



# workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

X-523

## BLOODY SECRETS

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

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# Disabled 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.

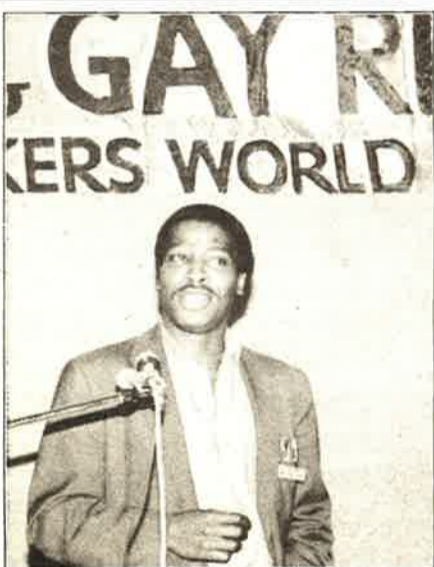
Called by the September Alliance for Affordable Transit and ADAPT (American Disabled for Accessible Public Transportation), the protests began with a spirited hour-long rally Sept. 27 at Union Square where the crowd was addressed by such supporters as Eleanor Smeal of NOW and Albin Gruhn, president of 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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## OCTOBER 11

200 cities organize to demand 'lesbian and gay rights now!'

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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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Disabled people take to streets and head for APTA reception, where they blocked doors. "Now they'll know what inaccessibility is like!"

WW PHOTO: JANE CUTTER

## GULF CRISIS

Canadian expert calls U.S. attack on Iran ship illegal.

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Smoke but no fire from Congress on Reagan's violations of War Powers Act. Analysis by Sam Marcy.

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# 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 is found up to its armpits in blood.

Their agents plant a car bomb in Lebanon, killing 80 people. CIA operatives in Beirut torture a man to death 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. Congressional investigation turn up all the same kind of stuff in 1975?

So why has Congress authorized more than \$3 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, these senators are afraid of the CIA themselves. Even the staff of Barry Goldwater, an unreconstructed militarist, twice found agency 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 grumbling 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 dictator. 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 Aquino 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 a tiresome 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 reviling 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. Diversion 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 capitalism." But the only flocking came from

Somoza's old fascist National Guard.

Without seeming to note the incongruity, Woodward also reports that the CIA director, while championing "free elections" in Nicaragua, spent millions of dollars interfering in the Italian elections of May 1985 to sabotage the Communist Party. With a personal fortune in excess of \$9 million, Casey didn't think much of democracy without capitalism. In the case of Italy, though, he was only following a time-honored path of election-tampering 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 umpteenth expose of this international Murder Incorporated? 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. We are seeking donations of:

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# Bork nomination sparks all-movements fightback

By Leslie Feinberg

Whether or not notorious ultra-rightist Robert Bork is confirmed or defeated in his bid for a seat on the Supreme Court, the vigorous fightback movement that has formed in response to his nomination shows great promise for bringing together an objective coalition of all who have been targets of the rightwing.

In the months since Bork's nomination, trade unions, Black and Latino communities, the lesbian and gay and women's movements, and other concerned groups have launched educational picketlines, demonstrations, press conferences, postering and newspaper advertising campaigns, meetings, tabling, petitioning 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 New York City 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.

This week's Gay 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 feminists to declare Bork a right-wing opportunist, aggressively opposed to abortion rights, lesbian/gay rights, and civil rights."

On Sept. 15, the day the Senate confirmation hearings began, demonstrations were held in several cities. 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 and rally held in front of the Federal Court House. 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, NAACP, Local 1180 of the CWA, Local 1199, 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 "Pork" 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.

Another vigil is planned at that site on Oct. 5. Other activities, including meetings and letter-writing campaigns, are underway.

Last week the San Francisco-based Sierra Club publicly announced its opposition to Bork on the basis 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 before the Senate hearing, the reverse was true, showing that the more people saw, the less they liked!

The hearings, which are expected to continue for several weeks, may not result in a decision until after the Oct. 11 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, which will build additional opposition to bigot 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 120,000-member District Council 37, American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). It was attended by Latino and Black community groups, lesbian and gay and women's organizations, seniors and many religious denominations.

Labor organizations included the United Federation of Teachers, Transport Workers Local 100, the Public Employees Federation, International Ladies Garment Workers of

America, the Communications Workers of America, the Association of Independent Flight Attendants, Writers Guild of America, Retail, Wholesale and Distributive Workers Union and the United Auto Workers.

In welcoming those gathered, DC 37 Executive Director Stanley Hill charged that "Bork's only judicial record is pro-big business and anti just about everything else."

Across the country, the labor movement has closed ranks against 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 rising struggle to stop Bork's appointment is not merely cosmetic. It comes from the genuine anger of all who have been hurt by the ultra-right offensive. It is these progressive forces acting in unity which will be the true "court of last resort" in reversing the anti-people offensive of the Reagan administration.

## Maine mobilizations nix Klan attempt

Special to Workers World  
Rumford, Maine

When a dozen Ku Klux Klansmen invaded Maine on Saturday, Sept. 26, close to 1,000 people turned out in at least eight towns in protest.

David Boyington, a young white man from up in Old Town, came to Rumford with a group of his friends. "The Klan is like a cancer," he told this reporter. "And you don't ignore a cancer, you deal with it."

### Attempt to divide workers backfires

Rumford, a small town of 8,300 people in west-central Maine, was the site last year of a bitter strike fought by the United Paperworkers International 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 stunning solidarity that has built up around another UPIU strike, this one against the giant International 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 first began appearing in the state.

