the mall to be displayed all day. Each of these panels has been sewn with the hands of friends and lovers of the people who have died and sent to Washington from all over the country.

Clever Jones, executive director of the Names Project, explained that this was a way to "express not only our sorrow and grief, but our love, courage and commitment."

When the National March steps off at noon on Sunday, Oct. 11 it will be led by a contingent of people with AIDS. "They are the VIPs of this march," said Greenpan. "They're fighting for a country that will fight for their own lives, but for the rights of all of us."

From 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Oct. 11, as the demonstrators gather at the Ellipse, there will be a rally organized by the People of the Earth Caucus at the Mills, from the national staff of the march and coordinator of this rally, told Workers World that the speakers would "show the diversity of the movement as well as address the issues that have come to the fore."

"We can't leave behind any of the other issues. This march is also making a strong stand against racism and against apartheid," she said.

The demonstration will march past the White House, down Pennsylvania Ave. to the Capitol for a rally on the Mall at Third Street. Jesse Jackson, Cesar Chavez and Barbara Smith will be among the speakers.

Scientists charge Reagan underfunds AIDS research

By John Catalinotto

Scientists, doctors and other experts have added their voices to those of the many gay rights activists who charge that the Reagan administration is one of the main obstacles to solving the AIDS crisis. In testimony Sept. 22 before a House committee, a battery of experts agreed that the federal budget for AIDS research and care is inadequate.

AIDS funding this year totals $790 million, including $619 million for biomedical research, $160 million for general education, $55 million for education of intravenous drug users, $2 million for testing and counseling, and $24 million to maintain safety of the blood supply.

While this total is much larger than in past years, it is still not enough, say many experts. In addition, a large part of those funds has been taken away from basic research in related medical fields such as immunology, psychological and behavioral science, microbiology, virology and other areas, according to Dr. Irving Weissman, a member of the National Academy of Sciences steering committee on AIDS.

Dr. Weissman told the House committee that money for AIDS should be increased and broadly defined to include "all those research which could provide the knowledge base for future advances in AIDS research."

Even a representative of the government's General Accounting office, Michael L. Zelman, reported that 20 experts contacted by the GAO found the Reagan administration had spent inadequate in several areas. They recommended an additional $1.4 billion for AIDS research and treatment to stop the spread of the virus among drug abusers, another $65 million for educational campaigns, and $250 million to expand existing counseling and testing sites.

The need for more funds was stressed most by those organizations dealing directly with people with AIDS. Ann E. McFarren, executive director of the AIDS Action Council, suggested a $1 billion education campaign by 1991.

The vast sums spent on other projects show what a low priority the administration is giving to fighting an enemy that has already taken 24,000 lives in this country.

"One can buy only two things with $2 billion: a large cruise ship and a million 22-caliber rifles. The rest is money down the drain," deputy director of the National Center for AIDS research.

"We are down to pasteurization and cloning 2 missiles (which are to be scrapped under the arms treaty signed in mid-September) cost over $9 billion."

The research to see if Reagan's pet "Star Wars" program can work has already started to gather 2,000 scientists, engineers and computer experts in Colorado on a huge project whose costs are boundless. But the research for prevention and care of AIDS is being left largely to the private sector.

Profliteers take over research

The Sept. 28 Wall Street Journal reports on the great attraction that private and corporate research projects hold for venture capitalists. These scattered, competitive projects, bound to be covered with secrecy to protect future profits, are already trying to lure big-name researchers away from university and government research.

Speaking of the cooperation started by Dr. Jonas Salk, the Journal reported that, "When New York deal maker Morton Davis sought private financing for a new AIDS vaccine company built around Dr. Salk's work, money rained down from the heavens."

The absence of a cohesive and well-funded AIDS research project run by the government is creating a vacuum being filled by those trying to fill their pockets.

Workers World Party forums build for march

By J. Marquand

Workers World Party forums build for march

To encourage participation in the Oct. 11 national demonstration for lesbian and gay rights, Workers World Party has been providing a public forum for the discussion of the question that is critical to the movement in many cities across the country.

Two recent meetings in San Francisco on Sept. 19 and in New York on Sept. 26, organizers of the Oct. 11 march and other world wide activists and other activists discussed the history of the struggle for lesbian and gay rights and especially the impact of the AIDS crisis. These discussions laid out a struggle program to deal with the crisis, whose first step is massive participation in Oct. 11.

In San Francisco, Ken Jones, Bay Area co-chair for the Oct. 11 National March in Washington, called the Reagan administration's "do-nothing response to the AIDS epidemic" a virtual "mandate for murder." He pointed out that in contrast to the Reaganites, lesbians and gay men have organized "one of the most extensive public health campaigns in history."

Jones added that it's no accident that immigrants, prisoners, and prostitutes are the first groups subjected to mandatory HIV antibody testing, and that IV drug users dying of AIDS.

A founding member of the U.S. Out
Nicaragua presses for peace, Reagan/Congress fund contras
By Sharon Shelton

September 28 — No word was the desire for an end to the contra war so evident as on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border this weekend when almost 20,000 people turned out to be reunited with family members.

"It’s wonderful," one Nicaraguan man told reporters. "I’m very happy. It makes me hope for peace."

This is the prevailing mood in Central America today with the approach of the Nov. 7 ceasefire mandated by the agreement signed last August by the presidents of five nations of the area — Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras and Guatemala.

