



workers world

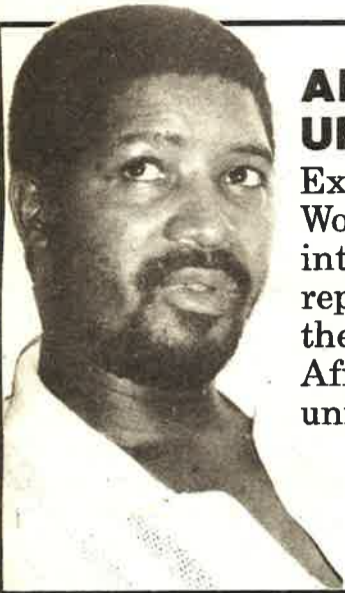
WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Noticias en español vea página 12

AFRICAN UNIONISTS

Exclusive Workers World interview with representative of the South African trade union movement.

8



Gov't attack on all unions seen in Teamster takeover

By Shelley Ettinger

June 29 — The biggest labor union in the country has been taken over by the federal government.

In a blatant attack on a union, its 1.7 million members, and the entire U.S. labor movement, the Justice Department yesterday filed suit to impose a federal trusteeship on the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Trade unionists reacted with outrage and pledged solidarity with the Teamsters. The AFL-CIO, which the union rejoined last November, denounced the action. Food and Commercial Workers' president William Wynn announced that a coalition of over 70 unions would join the Teamsters in the fight.

After nearly a decade of unrelenting unionbusting and anti-labor attacks, the move against the Teamsters represents an even further escalation of the

ruling class assault against working women and men.

That assault first peaked in 1981, with the breaking of the PATCO air controllers' strike. The Teamster takeover is another key battle in the ongoing war waged by bosses against labor.

Smokescreen for unionbusting

The lawsuit, brought by U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani, charges that the entire union is completely controlled by organized crime. The government is using the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) law to try to oust the 18-member Teamster executive board and appoint a special trustee to run the union. Elections for new union officers would take place at some unspecified future date.

Immediately after the suit was filed,

Continued on page 4

DROUGHT: A CLASS VIEW

How giant corporations are gearing up to make a profit from the drought, and how the government is helping them. The impact on farmworkers, autoworkers.