Over 400 people came to the Rumford 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

AFL-CIO, 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 of others attended meetings and rallies in Kennebunkport, Orono, Orland, Bangor and the state capital of Augusta.

"Keep strong, and don't give up," Ken Billups, a Black paperworker from Gardiner, told the Rumford crowd. "We all have to stick together." Other paperworkers came from Rumford and Jay, 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 Dignity and Social Justice in southern Maine, 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 racist thugs were not totally without allies. All the major media had given

them millions of dollars of free publicity. 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 just wanted to make sure this was an open meeting," the Klan told reporters.

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 burnt a cross.

One of those protesting at the field was Emilia Goodine, a native of Belgium who was 16 years old when she was imprisoned in a Nazi concentration 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, wiping out all traces of the Ku Klux Klan's visit to Maine.

## — Disabled protests

Continued from page 1

districts could not send delegates to the convention from their mandated Elderly and Handicapped Advisory Committees. While APTA was forced to overturn this outrageous ruling, the \$400 cost of admission to the convention still constituted outright discrimination.

Bob Kafka, an organizer for ADAPT from Austin, Texas, told the rally, "Its time for us to say we're part of the community. We want our rights. We demand our rights. And we'll have our rights."

The protesters proceeded to City Hall where Mayor Feinstein had planned a gala reception for the APTA delegates. When the delegates arrived, they got a hotter reception than they bargained for, as chanting demonstrators in wheelchairs, using mobile tactics, blocked their access, giving them a taste 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 wheelchairs regrouped to block the path. This happened again and again. Then



WW PHOTO: RON HOLLADAY

Disabled activists traveled hundreds of miles, then faced arrest and manhandling by police to let public know of their demands.

police tried to push the wheelchairs out of the way.

Frustrated by the effectiveness of the demonstrators, the police 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 wristholds.

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 take us to jail but they can't take us to work."

"We thought they were particularly rough at City Hall," organizer Marilyn 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 convention.

# Labor, Black leaders rally behind striking bus drivers



Community leader Mel King tells press: "Boston school bus drivers support desegregation and we support their strike."

WW PHOTO: PETER COOK

By Steve Gillis  
Picket Captain, USWA Local 8751  
Boston

September 29 — Today, in a massive show of support for the striking Boston school bus drivers of USWA Local 8751, labor and community leaders joined the over-200-strong picketline.

Today's 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, 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. "A scab is a scab," 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 gimmicks. "You're not going to settle this by sending children to neighborhood schools, or by making the school bus drivers public employees. You're not going to settle it in a courtroom. You're only going to settle it when the bus companies return to the bargaining table."

Meizhu Lui, president of AFSCME 1489 (Boston City Hospital), defended the drivers' strike as "a struggle for justice and equality, and in fact the extension of the struggle for the desegregation of the schools."

Other labor leaders who spoke included Bob Haynes, Financial Secretary, Ironworkers Local 7; Domenic Bozzoto, president of Local 26, HERE; Fred Trusten, president SEIU Local 509; Frank Gaye, AFSCME Council 93; and David Brenner, president of the Laundry Workers.

On the picketline were dozens of parents, children, students, Puerto Rican activists and members of the All-Peoples Congress and the Disabled Peoples Liberation Front. Three clergymen, Rev. Graylan Ellis-Hagler, 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 ruled 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-racist movement and lawsuit by Boston's Black and Latin communities.

This week's decision was immediately lauded by Louisa Day Hicks who, as a School Committee member in the 1970s, led the bus-smashing bigots, 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 in a 7-6 vote narrowly defeated a plan to return to neighborhood schools which had been proposed by the bigots as a way to deal with the bus drivers' strike.

Ironically, the attorney who represented the Black parents in the original desegregation case has charged 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 at a press conference, saying, "Most drivers are parents whose children benefit from desegregated schools. The drivers' union has a long history of support for desegregation."

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# Chicago jobs campaign takes big first step

By P. Kimball  
Chicago

September 19 — For a living they had made stoves, cars, locomotives, 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 Job 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 buttons 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 stores, tens of thousands of workers here have lost their jobs in the last decade. Recently Sears Roebuck 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 southwest of the city.

Willie Hill, a chief mechanic and a

veteran of nearly 20 years with General Foods, told the forum, "The Calumet baking 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 Agrela, president of Sheet Metal Workers Local #571: "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 Diversey Avenue plant. This instrument 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 1154) with neighborhood groups and residents.

Workers from Stewart-Warner and from the Stop Plant Closings Committee of United Auto Workers Local 558 (at Willow Springs) were active in getting the Chicago Job Is a Right activities under way, and took turns chairing different portions of today's

event. Speakers included Carole Travis, president of UAW Local 719 at the layoff-wracked Electromotive Division of GM, and Neill 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. You have to set up committees now to explain the situation to workers and the people in the communities."

"Our campaign is not going to be won only because it is just," warned New York organizer Gavrielle Gemma. "We have to change people's minds. They say, don't the corporations 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 on Sep-

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 layoffs, particularly at General Motors.

Workers attended from UAW Locals 15, 22 and 174 (representing the GM Fleetwood, Cadillac and Fisher Guide plants, respectively, all slated for shutdown), UAW 599 (Buick City, going down to one shift in October), and UAW 598 (Chevy Truck and Bus). Also on hand to contribute their ideas were unemployed activists; AFSCME, SEIU and Newspaper Guild members; and auto workers from Chrysler and Ford.

The meeting planned a campaign to target General Motors as Public Enemy #1. 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 contract, the demand for a moratorium or ban on plant closings is being discussed 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 1828 is pending. The UAW must not be left alone to take on the largest company in the world."