Already the Sandinista government of Nicaragua has bent over backward to begin implementing the accord by allowing reopening of opposition newspapers and radio stations, freeing some prisoners and declaring a general amnesty.

In return, Nicaragua’s neighbors have agreed to deny the contra counter-revolutionaries bases in their countries and to call for an end to U.S. funding of the contras.

Most of the Central American presidents concluding the agreement have been under increasing pressure from the masses of people for their role in aiding and abetting the Reagan administration in its efforts to overturn the revolutionary Sandinista government. In Honduras, from where much of the contra attacks have been launched (although the regime still refuses to acknowledge the existence of the contra bases), even wealthy landowners have protested the way the Pentagon runs roughshod over the country without any regard for Honduran sovereignty.

But while the Sandinistas are trying hard to make the peace agreement work, the Reagan administration with the aid of Congress has moved to continue and even escalate the war.

The White House has announced it is seeking a whopping $270 million in open military aid (in addition to all the covert aid it illegally gives) to be used against Nicaragua over the coming year. The administration actually is in a bind. Although not signing the treaty, Reagan will give it lip service when it was adopted last August. Failure to comply with its terms once the treaty is in place in November — especially if U.S. puppet alliances like Honduras abide by it — will totally expose the U.S.’s warlike and further its isolation worldwide on the question of Central America.

"We’re caught in a box," is the way one U.S. official put it recently. The problem is the U.S. rulers want to look like they’re for peace even while they’re directing a war.

Laudably promising they won’t give aid "next time," the Democrats and Republicans nevertheless joined together last week to give Reagan $35.5 million for the contras to cover the period until the ceasefire.

While the politicians say the money will be for "humanitarian" aid only, everyone knows that the U.S. slips the guns right in there with the butter. The only way Congress can prove it’s standing up to Reagan is by refusing to appropriate another dime to be used against the men, women and children of Nicaragua.

It should be clear by now that the real issue in Nicaragua is not "censorship" or "lack of democracy," as the imperialist ruling class has been howling, but instead the very existence of the popular Sandinista government and the continuation of the revolution.

Sandinistas won’t disarm the people
The pro-U.S. rightwing in Nicaragua has been calling for disarming the people and an end to the people’s Defense Committees — the revolution’s highly democratic institutions that provide for the participation and power of the masses of people.

Bayardo Arce Castano, a member of the Sandinista National Directorate, emphasized at a rally in Nandaime that the government will never disarm the people.

Arce stressed that Nicaragua signed the Aug. 7 accord because it would produce “a peace which accepts that in Nicaragua there is and will be revolution.”

The Nicaraguans have done everything they can to accommodate the treaty. What the Reaganites want — and what the Sandinistas can’t and won’t give — is for the government to surrender to the old, hated Somocista forces and return to oppression and exploitation under U.S. domination.

No aid to the contras! As if the public opinion calling for an end to the war across the country are demonstrating in N.Y., Sept. 26 (above) and welcomed in San Jose, Calif., 500 people march for South Bay Mobilization, called for an end for Nicaraguan sovereignty. Marta Alvaran, Teachers described the dangers in Salvador, and called on the U.S.-anti-war regime and to the contras. (Your peace contingent for what? For more war?) The United Farm Workers vice president, a Peace Action Teams, who spoke in police down by a Navy "death train" at the Conventional Armament

U.S. arms Morocco to fight West Saharans
By Sam Marcy

September 28 — The growing accumulation of warships in the Persian/Arabian Gulf area becomes more and more dangerous with each passing day.

By now all the leading imperialist powers which have navies have either committed themselves to intervene or have already sent their ships into the gulf area. All but the NATO powers have approved intervention.

NATO was originally meant to be a North Atlantic안, not a North Afri-

The larger one, which should interest all of the U.S. and in particular of the Congress. At the moment, Congress is busily engaged in talking about the War Powers Act and seemingly making demands on the Reagan

Haitians blast dictatorship. When the Pentagon’s choice, General Henri Namby, came to the UN on Sept. 25, he was met by 700 Haitians who denounced his role as just a continuation of the hated U.S.-backed Duvalier regime.

Reagan

On July 28, with hardly a word reported in the media, the Reagan administration approved an arms package of $60 million to the Kingdom of Morocco to be used against the national liberation struggle in the Western Sahara.

The sale would provide Morocco with 100 M48A5 tanks, outfitted with machine guns, ammunition, radio and spare parts. These weapons will be transported outside of Morocco’s internationally recognized borders into the Western Sahara, to be used against the oppressed Sahrawi people, who have been fighting for their liberation since 1975.

In the past 12 years not one country has recognized Morocco’s claims over the Western Sahara. However, Washington has been shipping arms to Morocco for years while posing as neutral.

Mines, a wall and torture

Most recently, Morocco has built a huge wall in the desert to bring more than 200,000 Sahrawi blacks to the Mediterranean coast outside the Western Sahara, to be used against the oppressed Sahrawi people, who have been fighting for their liberation since 1975.

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Expert says U.S. attack on Iran ship illegal

By Joyce Chediac

The Reagan administration and the media convey the message that the Reagan doctrine is a "defensive" act and that Iran is "terrorist" club has "lost its teeth under law." A closer look at the facts, however, shows that the situation is on the other foot.

For instance, the Pentagon claims that the Iranian vessel, Iran Air, was laying mines when U.S. gunships fired on it. Iran says it was not. Why, then, didn't the U.S. show the ship to impartial observers? Is there something the Pentagon didn't want to hide? Is that why it blew up the ship?