2,3

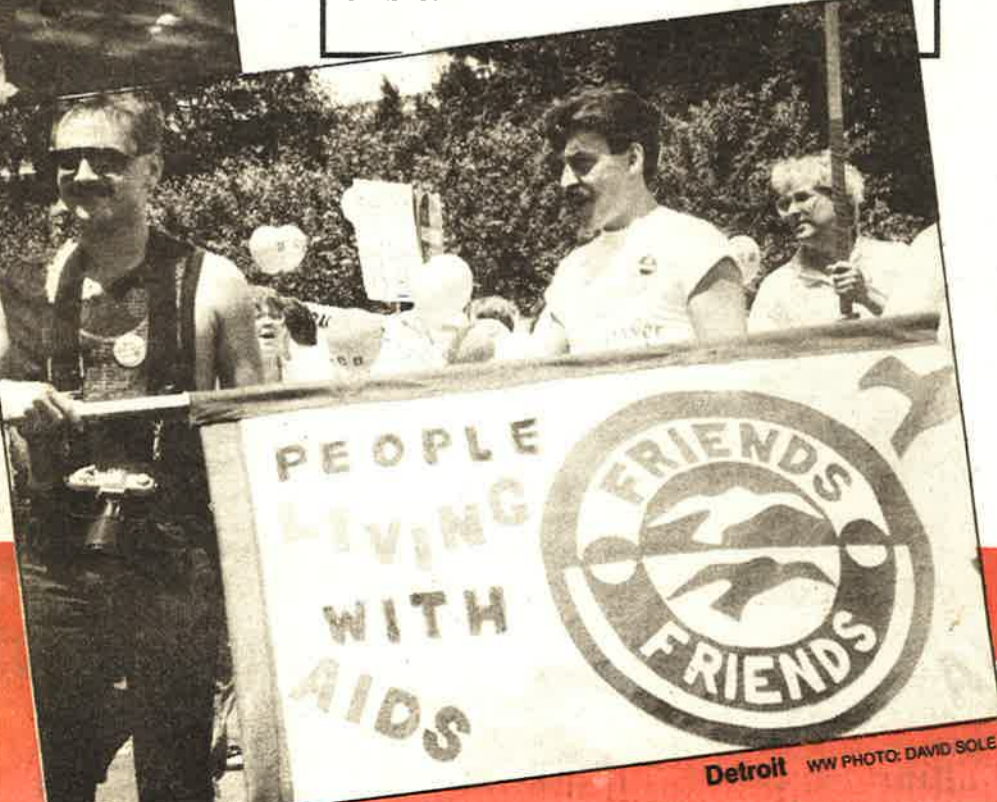
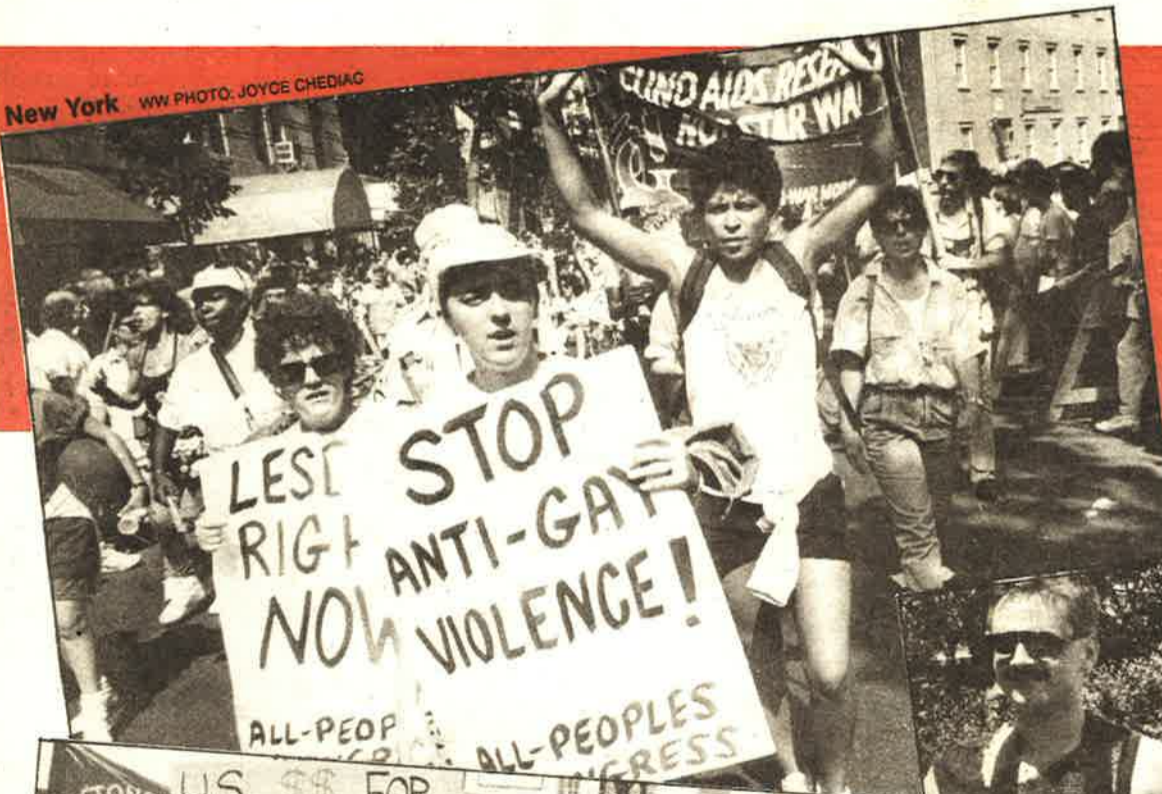
EYEWITNESS NICARAGUA

Sandinista leader explains how Shultz's trip to Central America signals a new war danger to Nicaragua.