It was emphasized that the snowball 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

demand concessions from both the workers and communities and is now closing down much of its civilian production while shifting to military research. GM has become the second-largest recipient of Star Wars contracts in the country.

This week a broadsheet exposing GM and including a poster demanding 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 meetings are being planned for Detroit, Flint and Saginaw.

Organizers emphasized that a victory in the moratorium effort at GM would be a tremendous boost to winning a guaranteed job for all working people. Contact the Job Is a Right Campaign at (313) 831-1333 to help with this important battle.

# 200 cities organize for Oct. 11 lesbian/gay march

By Marsha Goldberg

Two weeks before the Oct. 11 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, there are many signs that it will be a truly massive outpouring from all over the country.

There are march organizing committees in over 200 cities. Organizers estimate that over 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 to work in the march office. They're coming from as far as Seattle, Los Angeles and Florida," Judy Greenspan, logistics coordinator for the march, told Workers World.

"Trains and planes in and out of Washington on the weekend of the march are already totally booked. So are the hotels. We're arranging 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. 8 through Oct. 13, there will be six 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 Men Together. Latino lesbians and gays are planning a reception. Seniors and older lesbians and gay men will be meeting. And there will be meetings to organize support for Sharon Kowalski, a lesbian who was disabled in a car accident and has been denied the right to see her lover.

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 of lesbian and gay relationships.

A national AIDS Activists Mobilizing and Planning Meeting will be held on Mon., Oct. 12. It is being organized by AIDS activist groups from around the country, including ACTUP from 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 spread out on the mall to be displayed all day. Each of these panels has been sewn by friends and lovers of the people who have died and sent to Washington from all over the country.

Cleve Jones, executive director of the Names Project, explained that it 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 Greenspan. "They're fighting courageously not only 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 Color Caucus. Giselle 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 of concern to people of color."

"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.

## WWP reception

Sunday afternoon, after the march, Workers World Party will be holding a reception where people can "relax, meet our members, and hear a socialist perspective on AIDS and lesbian and gay rights." It will be held at the Capital Quality Inn, 415 New Jersey Ave. from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (This is a short walk from the afternoon rally, north on First Street, NW.) There will be refreshments, music, videos, photo displays, and a slide show.

## 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 and people with AIDS who charge that the Reagan administration is one of the main obstacles to resolving 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 \$519 million for biomedical research, \$100 million for general education, \$55 million for education of intravenous drug users, \$92 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 these funds has been taken away from basic research in related medical fields such as immunobiology, developmental biology, 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 those fields "which could provide the knowledge base for future advances in AIDS research."

Even a representative of the government's General Accounting Office, Michael Zimmerman, reported that 20 experts contacted by the GAO found the Reagan budget inadequate in several areas. They recommended an additional \$50 million for methadone 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. For example, the cruise and Pershing 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 cure of AIDS is being left largely to the private sector.

## Profiteers take over AIDS research

The Sept. 28 Wall Street Journal reported on the great attraction that private AIDS 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 corporation 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.

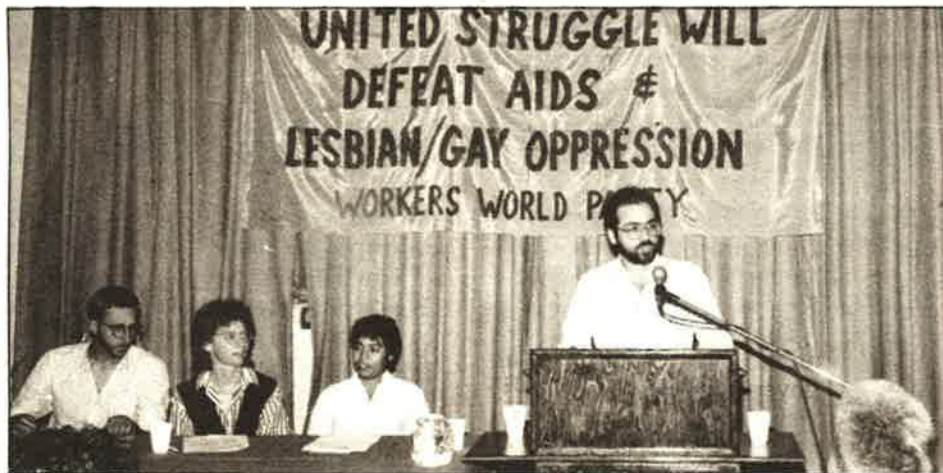
## Workers World Party forums build for march

By J. Marquardt  
San Francisco

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 issues critical to the movement in many cities across the country.

In well-attended meetings in San Francisco on Sept. 19 and in New York on Sept. 26, organizers of the Oct. 11 action, Workers World spokespeople 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 on Washington, called the Reagan administration's "do-nothing response to the AIDS epidemic" a virtual "mandate for murder." He



WW PHOTO: IRVING FIERSTEIN

WWP meetings in New York and San Francisco lay out a struggle program to deal with the AIDS crisis. New York meeting: Keith Pavlik, Sharon Ayling, Carmen Roundtree, Saul Kanowitz. San Francisco: Ken Jones.

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 pros-

titutes are the first groups subjected to mandatory HIV antibody testing. "Politicians aren't losing any sleep over Black and Brown babies and 17-year-old I.V. drug users dying of AIDS."