If so, it wouldn't be the first time. It is well known Iran itself has laid mines in World War II and most war countries were laying mines on international trade routes. It should be noted that the law of maritime warfare, a belligerent nation is permitted to lay mines that will block trade with an enemy country.

U.S. is law breaker

While the Department of Defense claims its actions were based on "the inherent right of self-defense," this international law expert defines the concept differently. The U.S. is breaking international law through preventive measures when being attacked. It does not give a neutral country ever existed with a "legitimate act of a warning nation."

Neither did Washington have the authority to lay mines, stop Iran Air and keep them under armed guard, according to the U.S. should have disarmed them immediately after disarming them.

So the Reagan administration, not Iran, is the lawbreaker in the Gulf.

Iran, Congress and the War Powers Act

administration to withdraw from the area.

But a closer examination of the speeches in Congress shows the very opposite. The Sam Nunn and Las Alquis who are supposed to be leading the Democratic opposition to the Reagan administration's adventure in the gulf are in reality for it.

They are not against the intervention in principle. They only want the Reagan administration to give them a little bit more information — when all the information is clear for everyone to see what is really going on in the gulf.

The U.S. has placed the biggest naval armament ever in the Vietnam scores of ships and some 20,000 sailors in foreign waters where a war is raging on. It is on an opened fire on an unarmed vessel.

This is precisely what the War Powers Act was supposed to supopse. The president is supposed to inform Congress first, before he sends the armed forces into a hosttice situation. What the Reagan administration has done is shoot first, and even then not seek Congressional approval.

Debate in Congress a cover for inaction

But all the debate in Congress is so much abler deception. Let us remember how this piece of legislation, the War Powers Act, was got enacted in the first place.

It is out of the mass opposition to the Vietnam war. In the sixties and early seventies, the biggest anti-war struggles in the U.S. is in a century took part, many of them in solidarity with the Vietnamese national liberation struggles.

The War Powers Act was passed by Congress in order to cover over its criminal collaboration with the Pentagon in having conducted an undeclared war, violating the Constitution's provision requiring congressional authority for acts of war. That is how the legislation came about.

its enactment was a concession to the broad anti-war alliances that the mass struggle that brought it about. But without a mass struggle, it could not have been gained.

The War Powers Act not only remains a dead letter but is utilized to cover up the aggression against the region, to end it. Congress brings for factual differences with the Reagan administration, but no condemnation for the illegal U.S. intervention into the war Gulf.

U.S. criminal acts go unprosecuted by liberal politicians

How is it possible the Reagan administration to oppose this kind of harrors by the Iranian government when it mined the harbors of Nicaragua? That was an act of aggression on Nicaragua.

So why has no of the capitalist politicians put two and two together and made the comparison? Why is the U.S. invasion of Grenada, another criminal act of military intervention, not brought up in connection with the Iranian struggle?

It is impossible to separate them. When Weinberger and the admirals come before Congress and U.S. ships in the gulf — was it not the same Pentagon that occupied Grenada, that mined the harbors of Nicaragua and U.S. doing a merciless counter-revolutionary war in Central America that is aiding the counterrevolutionary forces in the region is supporting the Red regime in its war against the South African and Namibian masses?

Nothing progressive can be gained for Iran or Iraq

Whatever possible progressive con-

tent might have been claimed by either of the two belligerent powers in the Iran-Iraq war has been totally submerged and drained away — if, indeed, it is present at all.

As we pointed out at the very begin-

ning of the conflict, the dispute over Iran and Iraq as part of some larger war, is to justify the opening of a war by the Iraqi regime against the Iranian government. Such an argument can only be justified if it were crucial for national independence, for sover-

ignty, for that is to confront the national democratic revolution.

But such was not the case. Thus, the argument cannot be justified. By the Iraqi regime was motivated by clandestine imperi-

alist interests.

That is not to say, however, what seemed originally like a limited, defensive war to retrieve a specific ter-

itorial objective was transformed into a full-scale war over unlimited objectives, including the overthrow of the Iraqi regime. This was along-

other unjustified and reactionary.

The U.S. should be convincing plan-

destine involvement with the U.S. and widened the opportunities for imperialists to assert itself in the entire region.

The war has thus become a bour-

geois expansionist war on both sides. Only the masses in both countries can really put a progressive, revolutionary end to it.

Thirty-five years ago, when Iraq had barely emerged from imperialist tutelage, the U.S. administration began provocative military maneuvers to regain control there. The result was the election of a pro-U.S. government, led by the new Minister, Andrei Gromyko, and the People's Republic of China through its "View of Nanking" (Nanking, En lai), publicly warned the U.S. of no uncertain terms against any military moves against Iraq.

Now U.S. imperialism is trying to corral UN support as a cover for its intervention in the gulf. It's not that the world power balance of power has changed in favor of imperialism. Not at all. It's mainly the unparalleled belligerency of the Reagan-Pentagon administration which is now the new element in the inter-

er national relations.

This military adventure is indisto-

nently connected with all of Imperialism's imperialist moves. It is part of the U.S.-Israeli war in the Middle East, was carried out within the worldwide policy the world's imperialists move of an attempt to subjugate the Vietnamese people. The anti-war movement here at the time, however, failed to acknowledge this connection. All this makes it more imperative than ever that the irresponsible and imperialist wars and the anti-war struggle be reawakened and made to see the link between the current, very dangerous adventures of U.S. imperialism in the gulf and the struggles in Central America, South Africa, the Philippines and Haiti.

