



workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

X-523

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White House caught in contra-drug connection

Pentagon also implicated even as Senate votes wider powers for military

By Andy Stapp

They gave it the code name Arms Supermarket. It was a major enterprise, running guns to the contras in Nicaragua and drugs into the U.S. And the men in charge sat at the highest levels of the U.S. government.

These latest revelations about Washington's deep involvement in narco-terrorism come from the sworn testimony of arms dealer Richard Brenneke to the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee investigating drug trafficking. Excerpts appear in the current (May 21) issue of Newsweek.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Senate has voted to expand the Pentagon's role in drug enforcement. Coming from the very same government that has been running drugs for years, how can this measure be considered as a serious attempt to stop the anguishing problem of drug abuse, which is at epidemic proportions?

Critics see this cynical use of an explosive social issue as a cover for increased U.S. military intervention, especially against Third World countries.

Brenneke, who once worked for both the CIA and Israeli intelligence (Mos-

sad), testified that from 1984 to 1986 the U.S. government collaborated with Colombian drug barons in a covert operation utilizing the cocaine cartel's aircraft for arms drops to the contras. (See article on Colombia, page 8.)

The same planes were then used to smuggle drug shipments into the U.S., says Brenneke. He told the senators how all the players fit into this scheme: the Mossad secret service and Honduran army intelligence acting as middlemen, George Bush's national security adviser Donald Gregg supervising overall as "the Washington contact."

Brenneke said he personally flew one drug shipment into Amarillo, Texas, in mid-1985, then tried to tell Gregg how the contra operation was being operated as a cover for drug smuggling.

According to Newsweek, Gregg told Brenneke, "You do what you're assigned to do. Don't question your betters."

Committee staffers told Newsweek they have confirmed Brenneke's account from both a Mossad agent and a second source as well.

George Bush has refused to comment on these charges, perhaps feel-

ing it is impudent for a low subordinate like Brenneke to question his orders and then compound the error by having the bad taste to spill his guts to a Senate committee. Bush is, after all, not only the former boss of the CIA but President Reagan's hand-picked choice to head the South Florida Drug Taskforce.

How ironic all this must seem to the people of Panama and Mexico and the Bahamas and all those other countries Washington has been sternly lecturing about drugs, even indicting or threatening to indict their government leaders!

How absurd that U.S. Special Forces were rushed down to Bolivia, allegedly to fight against cocaine production there, when the national security adviser to the Republican candidate for President in this country was apparently running a major drug ring!

And how utterly ridiculous and ominous that on May 13 the U.S. Senate should vote 83 to 6 to direct the Pentagon to arrest drug smugglers!

Will the Pentagon arrest Admiral John Poindexter, General Richard Secord and Colonel Oliver North? Why

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YOUTH DEFY THE BAN. Despite the greatly increased repression, these young freedom fighters unfurled the flag of the banned African National Congress (ANC) at a May Day rally in Cape Town. After the audience of 3,000 roared its approval, they melted back into the crowd. In a separate development, a special conference of the Congress of South African Trade Unions held at Witwatersrand University has called for a three-day general strike on June 6-8 to protest the apartheid regime's state of emergency. Union officials at the conference assailed the Western imperialist countries for failing to impose sanctions on the apartheid regime. The workers sang anti-apartheid songs and paid tribute to both the ANC and the South African Communist Party in defiance of the outlawing of both organizations.

PHOTO: AFRAPIX/IMPACT VISUALS

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U.S. veterans are organizing caravan of food, medicine to Nicaragua.

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'STAY IN LANSING'

Jobless plan to camp on Michigan governor's doorstep until demands are met.

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HARVARD ORGANIZED

Workers win union protection from 'liberal' ivy league bosses.

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Emma Groves of Belfast was blinded in 1971 by a rubber bullet (right). On left is a plastic bullet. PHOTO: GUNTER BEER, IMPACT VISUALS

Campaign set to ban plastic bullets in Ireland, S. Africa, Palestine

By Betsey Piette Philadelphia

May 12 — The systematic use of plastic bullets as a murder and terror weapon against oppressed peoples in Northern Ireland, occupied Palestine and South Africa was the focus of a meeting here tonight. Attention was drawn to an international campaign to ban their use.

Plastic bullets are now used almost casually in a way that conventional bullets never could be for fear of public outrage. While allegedly an "anti-riot" weapon, the majority of deaths and injuries resulting from their use have occurred outside of a "crowd control" situation.

Speakers from Northern Ireland and Palestine as well as a U.S. anti-apartheid activist addressed the popular misconceptions regarding their use. Actual plastic and rubber bullets were available for the audience to examine.

Far from being small, soft, harmless and toy-like objects as their name implies, plastic bullets (referred to by police as anti-riot batons) are nearly four inches long, over an inch in diameter, and hard enough to inflict injury if used in a hand-held weapon, let alone a projectile.

While rubber bullets (banned in Northern Ireland after three deaths resulted from their use) are fired at the ground and bounce against the legs of their victims, plastic bullets are usually directed at the head or chest. Many of those killed or maimed by plastic bullets have been children.

Eileen Kelly of Belfast, the mother of one of these victims, told of the death of her daughter Carol Ann in 1981. Responding to reports of a "riot situation" that turned out to be a false alarm, British soldiers fired a plastic

bullet at close range, blowing away the back part of Carol Ann's head. Mrs. Kelly explained that the plastic bullets are fired at velocities up to 200 m.p.h. and have caused numerous deaths and serious injuries, including blindness.

After years of delayed hearings and a prolonged inquest, the soldiers involved were exonerated by the courts. She said they found that "since Carol Ann Kelly was with three children, which under British laws of occupation could be construed as a riot, therefore the soldiers had every right to shoot." Eileen Kelly pursued her case by writing a letter of protest to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Thatcher's response was a letter advising Kelly to "help the police all you can."

In South Africa, while specific details are not available because of the media ban, it is known that plastic and rubber bullets are used, as well as live ammunition, as part of the apartheid regime's "riot control technology" that has resulted in thousands of deaths of black South Africans.

In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where over 180 Palestinians were killed by Israeli soldiers over the past six months, over 60 of these deaths were the result of so-called "humane methods" — plastic and rubber bullets and tear gas. George Zahir, a member of the Palestine Aid Society, reported that the Israeli soldiers have even invented a cannon to shoot rocks back at demonstrators.

"In the campaign to ban the use of inhumane weapons," Zahir noted, "we have to look at the bigger issue of human rights — namely the right of people to determine their own destiny, and not have someone who doesn't be-

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Harvard law students win victory over racism

By Phebe Eckfeldt Boston

May 12 — After a 24-hour sit-in at the office of the Dean of Harvard Law School, 200 Black students have forced the Dean to agree to act on seven of their 12 demands.

The sit-in, which began May 10, ended with a march and rally yesterday. Black, Latin, Asian and Native students and their supporters demanded the school give high priority to minority hiring; improve student representation on faculty appointments; provide information and support to a minority student center; help prospective minority faculty members; deal with problems related to living in the Harvard community; propose the faculty renew a 1982 statement on the importance of minority appointments and seek a way to im-

prove student-faculty communications on minority issues in first-year courses.

Said the president of the Harvard Black Law Students Association, Robert Wilkins, "It is clear that pressure is necessary. This inconvenience was very important and very successful. But we are not done yet. Two of the most important demands have not been resolved." These are the hiring of 20 professors "of diverse origins" within four years and hiring a Black woman professor with tenure by fall 1988.

Harvard Law School has two tenured Black male professors, two Black male assistant professors, one Black male visiting professor, and no Black women in a staff consisting of 61 tenured professors, 7 assistant professors and 14 visiting professors.

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, Latino, Asian, Arab 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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CALENDAR

ATLANTA

Fri., May 27: Benefit concert featuring the Pan People's Steel Band. Proceeds to support Cooperatively Organized and Run Employment Service, an organization of homeless workers, and the All-Peoples Congress. 7:30 p.m. \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. At the Academy Theater, 14th Street and Courtland. Call (404) 688-7422.

NEW YORK

Sat., June 4: Major regional demonstration to show solidarity with Palestinian people and to mark the 21st year of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Gather at 12 noon at Times Square in Manhattan. Called by Palestine Solidarity Committee. Call (212) 557-5410.

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Sat., June 4: Workers World Party campaign rally and community

speakout. 7:30 p.m. At New Bethel Church, 270 Scio St. Call (716) 342-5707.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sat., May 21: "Malcolm X, Jesse Jackson: The struggle for self-determination." Featuring Monica Moorehead, national organizer for All-Peoples Congress. Also, film: "Autobiography of Malcolm X." 7:30 p.m. Donation. At Women's Building, 3543 18th St. Call (415) 826-4828.

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Bundle rates available on request

Shoreham nuke plant dies, people left with bill

Proposed deal gives tax breaks, guaranteed profits to bosses

By Sara Flounders
New York

On May 11 a plan to abandon the Shoreham nuclear power plant, the most expensive nuclear plant ever built in the world, was announced.

Although cost overruns of 30% to 100% seem to be just part of doing business for giant nuclear and military contractors, the Shoreham plant was already a staggering 7,600% over budget! The enormous cost to build this plant was \$5.3 billion. This was spent despite massive opposition by the people of Long Island, N.Y., who already pay the second-highest utility rates in the country.

This is the first time in the U.S. a completed nuclear plant was shut down before beginning operation. In order to guarantee a profit to LILCO, the utility company which built this fiasco, the plan calls for funding the shutdown with 10 years of additional rate increases of 4% to 5% a year.

Record of corruption and mismanagement

For 20 years LILCO and the Shoreham nuclear plant have been the target of demonstrations, rallies, mass petition campaigns, exposes and court suits by progressive community organizations, trade unions and environmental groups. This huge nuclear facility has been opposed particularly because, while it stands in the middle of a densely populated area, the company could produce no feasible evacuation plan in the event of an accident.

And such an accident, should Shoreham ever be put into operation, is hardly a far-out possibility. LILCO has been fined record penalties of \$1.3 billion for pervasive mismanagement of construction and has been cited for hundreds of thousands of mistakes and violations. LILCO passed the penalties on to consumers; records of the violations, more than a thousand reports, were found at a Long Island garbage dump.

A recently published book, *Power Crazy* by Karl Grossman, documents the corruption, theft and total disregard for public safety of this utility company, which is closely tied to and controlled by Citibank.

Profits before people — the Cuomo solution

Some 77% of the 1.3 million residents of Suffolk County where the nuclear plant is located were opposed to

the plant going into operation. In the face of this overwhelming opposition and LILCO's record of corruption and safety violations, New York State Governor Mario Cuomo was forced to come up with a plan. But it amounts to saving the stockholders' profits while writing off a construction disaster and a political liability.

The construction of the Shoreham plant was paid for by the poor and working people of Long Island through exorbitant electric rates. Now, if the plan goes through, they will have to pay again for its closing. However, LILCO stockholders will be compensated for their "loss of Shoreham" with a \$2.5 billion tax writeoff, 10 years of guaranteed rate increases and the right to float \$100 million in tax-exempt industrial development bonds!

Not even considered is how the people of Long Island can be compensated. The indictment of the board of directors and the top stockholders for criminal conspiracy, corruption, theft of public funds and reckless endangerment of public health and safety has not been raised by any of the politicians. Clearly, the Shoreham struggle is not yet over.



Protests have stopped new nuke plants, but profit system still takes its toll.

Shell Oil spills ecodisaster on Bay Area

By Stephanie Hedgecock
San Francisco

May 9 — Shell Oil Co. faces criminal indictment for violation of state and federal environmental laws over a major oil spill April 23 into Carquinez Strait in the San Francisco Bay. No fine imposed on this oil giant, however, can repair the permanent toxic damage created by corporate greed nor will it prevent such disasters in the future.