A founding member of the U.S. Out



WW PHOTO: JANE CUTTER

of Southern Africa Network, Sahu Barron, pointed out that in the U.S. 25% of those diagnosed with AIDS are Black people and 14% are Latino people. A Black woman is 13 times more likely to get AIDS than a white

Continued on page 11

# Nicaragua presses for peace, Reagan/Congress fund contras

By Sharon Shelton

September 28 — No where 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 backwards to begin to implement the terms of 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 whose territory most 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 had to 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 allies like Honduras abide by it — will totally expose the U.S.'s warlike intent 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.

Loudly promising they won't give aid "next time," the Democrats and Republicans nevertheless joined together last week to give Reagan \$3.5 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 revolutionary, 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 Reagan's public opinion calling for an end to the contra war, people across the country are demonstrating. This woman in New York City, on Sept. 26 (above) and welcomed to

In San Jose, Calif., 500 people marched in a South Bay Mobilization; called for an end to Nicaraguan sovereignty. Marta Alicia Doran Teachers described the dangers of the contra war in El Salvador, and called on the U.S. anti-war movement to support the contra regime and to the contras. "Your president is funding the contra war! The contra war is a disaster for the United Farm Workers vice president, a Peace Action Teams, who spoke in place of the contra war down by a Navy "death train" at the Contra



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

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

# Reagan

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 of the NATO powers have approved intervention.

NATO was originally meant to be a North Atlantic, not a Mediterranean, alliance. This massive concentration of firepower clearly violates its own treaties. But that's the smallest part of the story.

The larger one, which should interest every worker in the U.S., is the role 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

# U.S. arms Morocco to fight West Saharans

Special to Workers World

On July 29, with hardly a word reported in the media, the Reagan administration approved an arms package of \$68 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 M48-A5 tanks, outfitted with machine guns, ammunition, radios 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 and more of the Western Sahara and its coastline under Moroccan control. Washington is a major financier of this heavily fortified wall, which is mined, and guarded by radar. Behind the wall, in the occupied cities and towns, the Moroccan military establishment has effectuated hundreds of disappearances of Sahrawi civilians while torturing and detaining scores

of others. An additional eight Sahrawis disappeared this summer.

Repression continues against progressives in Morocco as well. Twenty-six political prisoners arrested for distributing anti-war statements have been on intermittent hunger strikes over the last year and a half. Four hundred Moroccans have disappeared, 30 of whom openly opposed Morocco's annexationist policy in the Western Sahara. Of the over 200 Moroccans jailed a decade ago for supporting self-determination for the Sahrawi people, 40 still remain in jail, including five of Morocco's leading intellectuals.

The \$68 million in tanks, okayed by Washington, has not yet been delivered. The American Committee on

Africa has urged that letters be sent to the following congressmembers, demanding a halt to U.S. aid to Morocco:

Senator Claiborne Pell, Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Washington, D.C. 20510; Senator Daniel Inouye, Chair, Senate Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Washington, D.C. 20510; Congressman David Obey, Chair, House Subcommittee on Foreign Relations, Washington, D.C. 20515; Congressman Dante Fascell, Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee, Washington, D.C. 20515.

For more information, contact the Western Sahara Campaign, 2556 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20008, (202) 387-0412.

# Expert says U.S. attack on Iran ship illegal

By Joyce Chediak

The Reagan administration and the media convey the message that the Sept. 21 Pentagon attack on an Iranian ship was a "defensive act" and that Iran is "terrorist" and has "violated international law." A closer look at the facts, however, shows that the shoe is on the other foot.

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

If so, it wouldn't be the first time. It is well known now that in 1898 the U.S. government blew up its own ship, the Maine, while it was docked in Havana harbor. This served as a pretext for the Spanish-American War, which left Washington in control of key Spanish colonies. When Spain later asked to examine the Maine to determine the cause of the blast, the U.S. raised the hull and towed it to deeper waters, where it again sank the ship.

But even if Iran was laying mines in the Gulf, does this make it a "terrorist" and give Washington the right to attack its ships and kill its sailors? An impartial, authoritative source has answered with a clear no.

Leslie Green, at present a legal adviser to the Canadian Department

of National Defense, drafted a manual of war law for the Canadian government. He was the legal adviser to the Canadian delegation at the War Law Conference in Geneva from 1975-77. Green explained in an interview with the Toronto newspaper Globe and Mail (Sept. 24) that the U.S., which claims neutrality in the hostilities between Iran and Iraq, has interfered with the "legitimate right of a warring nation to lay mines."

Green pointed out that during World War II most warring countries were laying mines on international trade routes. He said that traditionally, by the law of maritime warfare, a belligerent nation is permitted to inhibit 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 "self-defense" as the right to take preventive measures when being attacked. It does not give a neutral country the right to interfere with "a legitimate act of a warring nation."

Neither did Washington have the authority to seize the crew of the Iran Ajr and keep them under armed guard, Green added. As a neutral country, the U.S. should have released them immediately after disarming them.

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

This should come as no surprise. After all, the question of legality has never before stopped the Pentagon from attacking oppressed nations, from Native people here to Vietnam to Grenada. In fact, Washington utilized its huge military presence in the Gulf region to arrest a Lebanese man, Fawaz Younis, after tricking him into entering a vessel supposedly in international waters. The Lebanese government has denounced this as "piracy."

To Washington, might makes right. And the Pentagon has become even more emboldened after its illegal attack on the Iran Ajr. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger lost no time in flying to the Gulf to have himself photographed telling sailors that the U.S. would attack again. The Navy announced on Sept. 28 that it was considering preemptive strikes on Iranian ships "suspected" of carrying mines.