This should come as no surprise. After all, imperialism is now in the midst of a war, claiming that legal U.S. has never before stopped the Pentagon from attacking oppressed nations, whether in Lebanon or South Vietnam.

In fact, Washington utilized its huge military presence in the Gulf region to arrest a Lebanese man, Wafaz Younis, after tricking him into entering a vessel supposedly in international waters. The Lebanese government has denounced this as "an outrage.

To Washington, might the right. And the Pentagon has become even more emboldened after its illegal attack on the Iran Air. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger lost no time in flying to the Gulf to have his photo taken standing on American warplanes. The U.S. would attack again. The Navy announced on Sept. 28 that it was con-
Unmasking poverty

Walk down the main street of any major city and the deplorable conditions of poverty and homelessness hit you in the gut. That doesn’t stop the capitalist press from repeating the government’s rosy pronouncements that the recovery is strong and joblessness on the decline.

Sometimes, however, when the press does have to worry about the readers being workers who might get the wrong idea, for instance in the financial pages, one can find useful data that the phony propaganda pumped out for public consumption.

For instance, in the Sept. 27 New York Times business section, a front-page article entitled “America’s Army of Non-Workers” provides some stark confirmation of the true extent of the unemployment crisis in this country.

“According to the article, a new hard core of non-working Americans has come into existence. They total between 10 million and 20 million people, even after excluding all the millions of housewives, students, the ill and disabled, the retired — who remain out of jobs for traditionally acceptable reasons.” (Our emphasis.)

The Times doesn’t say how much larger the numbers would swell to if the millions of housewives, students, the ill and disabled and the retired who can’t find work were included in the jobless numbers.

Some 6 million people want to work, but aren’t looking, the article continues. Their reasons for not looking might be that they can’t afford the subway fare to get downtown to find a job. Ma. Donna Van Name of Boston, quoted in the article, needs a job badly, but the $2 an hour she could make as a clerk or typist would almost all go to paying for day-care for her two-year-old.

Some 17.9 million people, about 15% of the workforce, were forced to quit their jobs last year because of low pay. The decline of manufacturing and the rise of the service economy as a whole of high-tech has overgrown huge sections of the working-class who can only find jobs flipping hamburgers at McDonalds, washing bedpans or ringing up grocery bills. Those jobs pay little more than minimum wage, which is below the minimum needed to live.

As a result, a staggering 40% of the 118 million strong workforce earn less than $11,000 a year, according to the Times.

Reading the Times article, one is left feeling like Alice in Wonderland after a chat with the March Hare. Unemployment is on the decline, the lowest rate in 37 years. That’s the headline news. But then there’s reality — tens of millions of workers and the growing pauperization of ever-larger layers of the population.

Workers World has long maintained most of what is contained in this Times article. But the fact that these statistics are confirmed by a source like the Times — that is, from the other side of the class barricade — shows that a section of the capitalist establishment fears that the ruling class had better not believe their own phony propaganda.

Famous last words

A tax by any other name is still a tax. And that’s exactly what the Reagan administration has done this week by signing into law Congress’s new budget deficit measures.

The bill calls for $23 billion in spending cuts or revenue increases by Nov. 20 as a way to deal with the mammoth budget deficit. If the goal isn’t met, the Gramm-Rudman bill would require a $23 billion across-the-board budget cut, which includes the military.

Washington has decided to raise a good chunk of the money through users’ fees — another name for taxes — on federal lands and waterways and in other areas, and possibly by taxing items like cigarettes and alcohol. Both measures would hit working people the hardest while barely affecting the rich.

Reagan, who promised that he would never raise taxes, signed the bill. But at the same time, he loudly protested that he didn’t want to do it, that he was between a rock and a hard place. Is this really true?

While Washington and the media just can’t seem to find the reasons for the budget deficit, the true causes are not mysterious at all. First there is the Pentagon, the budget for which is $1.6 trillion alone in the last six years. Second is the outlandish and unprecedented tax giveaways to the rich which characterize the Reagan years.

But neither the White House nor Congress appear willing to lessen the deficit through real cuts to the Pentagon or by taxing the rich. Instead, they have turned to the time-honored capitalist way — pass the burden onto the workers and the poor.

Nellie Cuellar, 1899-1987

A one-woman army in the people’s struggle

Nellie Cuellar, a truly remarkable leader in the working class struggle, died Sept. 27 at the age of 88.

Nellie was a 70-year veteran in the fight for the rights of all poor and working people. In the 1930s, she participated in hunger marches in Chicago and in the picket lines that led to the founding of the CIO. She was in the civil rights demonstrations of the 1960s, and travelled South with the Freedom Riders with her friend Viola Liasco, who was murdered.

She was a speaker at the giant May 3, 1981, march on the Pentagon against Reaganism and was a founder of the National Peopl’s Congress in Detroit in October of that year. In 1967, she gave an inspirational address at the founding conference of the Job is a Right Campaign in Flint.

Nellie was a respected leader among seniors in the state of Michigan and nationally. She was Michigan Chair of the National Association for the Advancement of Black Aged, and received many awards for her outstanding service to the community. For her, the struggle never waned. Every day she was in the office or on the phone — fighting to help a fellow senior who was having problems with a utility company; organizing a petition drive against Gramm-Rudman; getting food baskets for the hungry.