11

LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE CENTERFOLD

Some 275,000 took to the streets in San Francisco, 200,000 more in Los Angeles, 90,000 in Chicago, yet 100,000 more in New York and tens of thousands in other cities to mark Lesbian and Gay Pride Day. Some marches were the biggest ever. All focused on the AIDS crisis.



San Francisco WW PHOTO: JOAN MARQUARDT

Detroit WW PHOTO: DAVID SOLE

What the drought means to farm workers

By Petra Guerra



California farmworkers on a bus to work.

It is easy to see the contradictions within this system when reading the daily newspapers. The press has given extensive coverage to the devastating drought affecting some states in the Northwest.

There is talk in the news about compensating the growers for their loss. The federal government is willing to compensate some of the big growers. But have any government officials mentioned the farm workers? If they have, they must be whispering, because there is nothing on the news about them.

States like Montana, North and South Dakota and Illinois are hardest hit by the drought. Understanding the trail that the migrant farm workers follow, I cannot help but wonder how they are going to deal with the destruction of crops and no work.

Farm workers have to travel to follow the crops. While in their home base, mainly Texas, they have no income at all. They are only employed during the time the crops are being cultivated and during the harvest, which means that they only work part of the year. Farm workers must also make sure that they have enough saved for the trip back. There is no unemployment compensation or health insurance.

On top of this, hundreds of thousands of Mexican people are applying for a program for "special agricultural workers," co-sponsored by Representative Peter Rodino. Any foreign-born workers can apply who can show that they spent 90 days or more in the U.S. as a farm worker during the 12-month period ending May 1, 1986, and can pay the \$185 processing fee.

These workers are allowed to work here for 90 days, and to try to gather the documentation that will allow them to remain in the country permanently. For most, however, this will be a temporary worker, or bracero program.

Bracero program of 1950s

Coming from a family of braceros, I can relate a little bit to the old bracero program. Through the bracero program of the 1950s, the U.S. and Mexican governments had an agreement that temporary agricultural workers would be brought in from Mexico to do the harvest, then sent back to Mexico. These workers had no protection under the law, they worked long hours for lower wages than their compatriots

here, and made millions of dollars in profits for the growers.

Both the old bracero and the new "amnesty" temporary worker program have only one thing in mind — making profits for the bosses. The program will provide "surplus" labor during the harvest. But during a drought, when the crops are dead, where are the "surplus" workers going to work?

The U.S. government and the corporations have a long history of pitting workers against each other, paying one group pennies more than another in an attempt to divide the working class, and using racism to keep workers apart. The bracero program was used for union busting, and to drive wages as low as possible. That is what will happen with the temporary workers program.

According to the New York Times (June 20), more than 62,000 applications have been filed, and thousands others are expected. This has already created a surplus of labor in the Imperial Valley, where the offices are located, thus bringing down wages for all workers.

Many of the temporary workers who have not been able to find employment in the fields are now moving into cities such as Los Angeles, looking for employment in restaurants or anywhere they can get it.

This influx of workers is not a common one. First of all, workers are coming from areas of Mexico where they have never come from before. Many of them have never previously worked in agriculture before. Some are even abandoning their professions such as teaching and engineering in the hope of getting a job in this country.

The Catholic Church and U.S. farm-funded groups are utilizing the media to advertise the new program.

But what will happen to those workers when they get here and find that it was all lies, that there is no work, that they are not going to be welcomed and that there will be no social services extended to them, and that they run the risk of being used as scapegoats for the economic ills caused by big business?