While the imperialists are making a big issue over mines in the Gulf, why aren't they saying anything about Iraq, which has also laid mines? Because the Reagan administration is not there to be neutral or help end the war. Washington and its allies have sent their warships to get a firmer grip on Middle Eastern oil and the vast profits that come to those who control it.

Imperialist guns, bombs and ships in the Gulf only spell trouble for the 70 million people who live there.

gan continues to flout U.S. and world  
brutal contra war against Nicaragua,  
ating. Some 150 marched in Buffalo,  
the "Benjamin Linder Peace Tour."  
d on Sept. 26. The action, sponsored by  
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dent just approved \$3 million for the  
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and Duncan Murphy of the Veterans  
ce of Brian Willson. Willson was run  
cord Naval Weapons Station on Sept. 1

# an, 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 Les Aspins 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 armada since the Vietnam war — scores of ships and some 20,000 sailors — in foreign waters where a war is going on and has opened fire on an unarmed vessel.

This is precisely what the War Powers Act was supposed to stop. The president is supposed to inform Congress first, before he sends the armed forces into a hostile 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 sheer deception. Let us remember how this piece of legislation, the War Powers Act, got enacted in the first place.

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

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 anti-war struggles of that day. It was the mass struggle that brought it about. But without a mass struggle, it couldn't be sustained.

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

## U.S. criminal acts go unopposed by liberal politicians

How is it possible for the Reagan administration to oppose the mining of harbors by the Iranian government when it mined the harbors of Nicaragua? That was an act of criminal piracy which was universally condemned by the World Court.

Why have none 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 today strut aboard U.S. ships in the gulf — was it not the same Pentagon that occupied Grenada, that mined the harbors of Nicaragua and that is conducting a merciless counter-revolutionary war in Central America? Is it not the same U.S. government that is aiding the counter-revolutionary forces in Angola and is supporting the Botha regime in its war against the South African and Namibian masses?

How then is it possible for them to escape all this and suddenly don the image of peacemaker? How can they attempt to corral UN support for predatory imperialist interests directed against all the oppressed peoples of the Middle East?

Should it not be clear that for many months the imperialist powers have slowly but surely developed a coordinated plan to assert their predatory imperialist interests over the entire region, at the expense of subjugating the mass of oppressed peoples? Can there really be any other reason for the gathering of this threatening armada?

From this it should follow that a slogan like "End the Iran-Iraq war," which has been raised in some progressive circles, is at the present time totally inadequate and even misleading because it fails to address the main issue — the role of the imperialists, and especially the U.S., in the conflict. This slogan has been superseded by the U.S.-NATO intervention in the gulf.

## Nothing progressive can be gained for Iran or Iraq in this war

Whatever possible progressive content 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 ever existed at all.

As we pointed out at the very beginning of the conflict, the dispute over the Shatt-al-Arab waterway did not justify the opening of a war by the Iraqi regime against the Iranian government. Such a territorial war could only be justified if it were crucial for national independence, for sovereignty, that is, to complete the national democratic revolution.

But such was not the case. Thus, the suspicion grew that the Iraqi regime was motivated by clandestine imperialist interests.

On Iran's part, however, what seemed originally like a limited, defensive war to retrieve a specific territorial objective was transformed into a full-scale war over unlimited objectives, including the overthrow of the Iraqi regime. This was altog-

ether unjustified and reactionary.

It opened the door for Iran's clandestine involvement with the U.S. and widened the opportunities for imperialism to reassert itself in the entire region.

The war has thus become a bourgeois, 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 domination, the Eisenhower administration began provocative military maneuvers to regain control there. Both the USSR, through its Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, and the People's Republic of China through its Foreign Minister, Zhou Enlai (Chou En-lai), publicly warned the U.S. in 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 balance of power has changed in favor of imperialism. Not at all. It's merely the new aggressiveness, the unparalleled belligerency of the Reagan-Pentagon administration which is the new element in the international situation.

This military adventure is indissolubly connected with all of imperialism's other wars, just as in 1967 the U.S.-Israeli war in the Middle East was carried out within the worldwide framework of the Pentagon's massive 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 inexhaustible energy of the mass anti-war struggle be reawakened and made to see the link between the current, very dangerous adventure of U.S. imperialism in the gulf and the struggles in Central America, South Africa, the Philippines and Haiti.

# EDITORIALS

## 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 doesn't have to worry about their readers being workers who might get the wrong idea, for instance in the financial pages, one can find useful data that puts the lie to all the 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.

"Across the nation," the article states, "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 — 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. Ms. Donna Van Name of Boston, quoted in the article, needs a job badly, but the \$6-7 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 result of high-tech has impoverished 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 13 years. That's the headline news. But then there's reality — tens of millions out of work 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 — raised taxes 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 exorbitant military spending — \$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 substantial 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'

Special to Workers World  
Detroit

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 formation of the CIO. She was in the civil rights demonstrations of the 1960s, and travelled South for the Freedom Rides with her friend Viola Liuzzo, who was murdered.

She was a speaker at the giant May 3, 1981, march on the Pentagon against Reaganism and was a founding board member of the All-Peoples Congress in Detroit in October of that year. In 1987, 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 at home — 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 politics 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 all 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 Vincent Chin. Whatever the issue, Nellie was there.

Nellie's example epitomizes personal dedication to justice. Her energy was unparalleled. Members of the organizations that Nellie worked with were familiar with her calls at any hour of the day or night as she raised scores of ideas 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 weekend that boosted the struggle against the repressive South African apartheid regime.