As much as 300,000 gallons of heavy crude oil flowed out of a leaky storage tank at Shell's Martinez refinery and contaminated the 100-acre Shell Marsh, Suisun Bay and shorelines from Vallejo east into the Delta area. Initial cleanup costs are estimated at \$2 million.

Television coverage has focused on the attempts to save some of the poisoned birds and other marsh wildlife. Cleanup workers had to use two-by-fours to get animals out of the asphalt-like crude oil. But besides the bird slaughter, the oil spill has caused

a far-reaching ecological catastrophe.

When crude oil sinks into water and wetland sediments, lethal substances such as benzenes saturate the area. Benzenes are poisonous to the entire food chain from phytoplankton to humans.

Additionally, the site of the spill is of critical importance. Tidal marshlands are the most productive habitats in the world as well as possibly the most endangered. According to environmentalists wetlands provide 80% of the food for fish, nesting and resting habitat for birds and wildlife, and also filter metals and toxins out of essential ground water.

No warning devices

Shell originally tried to lay the blame for an open drainage control valve on a refinery worker. But in a May 6 hearing of the State Senate Toxics and Public Safety Management Committee, Shell Oil was exposed for having no warning devices to detect refinery spills and repeatedly dodged

questions on safety plans.

At a May 2 press conference, an environmental coalition demanded Shell turn the marshland over to the public and fund its long-term rehabilitation. The coalition included the Audubon Society, Earth First!, Greenpeace, the Sierra Club and other environmental and community groups such as West County Toxics Coalition, which has been fighting the pollution of Bay Area oppressed communities by oil company refineries.

Greenpeace spokesperson Bradley Angel told this reporter that corporations are, in effect, "given a license to pollute. Plants are allowed to be located in sensitive areas and there is no regulation. Then when problems occur, fines are seen as a normal cost of business."

Only socialist planning can bring an end to the disasters caused by corporate greed. And only socialist planning will be able to restore and enhance the fragile ecosystem on which all life depends.

Movement forms to fight Kodak's 'Love Canal'

By Gene Clancy
Rochester, N.Y.

Eastman Kodak, often hailed by big business circles as a paternalistic "model company," has been caught red-handed dumping toxic wastes right in its own backyard. Unfortunately, Kodak's backyard is made up of the backyards of thousands of local residents who will be forced to pay the health and economic consequences of the film giant's criminal practices.

Kodak's response to the problem it created has been notably less than helpful, to the extent that even the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has labeled the Kodak plan to deal with the problem "glaringly deficient."

Local residents, outraged at the refusal of one of the world's largest corporations to make even token amends, have decided to make a public appeal for support. Joseph Polito of the Concerned Neighbors of Kodak Park says that the group has so far been unsuccessful

in getting any relief and that "the process is bogging us down."

Kodak's actions are all the more outrageous because they coincide with the announcement of the highest-ever cash dividend for shareholders for the quarter just ended. Profits for the first quarter of 1988 were nearly \$400 million. World-wide revenues for the company next year are projected at \$17 billion, a 28% increase over last year's \$13.3 billion.

Kodak, which has been expanding into diversified industries such as drugs and pharmaceuticals, sells more film in Japan than does its biggest world rival, Fuji Film. (This didn't stop Kodak from using its influence last fall to bar a Fuji employee from attending the University of Rochester.)

Fervently anti-union, Kodak carefully tries to cultivate an image of "paternalism" in its relations with workers and the community. As the biggest employer in the area (Kodak employs 50,000 in a city of 250,000),

the giant multinational dominates the local politicians and media and has fought union organizers by running the city as a sort of company town.

It required a militant civil rights struggle in the 1960s just to get Kodak to hire Black workers, a struggle which had to be conducted against not only the company but the city and county governments and the single-newspaper media!

The image of the "big yellow mother" (as Kodak is sometimes seriously referred to here) has been further shattered in recent years. Two years ago, a layoff of nearly 10,000 workers devastated the local economy. The workers were curtly notified by security guards, who then escorted them to the plant gates.

The current scandal erupted early this month when soil samples of neighboring property revealed high concentrations of toxic metals. Then, as DEC officials were leaving an interview with Kodak officials who claimed to be taking "all appropriate

measures," they actually saw toxic chemicals being dumped on Kodak property in flagrant violation of federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations.

Despite the dangerous nature of the recent discoveries, the local power structure has tried to downplay the entire incident. Dr. Karen Bell, assistant deputy director of the Monroe County Health Department, said she was "astounded" at the Concerned Neighbors' relatively moderate demand that Kodak give written assurance it will pay for an independent technical adviser to oversee additional testing.

A former employee of the local DEC told this reporter that he discovered environmental violations five years ago, but was told by his superiors at DEC to say nothing and never to reveal his findings!

It is obvious that a concerted and organized effort by the entire community is necessary to protect their very health and safety from this corporate scofflaw.

Uprising forces new thinking among Jewish people

By B. Benowitz

"There are no Palestinians," Golda Meir, Israel's Prime Minister during the 1967 war, once declared.

But the uprising of the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank, which has continued now for over 22 weeks, has forced Jewish people in Israel and the U.S. to recognize that not only do the Palestinian people exist, but their demands for justice must be listened to.

The uprising has brought about a fundamental break in the unanimity that was demanded of Jews on the question of the oppression of Palestinian people by the state of Israel.

While democracy is supposed to prevail in Israel, the slightest criticism of the government on its mistreatment of Palestinians has been considered treason. The topic was taboo in Parliament, censored out of the press, silenced in private.

In Jewish communities in the U.S., anyone who tried to differ on the question of the Palestinians was labeled a "self-hating Jew" whose views weren't worth consideration. People who persisted in talking about the Palestinians became targets of violence from organized thugs such as the so-called Jewish Defense League.

But the uprising has swelled the "peace movement" of Jews that developed into a significant political force in Israel after the invasion of Lebanon.

Jewish opposition to the brutal suppression of Palestinians is manifested daily. One day it's a sit-in of Jewish and Arab students at Hebrew University. Another day it's the publication of a petition by Jewish mental health workers condemning the effects of the beatings on Palestinian children.

Jewish soldiers join protests

Street protests of thousands have included reservists and soldiers on leave openly wearing their uniforms. Army reservists have signed an open



April 24 demonstration of 5,000 in New York called by coalition of Jewish groups.

PHOTO: JUDY JANDA, IMPACT VISUALS

pledge to refuse future duty in the occupied territories.

Recognizing the importance of the growing dissent among the soldiers, the underground leadership of the uprising is distributing a leaflet in Hebrew appealing to the soldiers to stop their killings and beatings and refuse any further duty in Gaza and the West Bank.

Progressive Jewish organizations opposing the government's policies in the occupied territories have sprouted up in Israel and the U.S., generating a flurry of rallies, publications, books, street theater, movies. Delegations and individuals have traveled to Tunis and other countries to talk with the PLO, something still considered

treasonable.

Increasingly the Israeli state is applying the totalitarian measures it uses against the Palestinians to Jews as well. One example was the closing down of the progressive newspaper "Derech Hanitzuz" and the later arrest of its journalist Ya'akov Arfat. Arfat's lawyer was told simply that his client was being held for reasons of "security."

The movement in Israel has helped Jews in the U.S. recognize the terrible oppression of the Palestinians and raise their voices against it. For the first time, progressive delegations condemning the crimes in the occupied territories participated in the annual, massive Israel Day Parade in New York City and received considerable support.

And on the following day, April 24, a

coalition of Jewish organizations pulled together a protest of 5,000 people on Manhattan's upper West Side to demand "Halt the violence" and "End the occupation."

Although at this time the leadership of this growing movement still supports an Israeli state in most of what is Palestine and is unclear about the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, the development of a movement of mass opposition to the U.S.-Israeli war machine marks a historic turning point for Jewish people. Just as the Tet Offensive of the Vietnamese began a fundamental reversal of mass support in the U.S. for the Vietnam War, the current Palestinian uprising is ending decades of unquestioning support of Jewish people for Israel's atrocities on behalf of its U.S. imperialist masters.

June 4th: Day of protest against Israeli occupation

By Scott Scheffer

Five months ago, tens of thousands of Palestinians poured out of refugee camps in the Gaza Strip to protest the murder of five Palestinian workers whose van had been deliberately rammed by an Israeli armored personnel carrier. The murder of those Palestinian workers sparked the current 5-month rebellion against 20 years of brutal U.S.-backed Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank.

Every day since then there have been battles between the heavily armed Israeli army and the Palestinian people, armed only with stones and Molotov cocktails. This year, 20% of all U.S. arms sent abroad, or \$3.3 billion in weapons, will go to Israel. It is this U.S. support that makes the occupation possible.

The rebellion has included recurring general strikes among Palestinian construction workers, farm workers and those who work in posh U.S.-owned hotels. It has rocked the Israeli economy and has spread to the Palestinian workers inside Israel as well. And it has evoked solidarity actions in the U.S. On June 4, one such action will take place.

June 4 is the 21st anniversary of the 1967 war, when the U.S.-backed Israeli armed forces first occupied Gaza and the West Bank. The Palestine Solidar-

ity Committee has initiated actions around the country to mark the day of the invasion and to show support for the uprising.

These regional actions have received the endorsement of trade unionists, anti-racist and anti-war groups, student, community and religious organizations. The protests will demand a stop to the killing, beating, imprisonment and expulsion of Palestinians, an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and a stop to U.S. funding of the occupation.

In New York City, people will gather at the Times Square recruiting station at 43rd St. and Broadway at 12 noon, begin a march down Broadway past Israeli government offices at 1 p.m., and then rally at Union Square at 3 p.m. People are organizing to come to the march from Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Hartford, Conn., Providence, R.I., many cities in New York and New Jersey, and as far away as Atlanta.

In San Francisco, a march will begin at United Nations Plaza at 11:30 and go to Union Square for a rally. There are also regional actions being planned in Houston, Chicago, Seattle and Tucson, Ariz.

For more information about the march call: New York City (212) 557-5410; San Francisco (415) 861-1552; Houston (713) 668-2145; Chicago (312) 342-2986.

Israel's 40th birthday met with protests

May 15 marked the 40th anniversary of Israel. In Boston, Atlanta and New York, Palestinians and their supporters held activities to mark this date as one of continuing struggle for self-determination and an independent state.

The arrogance and racism of the Zionist movement were clearly shown in Boston on May 15. Despite four decades of expropriating many aspects of Palestinian Arab culture, the Zionists were giving children camel rides as part of a celebration of the 40th anni-

versary of Israel's statehood.

To counter this and show support for a Palestinian state, about 75 Palestinians and their Arab and North American supporters marched to and picketed the main entrance to the Israeli celebration. Above them, a small plane flew a banner which stated "Palestinian statehood: Now" for all of Boston and the surrounding cities to see.

Kathryn Silver, coordinator of the Coalition for Palestinian Rights, or

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Atlanta demonstration supports Palestinians.

WW PHOTO: TOM DORAN

Veterans organize peace convoy to help Nicaragua

Will leave Texas June 7 with food, medicine

By Teresa Gutierrez
Houston, Texas

In a massive show of solidarity with the people of Nicaragua, a group of veterans and their supporters are sending a convoy of vehicles to that beleaguered country. On June 7, 44 trucks, six buses and one fire engine will leave Austin, Texas, in a huge caravan for Nicaragua.

This full-scale assistance project has been organized by the recently formed Veterans Peace Convoy to Nicaragua. Once there the vehicles, along with their cargo of collected goods, will be donated to the Nicaraguan people.

The widespread support sparked by the peace convoy shows it clearly represents widespread anti-war and anti-contra sentiment in this country.