Nellie was an activist to the end. She joined Workers World Party when she was over 80. She was a student of politicians who read avidly on every issue — local, national and international. Even as her eyesight waned, her mind was always sharp.

Nellie fought for the rights of the oppressed. At the age of 83, she travelled to Palestine to express her solidarity with the PLO. She spoke out and marched for lesbian and gay rights and in the fight to expose the racist murder of Viola Liassco. Whatever the issue, Nellie was there.

Nellie’s example epitomizes personal dedication to justice. Her energy was unparalleled. Members of the organizations that she worked with were familiar with her calls at any hour of the day or night as she raised scores of funds for new activities or events. One of her main concerns for many years was to raise funds so that the struggle against oppression and for a just system could carry on. She inspired thousands with her determination and spirit.

Nellie survived many tragic family losses in recent years and is survived only by a son, two grandsons, and two great-grandchildren.

But the legacy of this dedicated and caring comrade is strong. She will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to know and work with her, but her memory will always inspire us to keep on fighting — and that’s the way Nellie would have wanted it.
Meetings in Zimbabwe, Johannesburg bolster anti-apartheid struggle

By Monica Moorehead

September 28 – Two significant conferences took place over the week-end that are expected to provide a major boost for the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa.

The first conference was held in Harare, Zimbabwe, called the "International Conference on Children, Repression and the Law in Apartheid South Africa." Following the massacre of 56 children in Soweto in June, the conference provided a forum for parents of victims to discuss their plight.

The second conference was held in Johannesburg, attended by more than 400 delegates from across the continent. It was convened by the Black South Africa network, an umbrella organization that brings together various groups working against apartheid.

The conference included discussions on the need for international support and the importance of keeping the issue of apartheid on the global agenda.

The main organizer of the conference was the African National Congress (ANC), which has been active in the anti-apartheid movement for decades.

The ANC, in a statement, said, "We are looking forward to continuing our work in the coming year to further strengthen the struggle against apartheid." The ANC emphasized the importance of international solidarity and support.

The conference also included a panel discussion on the role of NGOs and international organizations in supporting the anti-apartheid struggle.

The discussions focused on the need for continued pressure on the South African government to negotiate a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

The conference ended with a call for increased solidarity and support from the international community to help bring an end to apartheid.

The organizers thanked all those who attended and pledged to continue their efforts in the coming year.
Anti-pesticide grape boycott unites consumers, UFW

By Petra Guerra

Many people are eating more fruits and vegetables in order to have a healthier diet. But the fruits and vegetables are treated with pesticides that growers use to make them look more attractive to the consumer. This practice is increasing the suffering of the farm workers.

The United Farm Workers Union (UFW) is fighting for safer practices by once again calling a strong grape boycott. The tactics used are very similar to what we have seen in the past. There are picket lines out in the fields or in front of the store selling non-union grapes, but the boycott is just as strong.

The UFW is utilizing high tech as much as possible. The "Wrath of Grapes" is being used as the main tool of information throughout the U.S. and Canada. It is a 14-minute documentary of the horrors that farm workers go through while working to earn their existence. According to Cesar Chavez, president of the Union, "The Wrath of Grapes" symbolizes the threat posed to vineyard workers by the reckless use of deadly poisons in agriculture.

Included in the video is the story of January 25, 1980, when a farmworker died in 1985 while working in a rural San Diego tomato field that had been treated with the highly toxic pesticide Monitor. No warning signs had been posted about the field having been sprayed. Just two months before Chabolla's death, California Governor John Deukmejian had vetoed a bill requiring growers to post warning signs where the pesticide had been sprayed. The governor's reasoning was that the signs would cost agribusiness (a $14 billion a year industry) too much money.

Chabolla did not have to die. Other stories include: a child born without arms because his mother worked during her early pregnancy in a vineyard sprayed with captan; a four-year-old born with part of her spine missing; a ten-year-old who died of cancer. Thirteen children have been diagnosed with cancer in McFarland, a small farming town in the southern California near Delano, and six have died.

The UFW is informing consumers worldwide about the dangerous pesticides and the need to control their use in the agricultural fields. The results of the video have been very good. Between the months of February and May, over 4,000 copies were requested and distributed throughout the U.S. and Canada. The film has been projected in Spanish, English and French.

There are three major goals of the boycott: 1) free and fair elections and good-faith bargaining by growers; 2) a ban on five of the most dangerous pesticides; 3) a fair living wage, health care, phosdrin, captan, dinoseb and methyl bromide; 3) joint UFW-grown testing for the poisonous residues on grapes sold in stores, with the results of the tests made public.

The boycott is taking its toll on the growers. The price of grapes has drastically dropped, from as much as $25 a case to $7. Several major farms have sold the workers that the harvest is over.

In an interview with the New York UFW representative, Arturo Rodriguez, he told this reporter, "The grape harvest usually goes into the month of November, but the growers preferred to leave the crop in the fields rather than pay the workers what they were due. Unfortunately, the unscrupulous workers preferred the bathroom and drinking water laws are useless unless there's a control law. We plan to fight for the workers want. That's why we called the boycott - to show the growers that if there is no contract, there are no workers."

In the words of Cesar Chavez, "Governor Deukmejian and his agricultural allies cannot withstand the judgment of outraged consumers who refuse to buy their tainted grapes. We're taking our 'Wrath of Grapes' appeal to the greatest court in the land, the court of last resort - the American people."