About 500 people participated in a four-day meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, called the "International Conference on Children, Repression and the Law in Apartheid South Africa." The racist apartheid regime was condemned by the participants for its barbaric treatment of thousands of children and youth who have been especially victimized by the fascist state of emergency in effect for the last year and a half. Some of these young victims gave terrifying testimony at the conference as to the methods used by the apartheid authorities to torture and abuse them for the "crime" of fighting back against apartheid rule.

The main organizers of this conference were the banned African National Congress (ANC), the mass movement in the forefront of the South African struggle, as well as other anti-apartheid activists from South Africa and representatives from 30 countries including the U.S. and Great Britain. Progressive South African doctors and lawyers attended the conference to substantiate the testimony given by the determined youth.

The Detainees' Parents Support Group, which monitors repression in South Africa, believes between 25,000 and 30,000 people have been detained during the state of emergency, roughly one-third of them under the age of 18.

The second conference was organized by a group of progressive whites who oppose the apartheid regime. Called "Towards Democracy: Whites in a Changing South Africa," it was attended by 800 delegates from around the country and was held at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. The conference was the first of its kind with discussions taking place on the various ways that whites could play a helpful role in the

movement for a truly democratic, non-racial South Africa. The significant role played by both the African National Congress and the United Democratic Front in the South African struggle was highlighted at this conference, although there was no unified view by the delegates on the need for the armed struggle led by the ANC.

The ANC, nevertheless, views this conference as "a positive first step" in the process of winning over white elements to the idea of abandoning the dying apartheid system and joining the revolutionary struggle. This development can only serve to strengthen the overall national liberation movement for a free South Africa.



**Protest murder of labor leader.** Over 100 people demonstrated Sept. 23 outside the Philippine consulate in New York City condemning the murder of Leandro Alejandro, leader of Bayan, the largest legal left organization in the Philippines. The demonstrators condemned the role of the CIA in organizing death squads in the Philippines and demanded an end to U.S. military aid to the regime and the withdrawal of U.S. bases. The demonstration was organized by the Alliance for Philippine Concerns. Solidarity messages were given by several trade unionists as well as representatives of Young Koreans United, the Peoples Anti-War Mobilization and United Labor Action. A delegation went inside and presented a list of demands to the Philippine Foreign Secretary, who was in the consulate at the time.

WW PHOTO: CHRIS ANTHONY

# U.S., French military subvert people's movement in South Pacific

By John Catalinotto

Washington and Paris showed in September that they are both prepared to use the most ruthless measures to maintain imperialist control over the South Sea islands they dominate.

In Fiji, the military on Sept. 25 again took control of the government. Like the coup last May 14, this was led by Col. Sitiveni Rabuka. The latest coup disrupted talks being held to set up a coalition government that was to include the prime minister deposed earlier, Timoci Bavadra.

The U.S. was implicated in the May coup when members of the deposed government stated that the takeover had been planned with the collaboration of William Paupe, a high-level official at the U.S. Embassy in Fiji. They called Paupe "a barefoot Ollie North." There were even charges by the deputy speaker of the deposed Fijian parliament that a dozen U.S. marines carried out the original seizure of parliament before being replaced by Fijians.

There was no denying U.S. interest in the coup. The newly elected government which the May coup deposed had supported joining New Zealand and Vanuatu in pressing for a nuclear-free South Pacific. This policy brought down the wrath of the Penta-

gon. It also brought the U.S.'s UN Ambassador Gen. Vernon Walters to Fiji from April 29 to May 1 to try to convince the new government to abandon its anti-nuclear position.

Melanesian Fijians make up about half of the 714,000 people who populate Fiji's 300 islands. The rest of the population are descendants of indentured farm laborers, mostly cane cutters, brought from India by Britain, the old colonial power.

The military regime claims to defend the rights of the Melanesians, but none of the progressive Melanesian governments or organizations in the area support the coup. And the opposition party the military deposed consists of both ethnic Indians and Melanesians.

## French rigged election

While the U.S. has chosen the military coup as the instrument of its policy in Fiji, French imperialism has combined a number of tactics to keep colonial possession of the island they call New Caledonia. The original Melanesian people of the island call it Kanaky. On Sept. 13, a referendum election supposedly to determine whether the island become independent or remain French decided by 98.3% to stay French.

The catch is that only 58% of the

population voted. Because they felt the election was rigged, the liberation organization FLNKS asked the Kanak people, who make up 43% of the 114,000 inhabitants, to boycott the election. Some 83% of the Kanaks registered to vote either backed the boycott or voted for independence.

The Kanak leaders had asked that voting be restricted to those with at least one parent born on the island. While this may seem undemocratic, the reality of the Kanaky situation is that French imperialism encouraged much recent immigration expressly to make the original people a minority, much as the Hawaiian people have been made a minority on their islands.

About 38% of the population are of European-French origin, with many coming from former French colonies like Vietnam or Algeria. These "colons" include many fascist elements and most of the big landholders and exploiters of the rich nickel-mines.

Another 19% of the population are Polynesians and Vietnamese who Paris encouraged to go to New Caledonia, believing they would be less likely to have sympathy for a Kanak-led independence movement.

When, at the end of 1984, the Kanak movement showed its strength, the then Socialist Party government in France with Mitterrand as president

maneuvered to deny them a victory. Additional French troops were sent with the excuse of preventing violence between the fascist colons and the Kanaks. Instead, in January 1985 French sharpshooters assassinated Eloi Machoro, the leader of the military wing of the Kanak movement.

## French police beat Kanak demonstrators

Currently there are over 7,000 French troops and police on the island. At a demonstration of 500 FLNKS supporters in the capital, Noumea, the month before the election, these police attacked using nightsticks and tear gas.