The idea came when a group of veterans, 19 of whom had traveled to Nicaragua, came together in late 1987 to show opposition to U.S. foreign policy and do something in genuine solidarity with the Nicaraguan people. Moved by what they had seen there, these veterans formed the peace convoy to show they don't want another military intervention, this time in Central America.

These veterans had experienced U.S. imperialism's bloody drive for conquest and exploitation first-hand. They say that U.S. support for the contras is but one more unjust provocation against people who are only struggling for a better way of life.

Food, medicine, school buses

Support for the Veterans' Peace Convoy has mushroomed throughout the country. From as far as Monzula, Mont., to Seattle, Wash., to Bangor, Maine, people have mobilized to gather material aid. The trucks and buses will be filled with over 30 tons of food, primarily oats for Nicaraguan children. A whopping 70 tons of medical supplies and other foods will also be shipped out of the Boston and San Francisco harbors.

— Israel protests

Continued from page 4

ganizers of the action, said the marchers were protesting "the denial of national civil and political rights for the Palestinian people."

In Atlanta, a rally was held at the Israeli consulate and in Central City Park on May 14 to mark 40 years of struggle against Zionism and imperialism. Sami Amin of the Southeastern Coalition for a Democratic Palestine chaired. Julie Nalibov of the Palestine Solidarity Committee, who had recently been to the occupied territories, said that the rebellion there has spread through all classes. "The resistance schedules several activities every day. Some are planned days in advance, some are organized in a matter of minutes." She described welders' committees which open up businesses and community buildings as soon as Israeli soldiers seal them shut.

And in New York on May 12, people lined up at City Hall Park throughout the day to check out a display that depicted the history of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination and to mark 40 years of Palestinian homelessness. On several occasions, Black and Latin workers from the area defended the right of the organizers to have their display in the face of right-wing harassment. The event was organized by the Association of Palestinians for Return.

In addition, a group from Switzerland has donated major medical supplies.

On May 21, which is celebrated in the U.S. as Armed Forces Day, many of the veterans participating in the convoy will be leaving from different parts of the country. They'll converge on Austin around June 5. Throughout the trip, community groups will be organizing welcoming receptions and making their donations. San Diego, Calif., for example, has donated five of the six school buses.

On June 5, a rally and concert in Austin will feature a benefit performance by Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary. Well-known country singer

Willie Nelson has donated his 2,500-seat opera house for the benefit.

Support from groups in Mexico, Guatemala

On June 9, the convoy is scheduled to arrive in Mexico City, where half a million people are expected at a massive support rally.

Gilberto Rivera from the Vets' Caucus of CAMILA (Chicanos Against Military Intervention in Latin America) says the response throughout Mexico and Central America by unions and community-based organizations has been overwhelming. In Mexico and Guatemala, groups have organized escorts to go along with the

convoy as it passes through their country.

Rivera says that Nicaraguan health and women's organizations will be meeting the convoy at the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

The convoy is expected to arrive in Managua on June 17. There a major rally will be held where President Daniel Ortega will address the crowd and express solidarity with the people from the United States.

Rivera told Workers World that the convoy's success shows that "the people in this country and throughout Latin America will not allow artificial political barriers, such as borders, to divide us."

Puerto Rican activist granted bail after nearly 1,000 days in prison

By Lallan Stein

A federal appeals court ruled on May 14 that Puerto Rican independence activist Filiberto Ojeda Rios must be released on bail before May 20. Ojeda is the last of the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15 still held in prison.

Defense attorney Richard Harvey says that "Bail after 32 months is hardly an act of humanitarian good will. It is something that has been won because of the massive struggle. Both Puerto Rican and international pressure is so great that they had to release him."

The Puerto Rico/Hartford 15 were arrested following an Aug. 30, 1985, FBI raid in Puerto Rico. At that time, 250 FBI agents armed with automatic weapons swooped down on the homes of some 40 families and arrested 15 pro-independence activists. They were kidnapped and taken by military

transport to federal prisons far from their homes.

That was two years and eight months ago. Ever since, Ojeda has been imprisoned under Reagan's 1984 "bail reform" act, which allows preventive detention. He has been held without trial or conviction longer than any prisoner in U.S. history.

During this time it has been established that the FBI and Justice Department case against the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15 is riddled with illegalities. There are violations of wiretap laws, violations of the right of privacy, altering of evidence and the harassment of defendants.

Ojeda discussed the political motivation behind the U.S. arrests of the independence activists in an inter-

view with Workers World published Dec. 24, 1987. He said it was essential to the U.S. strategy of exploiting Puerto Rico as an economic and military fortress through which to dominate the Caribbean, Central and South America.

Attorney Harvey says that the defense fought for Ojeda to return to his family, including grandchildren, in Puerto Rico after his release. The U.S. government is forcing him to remain in Hartford, where he must wear an electronic bracelet and report daily to a government office.

Nevertheless, a victory in the case of the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15 has been won. This victory will give even greater impetus in organizing the struggle to win their freedom.

Bombing of Salvadoran union brings quick movement response

By Stephanie Hedgecock
San Francisco

About 60 people came out here on May 2 on two days' notice to protest the bombing by the military in El Salvador of the office of the National Unity of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS). The UNTS represents hundreds of thousands of trade unionists, displaced refugees, farmworkers, students and unemployed Salvadoran people.

The April 30 bombing did not achieve the military's goal of stopping a huge May Day demonstration in El Salvador. Some 70,000 marched in San Salvador in the UNTS-called protest.

Since then El Salvador's National Assembly has split; neither of the two main right wing parties will sit together. According to the Committee in

Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), the successful boycott of elections in March by the popular movement has left the ruling parties in chaos. Guerrilla commander Joaquin Villalobos said recently that "The country will become ungovernable. The big loser is the counterinsurgency strategy; and the big winners are the people, who have before them a clear alternative."

Ten protesters attempted to speak with the Salvadoran consul at the downtown San Francisco Flood Building. She had police arrest six of the contingent, then met with the remaining four protesters and agreed to have the charges dropped.

The protest was called by CISPES; many in the action repeated the words of the statement by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) that "1988 will be the decisive year for the Salvadoran people."

— Drugs

Continued from page 1

did the Democratic Party majority in the Senate go along with this fraud when it is obvious that top Pentagon officers themselves are involved?

Hasn't North already announced through his lawyers that he will take the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination and refuse to testify at a drug conspiracy trial in the state of Michigan?

There have been widespread reports that General Secord ran the CIA's Air America opium flights out of Laos during the Vietnam War, and that Admiral Poindexter supervised the contras, who were receiving millions from the cocaine trade.

Drugs: excuse for imperialist intervention

The Senate vote would authorize the Navy to arrest "suspected drug traffickers" in international waters. It lets the president and the defense secretary shape the military's expanded powers. It calls for Pentagon authority over civilian law enforcement authorities in the area of drugs.

Thus, this move strengthens the already awesome powers of the U.S. imperialist military, whose real target is the national liberation struggles and Third World governments that insist on their sovereignty.

The use of the drug issue as a disguise for imperialist intervention was the purpose this spring of a quick tour of Latin America by Reagan's closest crony, Attorney General Edwin Meese. Even as Meese was under investigation at home for corrupt practices, he was putting pressure on Latin American governments to accept

more U.S. agents and police on their territory.

None of this, of course, has had any effect on the flow of addictive drugs into the communities here along with the fattening of high-finance drug dealers and money launderers.

Drug money and counter-revolution

The plain truth is that Washington has been financing counter-revolutionary wars around the world for a long time with narcotics money. This is particularly true in Central America and Afghanistan. The right-wing rebel groups in Afghanistan have been publicly identified as the source of most of the heroin now entering this country.

It is a fraud of the highest order to pretend that the U.S. Navy will put a stop to this when the rot comes from the very top — the bankers on Wall Street and the political elite in Washington. The military hasn't even done anything for all the soldiers it got addicted to heroin in Vietnam! Does anyone think it will raid George Bush's office, looking for evidence of drug trafficking?

It has recently become fashionable in certain government circles to describe various Latin American countries as places where drug lords have taken over the political apparatus. That's a peculiar charge for anyone in official Washington to make these days.

Jobless auto workers plan Tent City in Mich. capital

By Jerry Goldberg
Lansing

May 13 — Twenty years after Martin Luther King set up "Resurrection City" in Washington to dramatize the poverty of Black people in America, Black and white workers in Michigan, faced with the deepest economic crisis this area has seen since the Depression, announced today they are going ahead with plans to set up a "Tent City" here in Lansing, the state capital.

At a press conference on the steps of the Capitol building, trade unionists and community activists united in the Coordinating Council for the Stay in Lansing said they intend to rally at 2:00 on Tuesday, June 7, and then set up the Tent City immediately afterwards on the Capitol grounds.

The Coordinating Council presented a set of demands for immediate economic relief for Michigan's unemployed. They include extending unemployment benefits to 65 weeks; raising welfare payments by 50%; raising the minimum wage to \$6 an hour; guaranteeing health care to all people statewide; and placing a moratorium on further plant closings and mass layoffs.

The press conference was chaired by Dave Sole of UAW Local 15, which represents Detroit's closed-down GM Fleetwood plant. Participants included Cap Wheeler, financial secretary of UAW 599 in Flint; Eric Mayes, chair of the UAW Region 1C Unemployed Coalition; Diane Goldberg, vice president of AFSCME Local 457; Renee Vowells of the Michigan Housing Coalition; Bruce Roth of the Lansing Peace Education Center; Suma Rios-Nance of the Disabled Focus of the All-Peoples Congress; Charles Gee of the Wayne County Unemployed Council; Rev. Joe Summers of Ann Arbor; and Lloyd Clarke, UAW Local 668 of Saginaw.

Joyce Crutchfield, a laid-off member of Local 15 UAW, read a statement from the Coordinating Council that called upon "all victims of the economic crisis to stay in Lansing beginning June 7 in a Tent City right outside the Capitol to form a people's lobby and fight until our demands are met."

How official trickery forced concession contract at Dunlop

By Ellie Dorritie
Buffalo

May 14 — This is the story of how a group of workers were tricked and lied into accepting outrageous company concessions.

On May 2, union members at the Dunlop Tire plant in Tonawanda, N.Y., near Buffalo, had defeated the company's demands for another round of concessions, the fifth in eight years. As one worker put it, "You've got to put your foot down finally, you know. You can't let them keep threatening you all the time."

Four days later, United Rubber Workers Local 135 voted again and accepted the same broad changes in work rules they had just rejected. It was a grudging vote, and the Dunlop workers expressed anger and frustration at what looked like a no-win situation. One worker with 12 years at the plant said, "They've got us over a barrel. If we want our jobs, we've got to say yes."

What happened in those few days? How was victory turned into defeat?

Dunlop officials convinced the workers that their vote against concessions had caused the company to

The statement rebutted official claims that the economy in Michigan is "coming back" and that "millions of new jobs" have eased the plight of workers in this country. "They lie!" charged Crutchfield. "A state of emergency exists. Detroit has 20% unemployment, Flint 20%, Pontiac 18%, Saginaw 14%. Schools are closing; Black infant mortality is the highest in the nation!"

Attacking the governor and legislature as well as the profit-hungry corporations, Crutchfield demanded, "Let them tax General Motors, who paid no taxes at all in 1986 and 1987. Let them tax Ford, which sits on a \$9 billion cash reserve. Let them tax Chrysler, which pays Iacocca \$18 million a year — the equivalent of 17,000 jobs!"

Organizing efforts for the June 7 action are intensifying. This week NAACP leaders in Benton Harbor, a Black city with double-digit unemployment, pledged to organize a bus for the Lansing rally. The only open buildings in downtown Benton Harbor are social service agencies.