Reagan: acid rain 'no problem' by G. Dunhil

Are you ready for this? Acid rain is no threat, at least not yet. It does no damage to the majesty of the environ- ment, except in remote areas of the Northeast.

This is the interim conclusions, issued Sept. 18, of a study group set up by the Reagan administration to fill- fill President's 1980 promise to "solv- tion" the problem". The group's findings neatly fit what the Reagan administration has been saying for years - that it would cost utility companies and the coal mining industry "too much" to solve the "minor" problem of acid rain. (Acid rain is that contains weak sulf- ufuric acid and generally created by burning "dirty" coal.)

The study group was headed by Dr. J. Lawrence Kelpe, a scientist who used to work for Weyerhaeuser Company, a major forest-products company whose main holdings are in the Northwest and Southeast, where acid rain rarely falls.

This blatant misrepresentation of the facts is immediately challenged by a broad group of activists, scien- tists, ministers and Canadian environment minister, Tom McMillan. McMillan said the report was "bad science and bad policy", because it downplays the urgency of the problem.

The report failed to evaluate the problems caused for Canada by acid rain created in the U.S. Acid rain and the destruction of the environment are regarded as major problems by most Canadians, whose government has pledged to spend what it takes to reduce acid rain produced in Canada by 50% in the next ten years. And they are certainly major problems in the U.S.-Canada relations, right behind the issue of "free trade".

According to the Sept. 23 New York Times and the Sept. 25 Toronto Globe and Mail, opposition to the report's faulty science and its misrepresented- research was not surprising, given the environmentalists fear of losing their grants. But Dr. Michael Oppenheimer, an atmos- pheric physicist, said the conclusion that acid rain contributed little to forest damage was a "startling mis- representation."

Archibald Jones, professor of renewable resources at McGill Univer- sity in Montreal, says that more than half of the sugar maple trees in eastern Canada have suffered foliage damage and Quebec's maple syrup producers expect their sales to be 50% below normal (Can). Once a sugar maple loses 25% of its leaves, it dies.

A spokesman for another environ- mental group attacked the assump- tions the study group used to predict low levels of acid rain as "implausible," and added, "This report is designed to make people believe the administration's argument that acid rain is not a serious problem."

All the evidence really points to the conclusion that acid rain is currently a serious problem, with reversible con- sequences. But if Reagan allows the coal economy to continue burning minerals to continue to ignore it for their greater profits, the damage it is doing could become irreversible.

The Reagan administration and U.S. big business are now showing Canada the arrogant, imperialist side that in the past they have reserved for dealings with oppressed nations.

Join us in the struggle

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, rich and poor, broken-hearted among men, young and old, lesbian and gay, disabled, working, unemployed and retired.

If you would like to know more about WWP, or if you would like to join in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you:

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Calendar

**Baltimore**
Sat., Oct. 3: "Eyeewwees Cubs" slide show. Also, update on developments in Nicaragua. 7:00 p.m. At 426 E. 31 St., (301) 899-3218

**Detroit**


**New York City**
Fri., Oct. 9: International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners. Program sponsored by the African National Congress. 7:30 p.m. At Martin Luther King Center. 310 W 43 St., (212) 490-3487.

**San Francisco**
Fri., Oct. 9: "Land's End and Revolution." Workers World Forum. 7:00 p.m. At 2498 Mission, #323, (415) 862-8256.

**Washington, D.C.**
Shocking new testimony exonerates Brandley

By Joanne Gavin
Galveston, Texas

Clarence Brandley’s evidentiary hearing for a new trial opened on Sept. 28 with extraordinary testimony exonerating Brandley. Brandley, who is Black, has been on death row for over seven years, railroaded to take the blame for the murder of a visiting white female student at Conroe High School in 1980.

The hearing, and its removal from Conroe in Montgomery County, are the latest hard-won victories for the broad-based mass movement that, a year ago, stopped in to help the Brandley family’s long battle to free this innocent man.

The highlight of the first day was the testimony of John Sessum, one of the four men who worked in the yard and maintenance crew that Brandley had supervised at the school. Sessum testified that he had witnessed another janitor, Gary Acersen, follow and grab the victim, who screamed for help. Later, a second man followed the victim and attacker into the girls’ restroom, according to Sessum.

Only some minutes later, after there were no more screams, did Brandley appear on the scene. He was diverted from the restroom by the other men present.

Sessum said he had lied all this time because he was threatened and afraid, but that he must now tell the truth because he can’t sleep for the nightmares he has of the murder and his failure to stop it.

On Tuesday, the first witness called was Gary Acersen, but he was not present. The hearing is expected to last at least the rest of the week.

Forum builds Oct. 11

Continued from page 5...

woman while Black children make up 50% of all cases.

An activist program was laid out by Terry Bivens, whose group, The AIDS Project, is the only national organization to do work on the crisis. Bivens, a fulltime organizer, promised to organize an annual meeting around the country demanding an AIDS education, centrally coordinated research, a fully funded national health care program and national accountability.

Bivens’s organization is a coalition that organizes civil disobedience against AIDS and opposes quarantine, mandatory testing, and all discriminatory practices.

A moonshot effort — whatever it takes

Preston Wood, a National Committee member of the Workers World Party, Gary receiver repeated applause as he launched into the government, "dominated by the rich and powerful and the military," Wood said, "the criminal handling of the crisis should prompt a full investigation by the people.”