The U.S. government and agribusiness growers will not help. They are the ones who created this situation to begin with. The main hope for these workers lies in a labor movement that organizes them all, documented and undocumented alike. As the union slogan says, "An injury to one is an injury to all." (See article on how U.S. banks are undermining Mexico's economy, page 10.)

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.

Atlanta: P.O. Box 424, Atlanta, Ga. 30301 (404) 662-6417

Baltimore: 424 E. 31 St., Baltimore, Md. 21218 (301) 889-9318

Boston: 186 Lincoln St., Room 602, Boston, Mass. 02111 (617) 426-5626

Buffalo: 349 Niagara St., Buffalo, N.Y. 14201 (716) 855-3055

Chicago: P.O. Box 6510, Chicago, Ill. 60680 (312) 283-0851

Cleveland: 2012 W. 25 St., Suite 602, Cleveland, Ohio 44113 (216) 861-6154

Detroit: 1947 Grand River, Room 201, Detroit, Mich. 48226 (313) 962-4979

Hartford: P.O. Box 14411, Hartford, Conn. 06114

Houston: P.O. Box 52115, Houston, Texas 77052 (713) 524-4462

Milwaukee: P.O. Box 16223, Milwaukee, Wis. 53216

New York City: 46 W. 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010 (212) 255-0352

Philadelphia: P.O. Box 17116, Philadelphia, Pa. 19105 (215) 626-8704

Rochester, N.Y.: 816 Joseph Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14621 (716) 342-5707

San Francisco: 3181 Mission, No. 29, San Francisco, Calif. 94110 (415) 826-4828

Seattle: 1017C E. Pike, Seattle, Wash. 98122 (206) 322-6478

Washington, D.C.: P.O. Box 43841, Washington, D.C. 20010 (202) 328-0990

CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Tues., July 12: A People's Anti-War Mobilization and Students & Youth Against Racism forum on the

Korean's people's struggle for democracy and reunification. Featuring speaker from the Korean community. 7 p.m. Wheelchair accessible.

Refreshments. 146 W. 25 St. Manhattan. Call (212) 741-0633.

In This Issue

NATIONAL	
Teamsters seized by government	1
Farmworkers hurt by drought	2
Agribusiness feeds off drought	3
Autoworkers strike over heat death	3
Tawana Brawley	4
News from Indian Country	4
Fare hike stopped in San Francisco	5
Lethal germs mailed by Pentagon	5
On the picketline	5
Half-million march in California	6
32 arrested in AIDS action	6
Michigan anti-gay laws fought	6
New York lesbian and gay pride	7
AIDS quilt	7
Savimbi in U.S.	9
Angola representatives in Harlem	9
Veterans Peace Convoy	11

INTERNATIONAL	
Mexico frees Morales	4
South Africa unionist interviewed	8
Leon Trotsky	9
Mexico	10
Nicaragua	11

EDITORIALS AND FEATURES	
U.S. disarmament and the Third World	10
Court shields arms makers	10

NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL	
Tawana Brawley	12
Día del Orgullo Gay	12

workers world
46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010 Editorial: (212) 206-8222
Business: (212) 255-0352 Telex: 6501176920
Vol. 30, No. 27/July 7, 1988 Closing news date: June 29, 1988

Editor: Deirdre Griswold
Technical Editor: Lallan Stein
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Joyce Chediak, Robert Dobrow, Gary Wilson; Contributing Editors: Monica Moorehead, Carmen Roundtree, Sharon Shelton, Andy Stapp; Political Prisoners: Leslie Feinberg; Special Supplement: Shelley Ettinger; Technical Staff: Pat Chin, Mark Doran, Ken Franson, Marsha Goldberg, Katy Rosen, Steve Schultz; Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Petra Guerra, Teresa Gutierrez, Santiago Manque-Milla, Rosa Maria de la Torre, David Perez, Lucinda Sintierra, Octavio Vargas, Angela Vera; Darkroom Staff: G. Dunkel, Fabian, Susan Rotgard

Workers World (ISSN-0043-809X) is published weekly by WW Publishers, 46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010. Business office (212) 255-0352. Editorial office: (212) 206-8222. Subscriptions: One year: \$10; six months: \$6. All letters received by Workers World become the property of the newspaper. We reserve the right to print letters in condensed form. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or Xerox from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 46 W. 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

Bundle rates available on request.