UAW Local 15 voted to send buses to the activity. Laid-off members of UAW Local 22, also in Detroit, many of whom have lost all their benefits, are getting involved. In Flint, the UAW Region 1C Unemployed Coalition is organizing a Tent City at City Hall beginning June 3 in coordination with the June 7 Lansing effort. The coalition wants the UAW-GM contract reopened to widen inverse seniority and ban overtime while workers are laid off.

Michigan Governor James Blanchard heads up the Democratic Party platform committee and has been a leader in the effort to quash the message of the Jesse Jackson movement. He has been traveling the country bragging of Michigan's "economic recovery." But Jackson with his message of a struggle against "economic violence" swept Michigan's primaries in April.

Crutchfield made it clear that the primaries were just the beginning. "Our unemployment city will once again project Michigan into the national spotlight. We will stay in Lansing until our demands are met."

decide to expand operations in Georgia, instead of in Buffalo, implying that the plant here would be phased out.

The company chairman said so, and the Buffalo News said so in a lead editorial. They said that development officials in Georgia were offering incentives to get the Dunlop plant, and that workers here would have to take the cuts in order to save their jobs.

Workers and their families looked around the Buffalo area, where the closing of the giant Bethlehem Steel mills and cutbacks in auto plants have left many in poverty. They said, "There's nowhere else to go for jobs." The union leadership itself was in favor of taking the concessions. No other unions came forward to support them.

So they went back and voted in favor of concessions that would result in greater speed-up on the lines; would allow the company to reward workers for producing at 200 per cent of production quotas, while disciplining and laying off those who produce at 130 percent of the quota, thus squeezing out the older workers; would let the company make job changes that would eventually give union jobs to

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The Union Picketers: Louise Parker, Richard Sproul, Jeanne Sproul and Ron Roy. Not shown are Maurice Melansen and Richard Therrien.

'Look out for a singing union!'

By Phil Wilayto
Jay, Maine

When Local 14 of the UPIU gets together at its regular Wednesday night rally at the Jay Community Center, an important part of the program is the music of the Union Picketers.

The Picketers, all paperworkers or spouses of paperworkers on strike at International Paper's Androscoggin mill, offer a combination of traditional, modern and original labor songs that have been an integral part of maintaining morale in the 11-month-old strike.

After a recent Wednesday night performance, some of the members gathered to talk with Workers World about the band and the role they see it playing in this crucial battle against union-busting.

Ron: About three years ago we played together for an IP Family Day, but we were all working different shifts and it was hard to get together to practice. Really, it was the strike that got us started as a group.

Louise: Around the third or fourth week of the strike, Pete Kellman came up to me at the food bank and asked me about providing some music for the local. He gave me a copy of the AFL-CIO's book *Songs for Labor* and I learned some of those and played them a few times and then talked these guys into coming in.

Jeanne: And since then, we've played every Wednesday night, and at the Labor Day rally in Waterville last summer.

Ron: And on the car caravan, in Skowhegan, Bath, the University of Maine at Orono, Lewiston, and over in New Hampshire.

WW: What's the difference between playing for the union and playing in a regular commercial band?

Ron: I didn't think there was much of a difference in the beginning, but then I saw how the music was working, helping to keep the people together. It's like Louise says, "Look out for a singing union!"

Jeanne: It helps to lift the spirit.

Richard: Everyone has their thing that they do to help, like the food bank, etc. The band is a part of it all, just as important as the guy who's sweeping up the floor after the rally. It's something that has to be done.

Louise: And we all have a real stake in the strike. We're all from Jay, we all worked in the mill.

Jeanne: I feel like I worked in the mill — I just never got paid for it.

Ron: That's true. I know if my wife Monty hadn't been here, I never could have made it all those years.

Jeanne: Really, this is the first year that a lot of families in Jay have spent all the holidays together.

Richard: IP is no different than any other large corporation. They don't care about the workers or the stockholders either, just the hundred or so people on the top.

WW: After the strike, do you think you'll still be playing, say, for other unions on strike?

Louise: I think we'd do our darndest to help out if we could. If there's one thing we've learned from this strike it's that we've got to stick together, not just one local or one union, but all of us.

(The Union Picketers can be reached in care of Louise Parker, RFD 1, Livermore Falls, Maine 04254.)

Solidarity Forever
Our Struggle Against the IP Company

The Union Picketers - UPIU Local 14-Jay, Maine
PW-14246

The Union Picketers have just produced a cassette tape recording of ten modern and traditional union songs, including the paperworker's strike song "Scabs Out, Union In!" All proceeds go to the local's strike fund. You can help support this important labor struggle and get yourself some great music at the same time by sending \$10.00 (plus \$1.50 for postage and handling) for each tape to:

Solidarity Forever Tape Cassette,
UPIU Local 14, PO Box 272, Jay, Maine 04239.
Make out Checks or money orders to: Local 14 Strike Fund.

Workers opt for union protection at 'liberal' Harvard

BULLETIN: On May 18 Harvard workers voted 1,530 to 1,486 for the union. Hundreds shouted "Union!" as the results were read. Over 3,000 of 3,400 eligible workers voted.

By Rachel Nasca
Cambridge, Mass.

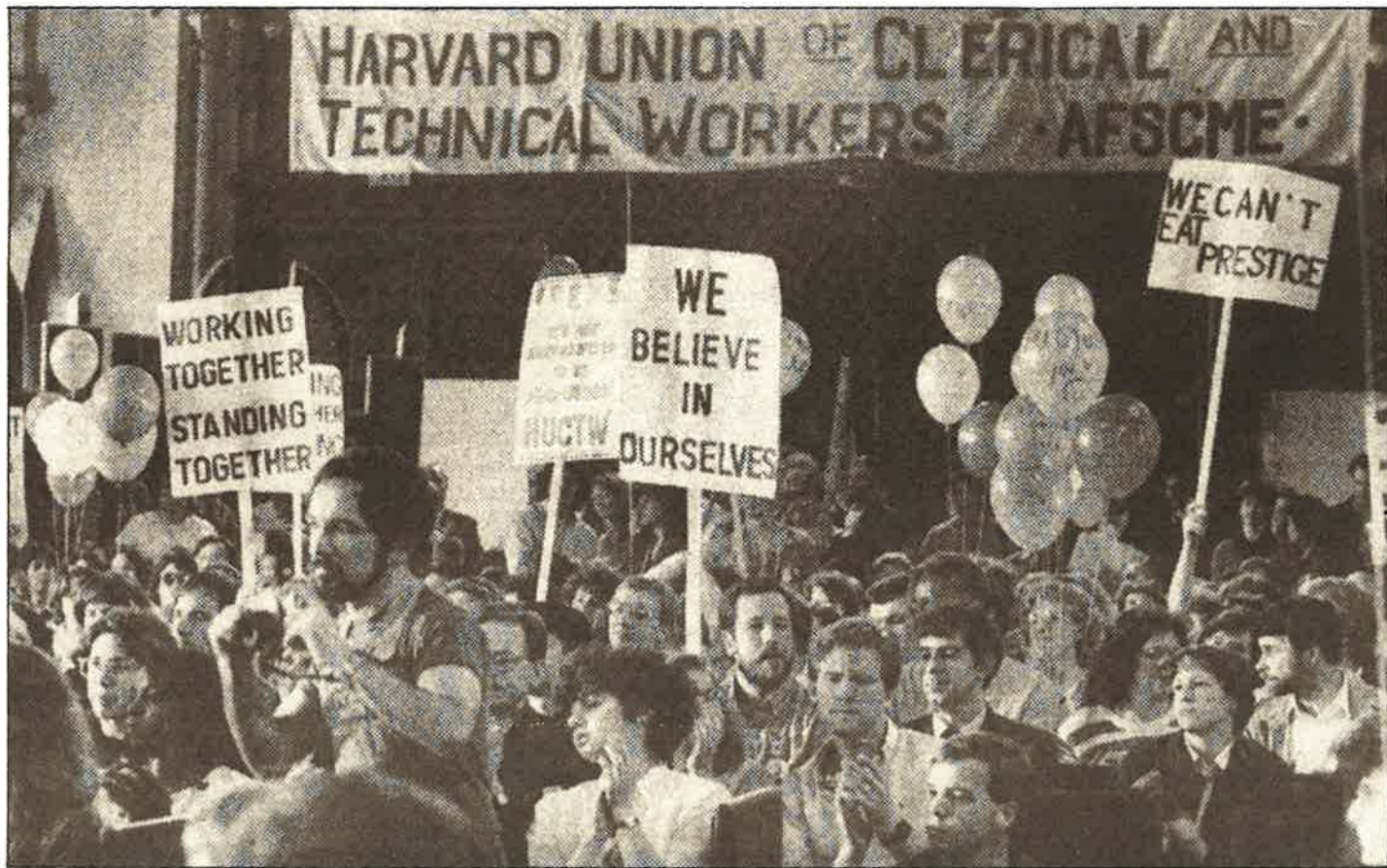
Hundreds of Harvard clerical and technical workers jammed a local church here May 12 to show their enthusiasm for union representation.

Nearly 3,700 workers are preparing to go to the polls May 17 to vote "yes" to be represented by the Harvard Union of Clerical & Technical Workers (AFSCME) after a long and bitter struggle against one of the country's toughest anti-union institutions.

Among the speakers at the rally were AFSCME International President Gerald McEntee and many workers from Harvard's vast acres of campuses, some with more than a quarter of a century of service to the university.

In more than 11 years as a clerical worker at Harvard, this writer has witnessed first-hand every union-busting trick in the book, from threats of loss of benefits to mandatory department meetings to scare techniques like "union-forced strikes." At issue for the workers, the vast majority of whom are women, is not only the right to be represented by a union but better wages and benefits, affordable child-care and dignity.

What is clear to the workers is that this campaign has torn off the liberal veneer that Harvard University used to cover its continued financial support of South Africa and its efforts to maintain apartheid-style labor relations here on campus. For 351 years Harvard has maintained its dictatorial rule, but now the workers are having their say.



Union organizing rally at Harvard.

Pluses and minuses of AFL-CIO 'family celebration'

By Shelley Ettinger
Washington, D.C.

May 14 — Five to ten thousand labor union women and men gathered at the foot of the Washington Monument today for an activity billed as "The American Family Celebration."

The crowd was very representative of the makeup of the working class as a whole — all nationalities, women and men, lesbian, gay and straight, many with their children in tow.

Unions with a heavy Third World and female membership, like the Ladies Garment Workers, Hospital Workers, Clothing and Textile Workers, Communications Workers, Distributive Workers and others were there in numbers. So were Steel Workers, Auto Workers, Electrical Workers and so on.

But the turnout was smaller than organizers had predicted. And many who did come were obviously disappointed at the lack of militancy in the day's official program, which mostly focused on the need for Congress to pass pending legislation for daycare, employer-provided health insurance and family and medical leave.

While all present vigorously support

these bills, it was evident that these rank-and-file workers, many of whom traveled long distances to be here, are ready to take the struggle much further.

Speaker after speaker urged workers to look to the Democratic Party and next fall's elections as the solution to the problems faced by workers and their families. That approach was received without enthusiasm, whereas class-conscious and militant literature, including Workers World newspaper, was snatched up eagerly.

In contrast to the sparsely filled lawn in front of the podium, a tent with literature tables was packed all day. There was a sense that workers were looking for an avenue of struggle.

'When do we march?'

The urge to action on the part of the rank and file was reflected by a group of Communications Workers from Florida who asked, "When are we going to march? You mean we came all this way to sit in the sun and do nothing?"

Many local union activists reported that the serious shortcomings of this event had made it very difficult to mo-

bilize members to come. Although there is a tremendous need for labor action on all the issues facing workers and oppressed people, especially women, the call for a "celebration" didn't spark any excitement.

And the theme of "defending the American family," along with silence on crucial issues like lesbian and gay and abortion rights and inadequate attention to the issue of racism, had angered and alienated many.