In reference to the recent $1.5 billion bailout of a bank in Texas that was carried out in 24 hours, he said, "Why not $1.5 billion for AIDS research? The system's inability to deal with one of the worst medical crises in history is not just policy, but is built into the system of racism, sexism, and anti-semitism". He called for a "moonshot effort, whatever it takes," to fight the AIDS epidemic.

Keith Pavlik, Workers World Party's national education and media organizer, also promised to "build a socialist society based on need, not greed."

Zoe Kasti outlined Workers World Party's theoretical contributions and long history of direct involvement in the struggle for lesbian and gay liberation.

The New York forum featured Carmen Roundtree, organizer for the People of Color Caucus of the March on Washington and a member of the National Committee of Workers World, Sharon Aying, representative of the People's Anti-War Mobilization on the National and New York City Steering Committees for the march, and Keith Pavlik.

NFL strike. The strike by the NFL Players Association, AFL-CIO, continues, even as the owners and media prepare to try to break it by running a scab operation. A number of NFL owners have announced plans to build football games in the next week, and the television networks are eager to broadcast the scab games. Schedules are printed with simple arithmetic that breaks down to about $30 million for each person with AIDS in the U.S. this year.

He said we need to organize a political movement to force the capitalist system to find a solution for AIDS — and to "build a socialist society based on need, not greed."

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Workers World/Oct. 8, 1987

Union ranks rise. Not just teachers, but unions in general, appear to be in a resurgence. While many activists have felt this lately, the numbers are now out and they confirm it. According to a report recently released by the Industrial Cooperation Council, while overall union membership continued to slightly decline in 1989 — by one-quarter of one percent — there are some much more promising figures. The number of union members increased in five of the biggest industrial states — Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York and Ohio — in spite of the devastation of plant closings and layoffs. In the 11 biggest states, the number of new union members certified by workers to represent them almost doubled between 1984 and 1986, when there were 425 new unions elected. And there's a correlation between number of women members and union membership: as whole, not surprisingly, four of the five states experiencing union growth also have the highest percentages of women union members. In fact, the percentage of women who belong to unions far exceeds that of male workers in those states; Michigan and New York lead the way with 31.1% and 28.7% of all women workers in those states belonging to unions.

Teacher strikes. Teachers are still walking the lines in several school districts around the country, with the biggest strike — 29,000 teachers in Chicago — still raging. In Elizabeth, N.J., courageous school workers have refused to knock under, even in the face of swiftly mounting fines. In the latest attempt to intimidate the Elizabeth strikers, the school district obtained a back-to-work court order that threatens them with jail if they don't call off the strike by Monday, Oct. 5. School workers as a whole are becoming more militant and are willing to strike if necessary, according to a report just released by Government Union Critique, a newsletter for public employee unions. In the 1986-87 school year, says the report, the number of school strikes in the U.S. rose from 71 to 87.

Coshohcton update. Three weeks after cops and goons attacked their Labor Day solidarity rally, strikers at the Stone Container Corp. in Coshohcton, Ohio, are holding strong as they continue their struggle. Two days after the anti-union assault, hundreds of area union members, including Steel Workers, Rubber Workers, Electrical Workers, Food and Commercial Workers, and Mine Workers, took to the streets again along with the striking members of Operat- ing Engineers Locals 544 and 588 to demonstrate solidarity even in the face of the earlier police violence — and this time, the cops maintained their hands off. And again on Sept. 15, yet another solidarity march took place in Coshohcton.

Shelley Ellinger
Por el derecho a la vivienda: Inquilinos de J.C. unidos y en pie de lucha

Por Petra Guerra

El 24 de octubre se llevará a cabo la Convención de Inquilinos, Pequeños Propietarios y Desamparados organizado por varias organizaciones de arrendatarios, personas sin hogar y otras del condado de Hudson. Entre ellas participan el Comité de Inquilinos de Jersey City, la Asociación de Inquilinos de Union City y la Compañía por Justicia en la Vivienda de Hoboken.

John Jones, presidente de la Coalición por Mil Millones de Dólares que ha hecho la convocatoria para esta convención, declaró a El Mundo Obrero, “es un desarrollo positivo. Los dueños de los edificios tienen sus cosas y tienen dinero. Nosotros en Imaginemos eso que puede suceder si los inquilinos, pequeños propietarios y desamparados de Jersey City se unen a los de Union City, Hoboken y North Bergen, sería una vez bastante fuerte, más fuerte que los caseros de los caseros. Los inquilinos que se enfrentan a todo tipo de problemas tales como el hacinamiento, discriminación y amenaza al desalojo, tienen mucha razón al unirse a este movimiento, no tienen que estar solo y mucho que ganar. La convención se llevará a efecto en la escuela P.S. 11 Martin Luther King Jr. ubicada en la avenue Bergen y Academy en Jersey City, a pocas cuadras de Journal Square.

Uno de los principales temas que se discutirá es: como luchar para lograr el derecho de que cada individuo tenga una vivienda adecuada y digna.

Se ha propagandizado en forma masiva, pero el trabajo no ha terminado. Están planeando ir en carros y usar megáfonos anunciando la convención y alentando al pueblo a acudir. Se necesitan des de ya voluntarios para informar y repartir volantes en sus iglesias y comunidades. Si usted tiene tiempo y desea participar en esta convención, puede llamar la oficina de la Coalición por Mil Millones al número 201-433-2332.