The current rightist French government, which is led by Prime Minister Jacques Chirac but still has Mitterrand as president, announced after the referendum that France would begin using its Noumea naval port for its nuclear submarines and would enlarge the airport to receive nuclear-laden Jaguar bombers.

France has been under increasing attack by the people of the South Seas for its use of Moruroa Atoll near Tahiti for nuclear testing. The U.S. has run up against resistance to its nuclear fleet from the same population. The rulers of both countries have resorted to maneuvers, bribery and force to maintain control of the area.

# 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 loaded with dangerous pesticides that growers use to make them look more attractive to the consumer. These pesticides are also 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 are different than in the past. There are no 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. A video titled "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 and consumers by the reckless use of deadly poisons in agriculture."

Included in the video is the story of Juan Chabolla, a 32-year-old man who died in 1985 while working in a rural San Diego tomato field that had been sprayed an hour before 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 included: 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 community near Delano, and six have died.

The UFW is informing communities wherever the video is shown about the dangerous pesticides and the need to control their use in the agricultural fields and in the factories. 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 produced 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 now being used: parathion, phosdrin, captan, dinoseb and methyl bromide; 3) joint UFW-grower 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 dras-

tically dropped, from as much as \$25 a case to \$7. Several major farms have told 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 demanding. State-passed laws such as the bathroom and drinking water laws are useless unless there's a contract and it clearly stipulates what 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 agribusiness 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. Dunkel

Are you ready for this? Acid rain is no threat, at least yet. It does no damage to either health or the environment, except in remote areas of the Northeast.

These are the interim conclusions, issued Sept. 18, of a study group set up by the Reagan administration to fulfill a promise it made to spend \$2.5 billion on "solving" 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 rain that contains weak sulfuric acid, primarily created by burning "dirty" coal.)

The study group was headed by Dr. J. Laurence Kulp, 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 was immediately challenged by a broad group of activists, scientists, members of Congress and the 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 misrepresentation of research has been muted by scientists' fear of losing their grants. But Dr. Michael Oppenheimer, an atmospheric physicist, said the conclusion that acid rain contributed little to forest damage was a "startling misrepresentation."

Archibald Jones, professor of renewable resources at McGill Univer-

sity in Montreal, says that more than half the sugar maple trees in eastern Quebec have suffered foliage damage and Quebec's maple syrup producers estimate their loss at \$100 million (Can). Once a sugar maple loses 25% of its leaves, it dies.

A spokesman for another environmental group attacked the assumptions the study group used to predict lower levels of acid rain as "implausible," and added, "This report is designed to make people believe the Reagan administration line 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 consequences. But if Reagan allows the big utility companies and the coal mining barons 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.

## — Chicago

Continued from page 4

tember 9 the Chicago city council unanimously passed a resolution in support of a national moratorium on layoffs and plant closings. The measure, introduced by Alderperson Jesus Garcia, declares that "plant closings and layoffs will create a disaster in the Chicago area and in many other cities." It calls for the reopening and renovation of shutdown plants, and provides that copies of the resolution will be sent to all Illinois senators and representatives as well as "to other cities to urge them to join the campaign."

The Illinois campaign is mobilizing for a rally and march to begin at noon, Oct. 24, at the State of Illinois Building in downtown Chicago.



## CALENDAR

### BALTIMORE

Sat., Oct. 3: "Eyewitness Cuba" slide show. Also, update on developments in Nicaragua. 7:00 p.m. At 426 E. 31 St., call (301) 889-9318.

### DETROIT

Sat., Oct. 3: The struggle against lesbian and gay oppression and the Oct. 11 National March on Washington. Workers World Forum. 6:00 p.m. At 1945 Grand River, call (313) 962-4979.

Sun., Oct. 4: March against U.S. intervention in Latin America and in support of the South African struggle. Join Workers World contingent. Call (313) 962-4979.

### NEW YORK CITY

Fri., Oct. 9: International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners. Program sponsored by the African National Congress. 6:30 p.m. At Martin Luther King Center, 310 W. 43rd St., call (212) 490-3487.

### SAN FRANCISCO

Sun. Oct. 4: Lenin's "State and Revolution." Workers World Forum. 7:00 p.m. At 2489 Mission, #30, call (415) 826-4828.

### WASHINGTON

Fri., Oct. 2: The Oct. 11 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Workers World Forum. 7:30 p.m. At Wilson Center, 1470 Irving St., NW, call (202) 667-3957.

## 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, Asian and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian and gay, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

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

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## — Bus strike

Continued from page 4

And these drivers make their living from desegregation."

In yet another illegal interference into private collective bargaining, the superintendent yesterday demanded that the union go back to work and submit to binding arbitration.

The drivers are legally striking three private, multi-million-dollar bus companies for better wages, benefits and working conditions. There are strong picketlines, no scabs and support is pouring in daily.

In a major victory for the union, the mechanics yesterday won their first contract. They recently joined the local and have been on strike with the drivers.

The strikers, who have answered every gimmick, stall tactic and distortion, today optimistically chanted, "2,4,6,8, the bus companies must negotiate! No contract, no work!"



# Political prisoners

## Shocking new testimony exonerates Brandley

By Joanne Gavin  
Galveston, Texas

Clarence Brandley's evidentiary hearing for a new trial opened here 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, stepped 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-man white maintenance crew that Brandley had supervised at the school. Sessum testified that he had witnessed another janitor, Gary Acreman, follow and grab the victim, who screamed for help. Later, a second



Clarence Brandley's supporters pack courtroom in Conroe, Texas, during hearing which won a change of venue to Galveston.