The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), AFL-CIO and church groups — primary sponsors of today's event — effectively held back the struggle by excluding these important concerns.

Nevertheless, many workers took lavender balloons reading "lesbian/gay family" that were distributed by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Buttons supporting the Jesse Jackson campaign and for reproductive rights were also very popular.

And despite everything, there was a strong mood of unity and militancy among the workers here today. They and many more will no doubt be back when a call to militant action goes out.

— Dunlop

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outside, non-union contractors, and use one union worker to do jobs formerly done by many.

Once the concession vote was taken, it turned out that the officials and the press had been lying.

Company had already decided to stay

Dunlop had already decided it was going to expand operations in the Buffalo area. New York State had offered the company incentives described as irresistible. Dunlop officials had no intention of turning down the cheap loans, special grants and no-tax gifts they were getting for expanding in the Buffalo area.

The executives and New York State bigwigs had had a press conference all set to announce the planned expansion, but then canceled it until they had conned the workers into swallowing the concessions package.

The following week, it came out that the hot competition from Georgia was not so hot at all. Officials in Georgia admitted all they had was a huge, empty, 20-year-old Firestone plant that was being sold cheap.

The Dunlop workers here were angry at the company demands the first time they voted, and were angry at the union for not being able to say no. They were angrier still the second time they voted, but they believed it was a matter of survival. Now they have cause to be far angrier than ever before, knowing they have been lied to.

That anger is the power they need to stand firm against future demands for concessions, and to turn defeat into victory, but they can't do it alone. They will need to get the support of all the other unions who have had to learn the bitter lesson of how far the bosses will go for their profits.

On the picket line

Suffolk VDT safety. The Suffolk County Legislature on New York's Long Island passed a video display terminal (VDT) safety bill May 10 after a hard-fought battle between labor and bosses. The same bill was passed last year but then vetoed by County Executive Michael Lo Grande. It's a measure of the importance of the issue that public support for VDT safety measures was one of the campaign issues that brought a new executive, Patrick G. Halpin, into office. The new law requires employers to provide 15-minute breaks for terminal workers every three hours, ergonomically correct computer furniture and lighting, and 80% of the cost of eye exams and glasses.

Rail workers say no. CSX Transportation Inc. wanted bigger profits. The obvious way to get them: from railway workers. Problem was,

the workers didn't think much of the idea. Result: the United Transportation Union (UTU) refused to cooperate with CSX's proposed "restructuring," which would have cost the jobs of half the workforce, or 10,000 people. CSX had tried to entice the workers with the promise of big bonuses for those who remained; as for the company, it would have made off with at least an extra \$250 million per year. The struggle for railroad jobs at CSX is not over, yet, however, with the company promising to call the union back to the bargaining table soon with yet another giveback plan.

IBP fined. IBP Inc., the country's biggest meatpacking company and a subsidiary of Armand Hammer's Occidental Petroleum, faces Labor Department fines of \$3.1 million for "willfully ignoring a serious health

hazard which has injured hundreds of employees" at its Dakota City plant. IBP was already cited for \$2.6 million of violations for failing to report 1,038 on-the-job injuries, and is under indictment for shorting workers \$10 to \$20 million in overtime pay for preparing safety equipment. At IBP, with an average of one serious injury per worker per year, the biggest problem is carpal tunnel syndrome, a painful and debilitating nerve injury in the arms caused by repetitive motion, which affects almost half the workers. Carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) can be prevented, but it requires installation of new equipment that IBP and other companies don't want to spend money on. CTS is one of the leading disabling injuries among workers in the U.S. now, hitting 60% of supermarket cashiers, 25% of telephone workers and increasing numbers of VDT operators.

Shelley Ettinger

Nicaragua peace prospects spark contra mutiny

By Dee Knight
Managua, Nicaragua

May 17 — Torn internally about how to respond to the prospect of peace, the contras are making war among themselves, and their sponsors in Washington are blaming each other for the collapse of U.S. policy against Nicaragua.

The internal dispute is "very grave" and "could be fatal," according to one contra leader quoted in Washington, D.C. The split has intensified the collapse of the contra field forces inside Nicaragua. Today's Barricada — the Sandinista newspaper — reported that a contra force numbering between 600 and 800 fighters is seriously considering giving up their arms in the coming days, "frustrated by the division of their commanders and their difficult living situation in the field."

Somoza National Guard leader Enrique Bermudez has emerged as more of a problem than a solution for Rea-

gan's war planners, who stubbornly place their faith in him as the only "guarantee" that the contras will keep fighting. "Who is the top dog, who can exercise a clear command over these guys? It's Enrique Bermudez," a Reagan administration "reliable source" told the Miami Herald.

Bermudez: Washington's tool

Bermudez has been a favorite tool of Washington for more than a generation. He attended the Panama-based U.S. School of the Americas for Latin American military commanders during the 1950s. He participated in the U.S. invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965, and studied at the U.S. Army War College in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in 1968. From 1976 to 1979 he was Somoza's military attache in the United States. After Somoza's defeat he immediately set about organizing the contras with CIA money.

The rebel contra chiefs claim Bermudez has "gotten rich off the combatants' blood" while brooking no oppo-

sition within the ranks of his "Nicaraguan Democratic Forces." Last week commanders still loyal to him opened fire on mutinous contra leaders interested in continued peace negotiations.

Making peace in the field

The split is between officers who want to continue peace talks, and Bermudez — backed by Washington — who wants to continue the war. The problem for Bermudez is that the contra rank-and-file forces want peace, and are therefore supporting their mutinous officers.

Since the March 23 signing of the Sapoa cease-fire accord, there has been a growing number of formal and informal — but peaceful — field contacts between the Sandinista Army and the contras. In the northern regions of Jinotega, Nueva Segovia and Matagalpa, some 23 formal contacts have taken place.

"Although the contras that operate here did not sign the accords, they

want to accept the terms of 'Fernando' (the mutinous leader) and his position in support of the Sapoa agreement," said Major Antonio Castillo, second leader of the general staff for the northern region.

In Jinotega's Pantasma Valley — which has seen nothing but war for years, including kidnapped peasants, burning homes, schools and health centers, orphaned children and mutilated adults — people were able to celebrate the May 15 planting festival for the first time in seven years.

Several hundred contra troops accepted the invitation to participate in the planting festival in the spirit of Sapoa. "We gave them a little taste of how sweet peace is," says Freddy Guevara, the government delegate in Jinotega. Their relatives sought them out, urging them to stop fighting. A number have accepted amnesty and disarmed, and others have pursued more discussion about the cease-fire accord.

Atlantic coast truce

On the Atlantic Coast the few remaining contra forces among the indigenous population are observing the truce. Their leaders are in Managua negotiating a definitive cease-fire agreement, separate from the other contra leadership. "We want peace and respect for Indian rights," said one of the indigenous leaders. "That is what we are struggling for, not for power as are the pro-Somoza contras."

The government's policy of autonomy for the Atlantic Coast has reversed the opposition of most indigenous leaders who rebelled in 1981 when the government tried to relocate their communities in the early days of the war against the contras. Since the autonomy agreement was signed last January, at least a thousand members of the indigenous "Yatama" group have changed sides, arms in hand. They now constitute a militia to defend their own communities. Another thousand troops rejoined civilian life, leaving only a few hundred still armed against the revolution.

'Stupid imbeciles'

Today's Washington Times reported that a CIA official shouted abusive language at top contra leaders meeting in Miami to consider removing Bermudez as their military chief. The CIA official called them "stupid imbeciles," the report said, and threatened to cut off all aid to the rebels if Bermudez were removed.

The question confronting the contras appears to be whether they can survive with or without the fascist Bermudez and his friends in Washington.

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Colombian senator links death squads to suppression of workers' movement

By Octavio Vargas
New York

"There is no desire on the part of the president of Colombia or in the highest levels of the government and the military to put an end to the violence that is soaking the land of Colombia with blood."

This charge was made by Colombian Senator Pedro Alcantara Herran, representative of the Patriotic Union (UP), to a solidarity meeting April 23 held by Workers World Party here.

Senator Alcantara, who enjoys an international reputation as a painter and graphic artist and is a member of the Permanent Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Colombia, was on a tour of various cities in the U.S. and Canada organized by the Colombia Solidarity Committee of New York. He presented first-hand testimony of the grave violations of human rights which that South American country is suffering.

After his appearance before the Human Rights Observance Commission of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington, D.C. — from which Colombia has been expelled for gross violations of human rights — a permanent investigative commission was established to go to Colombia and monitor the critical situation there.

In his presentation to the Workers World meeting, Alcantara explained that tremendous advances being made by the working class in the political arena have threatened the absolute control maintained by the bourgeoisie since the founding of the republic. This could be clearly seen in the recent municipal elections.

Mayors were elected by popular vote for the first time and more than 10% of these offices were won by Patriotic Union candidates with the support of all democratic and progressive forces. But the ruling class responded with a bloody wave of violence. More than 600 leading members of the UP, including many candidates and elected officials, were assassinated by death squads.

But Colombia will not be another Chile. Recently all the revolutionary armed forces of the country united in the "Simon Bolivar" Joint Guerrilla Command. A United Workers Center (CUT) was formed to bring together 80% of all organized labor in Colombia in a single labor confederation.

Alcantara explained that the notion that the cocaine traffic is the fundamental cause of the barbarism in Colombia is merely an excuse and a smokescreen behind which the military and the most reactionary institutions of the country attempt to hide. It is their fear of the growing strength of the masses which has driven them to



Pedro Alcantara Herran.

attempt to drown this upsurge in blood.

In Washington, Alcantara had presented a report prepared by Amnesty International on the violation of human rights in Colombia. This report clearly indicts the Colombian Armed Forces working in concert with the drug traffickers for the murders perpetrated against the combined progressive forces of Colombia.

Alcantara's own name appears on the fearsome death lists that circulate in Colombia. These lists include figures both in and out of government who have taken a stand against the bloodletting and called for meeting the

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Huge lesbian, gay march in London

Over 50,000 gay men, lesbians and their supporters marched through the streets of London on April 30 in a powerful demonstration of anger and opposition to the neo-fascist "Clause 28" legislation now before Parliament. Clause 28 would ban much gay-positive printed and broadcast material, withhold government funding from any artistic endeavors that include gay themes or openly gay artists, and prevent safe-sex education on AIDS prevention.

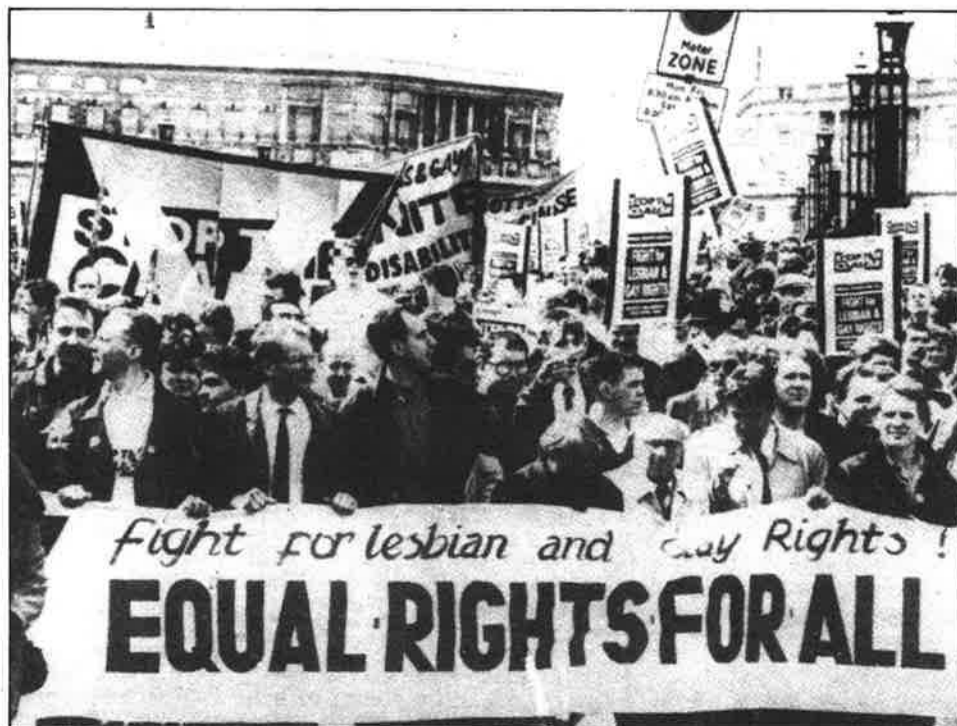
Speakers called Clause 28 "an incitement to discrimination" that will "legalize bigotry," but said the militancy of the protest was "further proof of the strength of feeling which exists throughout the country against the bill."