Reagan aprueba acuerdo nuclear, pero continúa política de agresión con “guerra de las galaxias”

Por John Catalino

Acricalado por el sentimiento popular contra la guerra y por el deseo de recuperar alguna credibilidad de su administración, plagada de escándalos como el de Irán-Contra, y por su flagrante política de agresividad en todo el mundo, Ronald Reagan ha firmado el acuerdo nuclear con la Unión Soviética, el pasado 18 de septiembre, la mutua eliminación de los proyectiles nucleares de medio y corto alcance instalados en Europa. La Administración Reagan se ha visto forzada a retractar su retórica de insultería contra la URSS, para así poder negociar un acuerdo y dar la apariencia de que Washington está interesado en detener la carrera armamentista. Esto pasó el mismo día en que el Pentágono, en una desafiante contradicción, manifestó su deseo de seguir a toda máquina con el desarrollo de la “Guerra de las Galaxias”.

El total de los proyectiles nucleares que se eliminarán bajo este acuerdo, representarían el 4% de la capacidad nuclear de ambos países. El líder soviético Mikhail Gorbachev se reunirá en Estados Unidos con Reagan, a finales de este año para ratificar el tratado.

Aspectos del tratado

La URSS aceptó el desmantelamiento de sus proyectiles de medio alcance, SS-20 de los cuales ya posee 243 desplegados en Europa y 171 en el lado asiático. También eliminarán sus res- tentes proyectiles SS-4 y los de alcance corto, SS-12 y SS-23.

Por su parte, la Administración Reagan acordó eliminar todos sus 224 proyectiles cruceros y 108 proyectiles Pershing II, de Europa. La instalación de estos proyectiles se inició en la Administración Carter y tomó desafiante impulso a principios de los 80 con el movimiento Reaganista. El gobierno de Alemania Occidental también, bien aprobó, aunque informalmente, desmantelar los proyectiles de corto alcance que están bajo su control.

Millones protestan contra misiles

Fué precisamente el despliegue de los proyectiles cruceros y de los Pershing II, lo que despertó una oposición masiva en Europa Occidental y en los Estados Unidos. Estos proyectiles nucleares permiten a los países de la OTAN, el destruir ciudades soviéticas desde Europa.


En estos últimos años el movimiento europeo contra la guerra, lo mismo en Estados Unidos, se ha dado cuenta que Washington es el promotor de la agresiva escalada nuclear y que la Unión Soviética es la que realmente las reducciones de armas nucleares.

En su primera administración, Reagan, abiertamente lanzó una flacita y hostil campaña contra la URSS, denunciándola como un "impuesto maligno", queriendo que fuera desvisto, y para así poder engrasar en su presupuesto militar más de un trillón de dólares. A pesar de gastar el dinero del contribuyente, el Pentágono no pudo alcanzar una superioridad militar estratégica sobre la URSS, fortaleciendo así a los militares y derechista de este país.

Confrontado con su paridad militar soviética, la presión popular en Europa y Estados Unidos y la pérdida de credibilidad por poder el Gobierno Irán-Contra, Reagan no tuvo más alternativa que la de aceptar el tratado. Así quedó demostrado que la propaganda de la derecha republicana por más que se infilen de retórica anti-soviética se puede desbancar con la verdad y la conciencia del pueblo.

9 millones costaron los misiles

El costo de los misiles cruceros y los Pershing II, que ahora van ha ser desplazados, fue de más de 9 mil millones de dólares, según publicó William Arkin en la revista Bulletin of Atomic Scien-

tist del pasado octubre. Desde el punto de vista del trabajador, el desempleo y los pobres de Estados Unidos, esto no fue sino un descarado derroche de fondos públicos.

El complejo militar-industrial fue el único ganador. La corporación General Dynamics recibió 3,45 mil millones de dólares, por los misiles cruceros y la Corporación de Martin Marietta, 2,46 mil millones por los proyectiles Pershing II, sin contar el costo de los mor- tiferos dispositivos nucleares que estos proyectiles contienen.

Son estas corporaciones capitalistas las que demandan la expansión mili-
tar, sin importar que su costo lo pague el pueblo.

Para las masas, este dinero debería ser usado en servicios sociales tales como: la salud, la vivienda, el desempleo y los beneficios del seguro social. Los trabajadores y los oprimidos tienen toda la razón cuando exigen la reducción del armamento bélico y la can- celación de programas como la “guerra de las galaxias.”

EE.UU. viola el tratado ABM de 1972

El mismo año en que se firmó el tra- tado, el complejo militar-industrial confabulaba para saquear la tesorería nacional. El 18 de septiembre el Se- cretario de la Defensa Caspar Wein- berger aprobó la decisión para llevar a cabo pruebas preliminares de un sis- tema de armas espaciales, que podrían ser usados en la década de los 90 como parte de la “guerra de las galaxias.”

Con este súbito paso, queda demostrado que el Pentágono considera el nuevo tratado, como algo para lucirse y no un serio acuerdo para la redu- ción del armamento.

Acerca de este plan, la Unión de Científi- cos Precursados denunció el 18 de septiembre, que la elaboración y las pruebas de armas tan avanzadas, desplegadas en el espacio están en plena violación del tratado contra los misiles balísticos, ABM firmado en 1972.

El número de proyectiles nucleares eliminados por este acuerdo es pe- queño comparado con los que quedan. Lo importante de este acuerdo está en la reducción de tensiones entre Esta- dos Unidos y la Unión Soviética. Pero si el Pentágono persiste en la “guerra de las galaxias” como lo planea, sin lugar a dudas que las tensiones entre ambas potencias se agravarán.