WW PHOTO: CHRIS CHRISTIANSON

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 night-

mares he has of the murder and his failure to stop it.

On Tuesday, the first witness called was Gary Acreman, 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 80% of all the pediatric cases.

An activist program was laid out by Terry Beswick, whose group, The AIDS Action Pledge, "plans to build a movement around the country demanding AIDS education, centrally coordinated research, a fully-funded national health care program and public accountability."

Beswick's organization is a coalition that organizes civil disobedience to fight AIDS and opposes quarantine, mandatory testing, and all discriminatory measures.

### A moonshot effort — whatever it takes

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

In reference to the recent \$1.5 billion bail-out 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-gay bigotry." He called for a "moonshot effort, whatever it takes," to fight the AIDS epidemic.

Keith Pavlik of Workers World Party pointed out that the money to fight AIDS is there, but tied up in the \$460 billion Pentagon budget. Pavlik showed with simple arithmetic that this breaks down to about \$20 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."

Zoe Kastl 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 Ayling, representative of the People's Anti-War Mobilization on the National and New York City Steering Committees for the march; and Keith Pavlik.

## On the picket line

**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 hold football games in the next week, and the television networks are eager to broadcast the scab games. Scabs training for their big moment in the spotlight, however, face a gauntlet of angry strikers every day when they cross the picketlines to take their jobs, and most of the few players who have broken the strike are highly-paid superstars, like the Jets' Mark Gastineau, who don't have to worry about the vital strike issues of job security and union rights. The AFL-CIO is mobilizing support for the NFL strike, with rallies and mass picketlines planned in Kansas City, Dallas, Houston, New Orleans, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Detroit and other cities. While unabashedly anti-union reporters try to whip up football fans against the strike, reality for most football players is short, injury-filled careers and no job security. That's why the issues, which include pensions, medical insurance and union security, are real and why the strikers deserve the support of the labor movement.

**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 1986 — 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 unions certified by workers to represent them almost doubled between 1984 and 1986, when there were 423 new unions elected. And there's a correlation between number of women members and union membership as a 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 these 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 knuckle 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 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.

**Coshocton update.** Three weeks after cops and goons attacked their Labor Day solidarity rally, strikers at the Stone Container Corp. in Coshocton, 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 Operating Engineers Locals 544 and 589 to demonstrate continued solidarity even in the face of the earlier police violence — and this time, the cops maintained hands off. And again on Sept. 13, yet another solidarity march took place in Coshocton.

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

By Petra Guerra

El 24 de octubre se llevará a cabo la Convención de Inquilinos, Pequeños Proprietarios y Desamparados patrocinado 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 Campaña 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 comités y tienen dinero, nuestro dinero. Imagínense lo 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 voz bastante fuerte, más fuerte que la de los caseros."

Los inquilinos que se enfrentan a todo tipo de problemas tales como el hostigamiento, la discriminación y la amenaza al desalojo, tienen mucha razón al unirse a esta convención, no tienen nada que perder y mucho que ganar. La convención se llevará a efecto en la escuela P.S. 11 Martin Luther King Jr. ubicada en la avenida



Protesta convocada por la Coalición para Exigir \$1.000 millones por Viviendas.

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. Está planeado ir en carros y usar megáfonos anunciando la convención y alentando al pueblo a acudir. Se necesitan desde 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 Catalinotto

Acorralado 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, los Reaganistas acordaron 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 insultos 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 eliminarían 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 restantes proyectiles SS-4 y los de alcance corto, SS-12/22 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 aprobó, aunque informalmente, desmantelar los proyectiles de corto alcance que estén 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.

Desde 1981 hasta 1983, millones de europeos han llevado a cabo protestas en un intento por detener estas instalaciones. Esta misma demanda fue hecha en junio de 1982, durante una manifestación de más de medio millón de personas en Nueva York.

En estos últimos siete años el movimiento europeo en contra de la guerra, lo mismo que 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 quiere las reducciones de armas nucleares.

En su primera administración, Reagan, abiertamente lanzó una flagrante y hostil campaña contra la URSS, denunciándolo como un "imperio maligno", que debería ser destruido, y para así poder engrosar 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, mortificando así a los militaristas y derechistas de este país.

Confrontado con su paridad militar soviética, la presión popular en Europa y Estados Unidos y la pérdida de credibilidad por el escándalo Iran-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 infle de retórica anti-comunista se puede desinflar con la verdad y la conciencia del pueblo.

### 9 mil millones costaron los misiles

El costo de los misiles cruceros y los Pershing II, que ahora van a ser desplazados, fué de más de 9 mil millones de dólares, según publicó William Arkin en la revista Bulletin of Atomic Scientist del pasado octubre. Desde el punto de vista del trabajador, el desempleo y los pobres de Estados Unidos, esto no fué 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 mortíferos dispositivos nucleares que estos proyectiles contienen.

Son estas corporaciones capitalistas las que demandan la expansión militar, 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 cancelación de programas como la "guerra de las galaxias."

### EE.UU. viola el tratado ABM de 1972

El mismo día en que se firmó el tratado, el complejo militar-industrial confabulaba para saquear la tesorería nacional. El 18 de septiembre el Secretario de la Defensa Caspar Weinberger aprobó la decisión para llevar a cabo pruebas preliminares de un sistema de armas espaciales, que podrían ser usados en la década de los 90 como parte de la "guerra de las galaxias."

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

Acercas de este plan, la Unión de Científicos Preocupados 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 pequeño comparado con los que quedan. Lo importante de este acuerdo está en la reducción de tensiones entre Estados 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.