Dozens of solidarity messages were delivered from, among others, the

anti-apartheid movement and the Italian Parliament. A delegation from Boston, Mass., had their speech confiscated by British Customs at the airport but promised the crowd the U.S. movement would stand with them in this fight. Members of West Germany's Green Party pointed out that Clause 28 has language identical to the first anti-homosexual pamphlet published by the Nazi Party in the 1920s.

There was great exuberance and optimism for building a victorious fight-back at the rally. Singer Boy George performed a new number called "Clause 28" and Rock Against Racism leader Tom Robinson led a roaring rendition of his moving anthem "Glad To Be Gay." (Information from New York Native, May 23, 1988.)

Shelley Ettinger



London march protests neo-fascist "Clause 28."

On the eve of the Soviet Party conference

By Sam Marcy

May 16 — Before discussing the upcoming 19th conference of the Communist Party of the USSR, scheduled for June, let us for the moment detach ourselves from some of the international issues which will surely impact on it.

Let's put aside the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, which began as of yesterday. Let's also put aside the impending visit of President Reagan to Moscow in connection with the signing of the INF treaty, which has not yet been ratified by the U.S. Senate, although all indications point in that direction. A \$300-billion defense appropriations bill, which has been well-nigh agreed to by both houses of Congress, will surely be passed, and this fact could not be lost on the Party conference, where a report by the Central Committee on arms negotiations will surely be a matter of principal interest.

The struggle continues

The struggle between the two social systems continues, notwithstanding a significant change in tone in the imperialist press, notwithstanding the resumption of U.S.-Soviet cultural, political and economic exchanges, and notwithstanding that a goodly number of ultra-rightwingers in the U.S. administration are gone (notably Donald Regan, Caspar Weinberger and William Casey).

The huge U.S. military budget, of whose passage there is no doubt at all, symbolizes the ongoing struggle. The defense budget is the axis on which the struggle rotates.

In attempting to gauge the significance of the conference, we ought also to disregard, but only for the moment, the cheering in the imperialist press for perestroika, General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's term for economic reform. It seems to get louder with each passing day and is more or less uniform in approach. In a word, the bourgeoisie are all for it, except they appear to be goading the Soviet government to move much faster.

But on this, too, one must bear in mind that the imperialist ruling class has been wrong before. However desirable the changes in the Soviet Union may be from their point of view, their hopes may be frustrated, as they are more and more in almost all parts of the world.

Conference to take up economic reforms

Nevertheless, this Party conference may have critical importance, not because of the many international issues at hand but because of the central domestic issue: the progress of the Soviet reforms. Where are they leading? What is their true overall direction? Is perestroika, as the imperialist bourgeoisie hopes, a move away from the socialist perspective, from socialist planning? Or is it only a temporary retreat meant to lay the basis for a swifter momentum in socialist construction at a later date? That is the issue.

From the point of view of procedure, a Party conference is generally differentiated from a Party congress in that it does not have what we here in the West would call legislative authority. A congress, on the other hand, represents the power of the Party and its membership. At least in a formal sense, it can recommend that the Supreme Soviet adopt the necessary legislation which follows from the recommendations of the congress.

There hasn't been a Party conference since February 1941, shortly before the war.

A conference may take up any number of issues of current significance,

either to implement decisions already taken by the previous congress, or because new critical issues have arisen which require immediate attention and cannot wait for the next congress.

It is generally looser and requires participation by those in leadership and from the ranks who are most intimately concerned with the issues to be taken up.

For instance, the rebellions that recently took place in Armenia and Azerbaijan, the first of their kind since the Revolution and the Civil War, should be a matter of great importance. Adequate representation by all sides would be especially necessary, with reports from the people concerned.

There is scarcely an issue of more significance to socialist construction than the national question. True, the rebellions have been discussed widely in the Soviet press and media, but a discussion at this meeting by the representatives of both peoples, especially those who have been removed from their posts in-between the 27th Congress and this conference, would be most important.

Gorbachev calls for abandoning 'quotas'

In this connection, a remark by Gorbachev about the procedure for selecting delegates to the conference is altogether disturbing and may breach, certainly in the formal sense, the usual procedures by which conferences and Party congresses are organized.

The Bolshevik Party was founded as the militant working class organizer of the vanguard. Its ideological standpoint as a proletarian party meant that the leadership had to ceaselessly strive to see to it that the social composition of the Party corresponded to its ideological position as the vanguard of the working class.

From its very inception the Party leadership sought to enroll workers, peasants and the rural poor, women and all the disadvantaged as the bulwarks of the future socialist dictatorship of the working class and the peasantry. Even if this has been abandoned, even if only a formality or a shell remains of it, nevertheless, at the last congress what was significant from the point of view of formality was the predominance of workers. There were also many from the collectives, many women, and many from the various nationalities in the USSR.

Now we see a change with respect to the social composition of the conference. Gorbachev recently said in a speech to editors and Party leaders, "There must be no more quotas, as we had in the past — so many workers and peasants, so many women and so forth." (New York Times of May 11 quoting from a Tass report of May 10.)

This sounds really alarming.

He then buttressed his remark by saying, "The principal political imperative is to elect active supporters of perestroika." Read literally, this means that only the supporters of perestroika ought to be elected. What about those who are not supporters? If it's only for supporters, why have the conference at all?

Democratization only for supporters?

What about democratization? Is it only for the supporters of perestroika, even the most extreme ones who can scarcely be differentiated from outright bourgeois types? Doesn't this make a mockery out of the whole democratization process?

It is well known that there is a considerable amount of opposition in the Party to perestroika. It may be based on the pace of development. It may be based on a principled disagreement. Or it may be based simply on the in-

Who will be represented at the upcoming Party conference?

What is the basis for the opposition to perestroika within Soviet society?

Is bread 'too cheap'?

ability of perestroika to bring about the desired results.

Perestroika is now well into its third year. It has been clear that there are at least two political tendencies which have made their positions known in one way or another, both of them in very indirect and rather Aesopian ways.

If this is to be a landmark conference that can achieve something, if it is to have some measure of democratization about it, then the most important part of the procedure for the conference is the timely publication and wide dissemination, at least in the Party, of documents presenting the government's point of view, but also the views of those who, for lack of a better way to express it, could be called the Yeltsin tendency, which tends to carry the reforms to an extreme, and the Ligachev tendency, the so-called conservatives.

In order to properly bring this out into the open, it is necessary to assure the Party and the public that there will be no administrative reprisals. Hasn't the Gorbachev regime supposedly dedicated its entire program to ending administrative procedures and the suppression of differing views in the Party?

To this day we can only guess what the divergent views are. It is true that documents and presentations at a conference alone cannot adequately express the views of different groupings in the Party, or, more importantly in the final analysis, their objective orientation. However, up until the middle 1920s at least, the groupings presented their views through documents. There was scarcely a Party conference or congress without intensive and prolonged discussion. Nobody called it a democratization process. It was considered ordinary Party democracy.

If perestroika is to be the great turning point in Soviet society about which Gorbachev and his supporters are continually exhorting the population, does it not rate an open discussion in the Party?

Where the resistance comes from

Perestroika has not in these almost three years been a spectacular success. Gorbachev himself does not claim it has. As a matter of fact, he has often spoken about lack of progress, but blames resistance within the Party, particularly in the lower echelons and the outlying regions of the country.

Is it caused by lethargy and bureaucratic entrenchment alone? Why would that be so in the lower ranks more than at the very summits, which have almost all been replaced since Gorbachev was elected general secretary? Certainly there has been a turn-

over in the majority of the Politburo and the Presidium of the USSR.

Role of Soviets vs. Party

In a speech last week, Georgi P. Razumovsky, an ally of Gorbachev who was promoted in February to a nonvoting seat on the Politburo, proposed "fundamentally increasing the role and securing the full power of the Soviets of People's Deputies as the political basis of our socialist government" (New York Times, April 28.)

Strengthening the Soviets is certainly very important. Who could possibly say no to that? But it begs the question. If there is no real democratic discussion in the Party, how is it possible for there to be any in the Soviets, most of whom are Party members?

Was this an attempt to threaten the Party that unless it goes along with them, the Gorbachev supporters will turn to another arm of the government? This sounds altogether outlandish from the Gorbachev point of view.

The imperialist press has had a considerable number of reports to the effect that Gorbachev is seeking a greater grip on the Party apparatus and that, in his frustration, he is looking to another lever, the Soviets. But the Soviets are less representative today than the lower levels of the Party. They are all government officials, mostly appointed or recommended by the Party.

There is of course no knowing what the real strength of the opposition to perestroika is under these circumstances. What aspect of the opposition is progressive, oriented toward the socialist goal and against capitalist restorationist elements, and what is downright opposition to the government on a reactionary basis?

There are indications that the bourgeois elements may be worried about how things will go at the conference. Ten members of the intelligentsia, led by physicist Andrei Sakharov who is wildly popular among the Western imperialists, wrote an open letter to the Central Committee urging postponement of the Party conference. After the usual calls for democracy, they suggested that the delegates be chosen on the basis of their attitude toward perestroika. (Wall Street Journal, May 16.)

There is no way to adequately gauge the impact of those who are for the restoration of bourgeois market relations. Gorbachev himself says, "Sometimes people reason this way: Everyone has now been given three years for perestroika, and that is enough. If you failed to reform, get out. But we, all of us, have not yet reformed."

"Some people have indeed lost their bearings amid all the processes taking place," he continues. "Some people have failed to keep their heads and panicked." Then he adds, "I wouldn't count those who have panicked to be irresponsible people or people opposed to perestroika out of hand." (New York Times, May 11.)

All this clearly indicates that there is opposition to the reforms. What is the basis for it all? The basis is that in all previous five-year plans, great enthusiasm was evident, coming particularly from the masses. But now it seems that no matter how much exhortation there is, no matter how many times the masses are told and retold that they are now co-owners in plants and industries, it does not seem to take hold.

It must be that a good many feel alienated from ownership and that the restructuring plans have caused apprehension and uncertainty among the mass of the workers, although there is no evidence of an opposition movement in the working class.

The problems are basically eco-

Continued on page 11

EDITORIALS

Who pays for bank busts?

A staggering bank loss has just been reported by another savings and loan institution in Texas. Sunbelt Savings of Dallas, once considered one of the most prominent savings banks in the Southwest, posted a \$1.2 billion net loss in the last fiscal quarter. From assets of \$3.3 billion last year, the thrift's net worth is now a negative \$1.7 billion.

The bank failure, which was given scanty coverage by the capitalist media, presents the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC) with its largest and most costly bailout ever.

At the same time that Sunbelt's troubles became public, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board in Washington announced the first of dozens of bailouts and mergers of ailing Texas banks that will eventually consolidate 140 thrifts into 30. There are currently 277 savings banks in Texas. Most of them are in serious trouble and getting worse every day. Last year the assets of the S&L industry in Texas came to a negative \$1.1 billion. This year, at the end of March, the figure is **negative \$10.1 billion.**

What happens when a bank goes belly up? Obviously, the bank's depositors are the first to suffer. While federal law is supposed to insure deposits of under \$100,000, often it can take weeks and months between the time that a bank closes its doors and the depositors get their money. This can mean missed mortgage payments with a resulting foreclosure. It can mean no access to savings for a medical emergency.

But there is an even larger cost to working people. When a bank goes under, most of the money that is pumped in by the government to

"save" the bank doesn't go to the workers who have deposits. It goes to the rich shareholders and to those clients whose accounts are in the hundreds of thousands and millions of dollars.

For instance, when the huge Continental Illinois Bank collapsed most of the depositors were rich investors with multi-million-dollar accounts. The government rushed in and made billions of dollars available. This was done in less than a week's time with no discussion in Congress or any other elected body. On the other hand, when a group of small savings banks collapsed several years ago in Maryland, and last year in Colorado, the depositors were mostly working people. The government sat on its hands for months and months before any money was made available. And even then it was only a trickle.

The New York Times reports that the FSLIC is planning to make \$20 billion available through 1990 for the Texas banking industry. It quotes analysts who believe that the ultimate cost will be **\$50 billion.** Who pays this enormous tab? The taxpayers. It's poor and working people who are forced to foot the bill for these bank failures. And this is just steamrolled through Congress without any discussion or debate. The bankers demand it and their lapdogs on Capitol Hill vote "aye." So much for the "democratic process."

It is the rich greedy shareholders, executives and bankers who are responsible when banks go under. It is they who should have to pay. Not the workers and poor.

Jackson in Oregon

In the win/lose attitude of the big-business media toward elections, it's easy to forget what's really at stake. Take, for example, the Oregon primary. Jesse Jackson got 38% of the vote. Michael Dukakis got 58%. By normal standards of capitalist elections, that would be a landslide for the Massachusetts governor.

And that is certainly the way the media has presented it.

But normal standards would omit what has been the most important contribution of the Jackson campaign this time around: building working-class unity.

Oregon is only 2% Black. Six months ago not even pro-Jackson analysts believed he could get 10% of the vote in a state like Oregon. His core of support in 1984 was from the small Black population there who came out in record numbers to vote for him.

What Oregon showed is that one-third of white Democratic voters chose a Black candidate. This included an even bigger proportion of blue-collar and unionized workers, according to the polls. And they voted for the only candidate who is seen as a fighter for workers and poor people.

The lesson here, as it was in many earlier primaries, is that the Jackson campaign can strike a blow at the racism that is used to divide the working class.

The other lesson of Oregon is that for many people the conditions of life are not what Bush or even Dukakis would have us believe. Jackson is the only candidate to constantly hit at the unemployment, the homelessness, the injustices of life that cause so much suffering. He obviously struck a chord in Oregon among the workers.

It's also hard to make the workers believe in general prosperity when the financiers flinch even at economic news that's supposed to be good. On the same day as the Oregon primary, word came of a big cut in the U.S. trade deficit and an increase in production. Instead of generating joy on Wall Street, however, this news caused analysts to talk of inflation and the market dropped.

Whatever the growth in the economy, it is unstable. And the misery of millions that has worsened in the Reagan years is unrelieved. For those wanting to fight against these injustices, the Jackson candidacy has provided a focus whose importance goes beyond winning or losing delegates.

Letters

The banal empire

I'm enclosing an article from the current issue of the rightist U.S. News & World Report. I believe Workers World will provide more facts — better insight into the Brazilian economy, so recently subject to capitalist mayhem. USNR's coverage here remains consistent with their frivolous articles elsewhere in the same mag — to portray an increasingly dependent world of slaves gladly kissing the imperial boot.

They rejoice in Polish "unrest," seeing in it another striking opportunity to grind the Poles further down under the cleats of Mammon, and increase the value flow to the West — to our clubbing banks and multinationals. (They're already celebrating the extension of their banal empire over the whole earth, implying people everywhere look forward cheerfully to capitalist rape.)

A sigh of relief was heard over the klutzy media today in response to what they say was the good sense of the Danish voters [in not voting to leave NATO — ed.]. It's supposedly high intelligence to have your national waters crowded with nuclear-armed subs marked with a dollar sign. I believe Workers World will give me a better account of where the Danes really stand — as I doubt that their nation is actually as hopelessly snared as our millionaire anchormen desire.

Norris Merchant
Crestwood, Ky.

—Bullets

Continued from page 2
long in their land telling them what to do."

Brenda Downes, another speaker from Northern Ireland, gave a moving account of the murder of her 22-year-old husband, Sean Downes, by the Royal Ulster Constables (R.U.C) in 1984. Downes was shot in the chest at point-blank range when police rioted against a peaceful anti-internment rally.

Brenda Downes described the plastic bullets as a "weapon of repression used to intimidate people to keep them off the streets." She reported that the British government has recently called for their use against Black people and other ethnic minorities in urban centers in England — as Downes noted, "against any people who are demonstrating for decent housing, decent jobs or for any reason."

In memory of Malcolm X

Toward the end of his life, Malcolm X (whose birthday is commemorated on May 19) addressed the many struggles going on around the world, from revolutionary anti-colonial wars in Africa to U.S. imperialism's war in Vietnam. Many of Malcolm's words and speeches, like those of Marx, Lenin, Cabral and other great thinkers of the past, are applicable today.

Here's an excerpt from one of his speeches, published in *Malcolm Speaks*:

"Colonialism or imperialism, as the slave system of the West is called, is not something that is confined to England or France or the United States. The interests in this country are in

hoots with the interests in France and the interests in Britain. It's one huge complex or combine, and it creates what's known not as the American power structure or the French power structure, but an international power structure. This international power structure is used to suppress the masses of dark-skinned people all over the world and exploit them of their natural resources, so that the era in which you and I have been living during the past ten years most specifically has witnessed the upsurge on the part of the Black man in Africa against the power structure.

"He wants his freedom, and now. Mind you, the power structure is international, and its domestic base is in London, in Paris, in Washington, D.C., and so forth. The outside or external phase of the revolution which is manifest in the attitude and action of the Africans today is troublesome enough. But now the powers that be are beginning to see that this struggle on the outside by the Black man is affecting, infecting the Black man who is on the inside of that structure — I hope you understand what I am trying to say. The newly awakened people all over the world pose a problem for what is known as the Western interest, which is imperialism, colonialism, racism and all these other negative isms and vulturistic isms. Just as the external forces pose a grave threat, they can now see that the internal forces pose an even greater threat. But the internal forces pose an even greater threat only when they have properly analyzed the situation and know what the stakes really are."

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Workers in Palestine show their muscle

By Joyce Chediak

In 21 years of occupation, Israel has proletarianized the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, turning them into a source of super-exploited, cheap labor and captive markets for Israeli goods. Today, however, the Palestinian people, and Palestinian workers in particular, are showing Israeli capitalists that this relationship works both ways.

One of the mightiest achievements of the five-month-old uprising has been its many general strikes. These have become the core of the Palestinian uprising and the Palestinian national struggle's ability to inflict economic damage on the Israeli state.

Just how much of an impact is the uprising having on the Israeli economy? This is a closely-guarded secret.

Gad Yaacobi, Israel's Economics Minister, has admitted that the uprising has so far cost Israel at least \$600 million (New York Times, May 15). Some, however, feel that this is a considerable underestimation.

For example, the Israeli army alone has admitted to increasing its expenditures by \$300 million in an attempt to deal with the uprising. The police budget has been upped by 30%. The construction industry has appealed for disaster assistance, and many as-

sembly line plants are reporting huge losses.

The biggest cost so far is in tourism, which is down 20% (National Public Radio, May 11). Advance bookings are the bread and butter of international tourism, and Israel had counted on its 40th anniversary to be a big tourism year. But by late April, Israel had used up its advances, according to the May 16 New York Times.

Moshe Amir, managing director of Israel Hotel Association, representing 320 hotels, says, "We have no bookings, none. It's empty." Air arrivals were down 33% in the last few weeks, he said. Amir predicted a drop of "50% or more" in the number of tourists in 1988 compared to last year. If this also means halving the revenues from tourism, the loss will be \$800 million.

Some 48.3% of the Palestinian workers from the West Bank and Gaza who work in Israel are employed in construction, 19.5% in services, including cleaning, dish washing and gardening, 18% in industry and 14.2% in agriculture, where they are paid less than half what Israeli workers make. It is no surprise that these industries are among those hurting the most.

Zvi Friedman, spokesman for the Federation of Building Contractors, whose 1,700 member companies employ more than half the Palestinian

workers from the occupied territories, estimated \$75 million in lost business a month ago. He described a need for many companies to appeal to the government for "disaster" status because of the strikes and army-imposed curfews.

Palestinian strikes have also cost Israeli bosses millions of dollars in agriculture. The citrus crops have suffered a 50% loss. Because of the uprising, Israel lost \$60 million in exports to Europe in items such as cut flowers.

General strikes are taking a heavy toll on food processing plants and textile factories where about a third of the workers are Palestinian. Textile losses were estimated at between \$60-70 million just in the first two months of the uprising.

Low-tech industries that produce primarily for the occupied territories have also been devastated as the underground leadership of the uprising is encouraging a boycott of Israeli goods. Some \$800 million in products is exported to Gaza and the West Bank every year, making it Israel's second biggest export market. Many exported items are now feeling a 50% decline in sales.

In addition to increased military expenditures due to the uprising, reservists are being called up for 60 days instead of 30, and are therefore losing

two months of income. This hurts production as well as personal income, though the effects will not be known for some time.

All this is inflationary, which may be the biggest danger, as the unstable, arms-dominated Israeli economy has been fighting triple-digit inflation for years, and only stays afloat due to massive influxes of U.S. aid.

At the same time, tax revenues are way down as Palestinian merchants refuse to pay commercial and income taxes. This means that the occupation, which has until now been profitable for Israel, could become a financial drain. In recent years, the Israeli treasury has been taking about \$80 million a year more in taxes from the occupied territories than it spends there.

The Palestinian people have endured much suffering to have this impact on the economy of their oppressor. They suffer not only because of lost income while on strike, but from the repression and killings, the curfews and the deportations. The Palestinian people, however, are digging in for the long term. With virtually 100% of the population mobilized, they are determined to continue using their economic clout as a weapon to win their national rights, including their right to self-determination and an independent state.

— Soviet Party conference

Continued from page 9

nomic. The issue is how the changes will affect the workers.

Price changes and redistribution of wealth

The most immediate issue is how a price restructuring will affect the workers. A great eagerness was shown to restructure the prices of some 200,000 items, including food, household utensils, so forth and so on. This restructuring would supposedly put prices more in line with costs and ultimately benefit the workers, but it gives the appearance of being an upward movement, not a downward one.

Gorbachev has on several occasions mentioned that the price of bread in the USSR is so cheap that children use loaves as footballs in their games. The implication of this is that bread is too cheap, that it should be more costly because grain is more costly. But let us see.

If we remember correctly, the price of bread was last discussed and promulgated in 1946 during the Stalin period. The idea was that bread would become so cheap in the future that ultimately it would be given out free. In other words, there would be a development toward socialist distribution. This is consonant with Marxist concepts of economics.

Price is nothing but the monetary expression of value. Value is another name for the amount of socially necessary labor time to produce an article. Has not the progress of socialist construction in the USSR shown that scientific-technological development ought to reduce the amount of socially necessary labor? This is universally true. The reduction of the amount of socially necessary labor time should mean the reduction of cost. But the projection of the perestroika economists is that prices have to be raised.

Putting prices in line with costs and the adoption of new cost accounting methods all adds up to a redistribution of the national income in a way which spreads apprehension and fear among the workers. This is reflected in the lower bodies of the Party, which, while

by no means as faithful a representation of the working class as they should be, are nevertheless more significant than the cheerleaders for the reforms from the bourgeois intelligentsia of the USSR.

It is this problem that has to be addressed. If the stagnation of Soviet industry is so great, can it be due merely to the existence of lethargy and the prevalence of bureaucratic methods? Or is it due to a slowly but surely developing momentum toward modifying the social system in the direction

— Colombia

Continued from page 8

just demands of the people. Many have been killed, including Jaime Pardo Leal, president of the UP; Hector Abad Gomez, president of the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights based in Medellin; Ovidio Cano, union leader in Uraba, an agricultural area where many death-squad killings have taken place; and Carlos Mauro Hoyos, the Colombian attorney general.

"In recent times Colombia has been living through a dangerous escalation of this 'dirty war,' in which the most fundamental right, the right to live, has been denied to the Colombian people," the senator stated. "Since 1986, more than 14,000 people have been murdered."

A repercussion of this tour and a measure of its importance was the subsequent resignation of one of the most highly placed members of the Security Administration Bureau (DAS), the police agency responsible for "national security." The official was charged with collaborating with the "Medellin cartel."

His resignation came after Alcantara told a press conference at the United Nations that the police and the Colombian Armed Forces worked hand in hand with the drug traffickers and the most hard-core reactionaries.

of bourgeois norms, toward encouraging individual acquisitiveness, favoring individual entrepreneurs, vastly extending managerial prerogatives, stimulating competitiveness among workers — instead of promoting cooperation and solidarity and reawakening genuine mass enthusiasm?

Isn't this what has to be discussed? If many are asking why three years of perestroika aren't enough to demonstrate its value to the workers, should that not be discussed?

The scientific-technological revolution and the modernization of plant and equipment in the Soviet Union is not a new idea at all. It has been brought up at each successive congress of the Party and has been a pivotal point of socialist construction. The Soviet socialist system has nevertheless produced genuine feats of socialist construction, evident in outer space achievements, in nuclear technology, in the military prowess of the USSR based on scientific-technological development.

A few years ago when the USSR decided to build a natural gas pipeline to Europe, the imperialists said they would not sell them certain types of technology necessary to develop the pipeline and that the USSR would be incapable of finishing the job.

But, as in the case of all other technological obstacles put in the way by the imperialists, the USSR was able to accomplish it without their help and gas is now flowing into Europe.

The problem of perestroika doesn't lie in that direction. It lies in the fact that this is an attempt to change social conditions, to redistribute the national product in another, more unequal way. It lies in the attempt to foist bourgeois norms, bourgeois incentives and bourgeois economic doctrines upon a socialist economy. They bring in their train all of the evils of a capitalist market economy.

You can't improve it by calling it market socialism.

The issue is whether perestroika is oriented in the direction of strengthening the socialist perspective or

whether it is an attempt at a throw-back to favor the upper crust of Soviet society.

And finally the question is whether it can even be accomplished without provoking civil conflict. The lesson of Poland ought to be sobering to the Gorbachev supporters, and even more so the lesson of Yugoslavia with its galloping inflation, its subordination to the imperialist IMF, its chronic unemployment and the reemergence of national antagonisms.

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Por David Perez.

El día 30 de agosto de 1985 en la isla de Puerto Rico 250 agentes del FBI armados con armas automáticas atacaron las viviendas de 40 familias, arrestando a 15 activistas independentistas. Los 15 fueron raptados y trasladados por las fuerzas militares a cárceles federales fuera de su país.

Este acto represivo tomó lugar hace 2 años y 8 meses, en la cuál el compañero Filiberto Ojeda Rios, uno de los 15 está en prisión bajo la ley de detención preventiva. Ley de carácter racista que niega el derecho a fianza siendo Ojeda Rios el primer preso político que ha estado en prisión sin derecho a fianza y

sin que se fije una fecha exacta de juicio.

En una entrevista ofrecida a este periódico, el 24 de diciembre de 1987, Ojeda Rios discutió las causas políticas que hay detrás de estos arrestos. Denunciando la explotación de Puerto Rico por los EEUU, tanto en el plano económico como el militar, que le sirve a esta potencia imperialista para dominar Sud-Africa, Centro-América y el Caribe.

El compañero Ojeda Rios después de 32 meses ha logrado el derecho de salir en libertad, por la desición del juez a cargo del caso. El juez del caso impuso varias condiciones de carácter represivo hacia Ojeda Rios. Como prime-

ra medida, el no puede regresar a Puerto Rico, país donde él reside, y está obligado a vivir en Hartford y reportarse al gobierno federal diariamente y cargar siempre con él una pulsera electrónica que indica el lugar exacto donde Ojeda Rios se encuentra.

A pesar de todas estas medidas represivas inpuestas por el juez, esto se puede declarar como una victoria hacia este caso.

El logro político conseguido con esta victoria hace que la causa por la liberación e independencia de Puerto Rico tome más auge y que la movilización del pueblo aumente cada día más y más hasta lograr la liberación final! ¡Viva Puerto Rico Libre!

Programa de amnistía: mito o realidad

Por Teresa Gutierrez
Houston

La media noche del 4 de mayo fué la fecha final para el programa de amnistía, bajo una previsión de la Reforma de Inmigración y Ley de Control de 1986 — mejor conocida como la ley Simpson-Rodino. La fecha límite para esta llamada "amnistía" se cumplió en medio de una ola propagandística sobre la "histórica" legalización de las grandes masas de trabajadores indocumentados de este país.

Desde el mismo día de su confirmación por el senado en 1986, esta ley estuvo plagada por una nube de confusión y desconfianza y la desinformación que llenó la comunidad. No solamente los inmigrantes y sus defensores tenían un sin-número de interrogantes, si no que hasta miembros de la clase gobernante no tenían en claro, como se iba hacer cumplir esta ley.

Esta histórica "reforma" de inmigración emitida por la Casa Blanca, no es sino una ley racista, anti-trabajadora y represiva, aunque aparentemente se vea como una ley muy progresista todos sus interminables requisitos nos demuestran lo contrario.

Aumento de la discriminación

Bajo esta ley, por primera vez en la historia de los Estados Unidos, se penalizará a todo patrón o dueño de fábrica que conscientemente esté empleando trabajadores indocumentados, dando así luz verde para que se discrimine a los trabajadores tercermundistas.

Al cerrarse la fecha para aplicar a la amnistía el 4 de mayo, el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS), proclamó de exitosa la primera fase de la legislación. Las páginas de los diferentes diarios crearon una imagen de millones de indocumentados acogidos a la ley y de como tantos indocumentados salieron de las sombras para poder al fin "legalizarse" en este país.

La ley estipula que todo aquel que hubiera entrado a los Estados Unidos antes del 1 de enero de 1982, sería elegible para aplicar para la amnistía y consecuentemente para su residencia. Estos trabajadores tenían hasta la media noche del 4 de mayo para reunir toda clase de documentación que demostrara que residían en este país desde 1982 y para que consiguieran el dinero exigido para la aplicación.

Mientras que con estas aplicaciones significaba que millones podían residir legalmente, la verdad era otra, ya que esta ley de inmigración sólo afecta una tercera parte de los indocumentados en este país. El INS estima que 1,5 millones serán legalizados de unos 3,9 millones que eran elegibles. El factor que desaminó a la mayoría de inmigrantes a no acogerse de esta ley fué un enorme miedo a la ser deportados y a la separación de las familias.

Los 1,5 millones es solamente la cantidad que aplicó, no se conoce aún el número de aquellos que serán legalizados. Miles aplicaron el último día y, según el director del INS en Hous-

ton el 40% de estas aplicaciones serán rechazadas.

Muchas aplicaciones se anularán a causa de la desinformación que difundió el INS, al declarar que unos sectores de los indocumentados — especialmente aquellos que reciben asistencia pública (197 no son elegibles). Hay un gran número de demandas entabladas por estas irregularidades.

Una de las mayores críticas a la ley Simpson-Rodino es que excluye a más de un millón de refugiados centroamericanos que viven en este país. Refugiados de países como El Salvador y Guatemala que están enfrascados en una sangrienta guerra civil y que ingresaron al país después de enero 1 de 1982. Esto marca una clara intención de deportar a todos los que escaparon de las guerras promovidas por E.U. en contra de los pueblos centroamericanos.

Abusos por parte del gobierno

En una reciente conferencia patrocinada por la Cadena Nacional por los Derechos de los Inmigrantes y Refugiados, se estudió el verdadero efecto de esta ley en los indocumentados. Uno de los grupos defensores de los inmigrantes catalogó la ley como un completo fracaso.

La conferencia reportó abuso tras abuso. Miles de trabajadores han sido despedidos de sus empleos, desde que se aprobó la ley Simpson-Rodino. 20 trabajadores mejicanos han sido ultimados por la policía fronteriza estadounidense, a muchos se le decomisó ilegalmente sus documentos obligándolos a retornar a México y someter su aplicación en ese país aun cuando la ley específicamente estipulaba que esto no era requerido.

El director del INS en Houston sostiene que el inmenso trabajo en el área de relaciones públicas ha logrado cambiar la imagen de "policia secreta" y que está orientada al servicio público.

El gran número de refugiados centroamericanos catalogados de inelegibles por la ley, podrían ser deportados inmediatamente, muchos ya han sido despedidos de sus empleos. Otros inmigrantes fueron rechazados por tratar de conseguir cartas de sus empleadores. Trabajadores con nombres hispanos o asiáticos fueron innecesariamente cuestionados por sus empleadores aunque su status era "legal". Defensores de los inmigrantes reportaron

que en muchas ocasiones los jefes amenazaban a los trabajadores con el INS si integraban un sindicato.

Crean una nueva previsión

Comenzando mayo 5, el INS volcó todos sus esfuerzos para exigir sanciones en contra de los empleadores que no se adhieran a la ley. Comenzando junio 1, multas de hasta 10,000 dólares serán adjudicadas por la primera transgresión de esta ley.

Legalmente hay una segunda previsión que estipula que no se puede despedir trabajadores que hayan estado trabajando desde antes que la ley fuese aprobada por el senado en octubre primero de 1986. Esta segunda previsión ha sido altamente criticada. Durante todo el trayecto histórico por reformas en las leyes de inmigración, sanciones contra los empleadores han sido denunciadas como una medida racista y provocadora contra todo aquel que tenga fisonomía extranjera. Esto ha traído consigo un sin número de discriminaciones en contra del trabajador negro, latino y asiático. Defensores de los derechos de inmigración están recogiendo la documentación necesaria para luchar en contra de esta previsión.

Sin embargo, descontando los problemas, se puede considerar una victoria para la clase trabajadora el conseguir status legal para un número limitado. Les dará la oportunidad para integrarse a la fuerza laboral que está experimentando grandes cambios traídos por los avances científico-tecnológico y que augura grandes luchas reivindicativas.

Al mismo tiempo, la ley Simpson-Rodino esconde realidades que son vitales reconocer. La codicia de las transnacionales de este país que son en realidad los únicos culpables de la inmigración de millones de personas que huyen de economías devastadoras y de sangrientas guerras en los países del tercer mundo. Una verdadera reforma en la inmigración sería la legalización con plenos derechos para todos los trabajadores sin importar en que tiempo entraron al país. Esto claramente penalizará a los empleadores que están acostumbrados a usar un sistema de super explotación del trabajador indocumentado. Y declarará que no hay fronteras en la lucha del obrero contra la explotación y la opresión.

RAZA SI MIGRA NO