Agribusiness, speculators set to feed off drought

By John Catalinotto

The worst U.S. drought in a half-century is not only burning crops and opening the land to erosion, it is exposing how ready capitalist agribusiness is to exploit this disaster at the expense of the working and poor people.

As of June 22, some 1,231 counties in 30 states, making up 40% of U.S. counties, were declared hit by a drought emergency. If the dry weather continues, experts expect the wheat, corn and soybean crops to be ruined throughout much of the country.

For the time being, no severe food shortages are expected in the U.S. from these crop failures. If people go hungry, it will be for the usual reason: that they don't have enough money to buy food.

But the crop failures will cause severe hardship for farm workers (see article page 2) and for an estimated 10% of individual farmers in the drought areas who face bankruptcy and foreclosure. It will also hurt the standard of living of everyone for whom food makes up a large part of the household budget.

In the U.S. capitalist market, prices are often set higher on items in short supply. For example, a small orange crop almost always results in higher orange prices.

Sometimes the monopolies utilize a perceived shortage or falsely create a shortage in order to raise prices. An example here was the so-called "oil shortage" of the mid-1970s. Exxon, Mobil, Texaco and a few other giants raked in superprofits as they held oil off the market, blaming the "shortage" on OPEC.

For crops like corn, soybeans and wheat the federal government plays a big role in controlling the market. In years when the crops are good, it buys huge amounts and stores them, keeping prices artificially high. This maintains high profits for the giant agribusiness monopolies which dominate U.S. agriculture.

When there are bad years, the government sells these stores — not to working people at low prices — back to corporations, once again to insure their profits. And these same monop-



Dry field in Fresno, Calif. Workers will bear the brunt of the drought in the form of high food prices.

lies look for every possible way to take advantage of the crop shortage to raise their profits.

Speculation and price-gouging

In addition, for both the oranges and the grains, there is the problem of speculation. The big-time gamblers known as "commodity traders" drive up grain prices as they try to buy large amounts of grain now, in the hope of selling later for even higher prices.

Since January, this trading has driven soybean prices from \$4 to \$10 a bushel, corn prices from \$1.25 to \$3.15 a bushel and wheat prices from under \$3 to \$4 a bushel.

Farmers, farm workers and even average consumers may be hoping beyond hope for an end to the drought, but the speculators had a temporary tailspin on the Chicago commodities market when the weather service predicted scattered showers in the Midwest. (New York Times, June 25.)

In their lust for quick profits, these traders are no better than the owners of the weapons industry whose greatest sorrow is that peace might be declared. For the capitalist, no disaster is so great that he can't find a way to profit from it.

Currently, traders, grain companies and warehouse operators are buying record amounts of grain and soy-

beans. This has almost eliminated the soybean supplies stored by the government and cut the wheat stocks to a third of what they were in June 1987.

Once the grains and soybeans are in private hands, their owners may withhold them from the users in the hope that prices will go still higher. Most of the corn and soybeans, by the way, are used for feeding livestock. The wheat is made directly into products like bread and pasta.

In 1949, and again in 1975-1977, government stocks of grains were depleted. Both those times food prices soared. Currently, analysts are predicting that food prices will rise by as much as 4% because of the drought. Overall inflation is expected to be an additional 0.6%, up to about 5%. (Washington Post, June 26.)

Since food is a necessity of life, people with small incomes will be hurt more by the food price rises than those with larger incomes.

This is in contrast with socialist agriculture. In the Soviet Union, grains were purchased from abroad when bad weather caused partial crop failures. This purchase cost the government, but the price to the consumer for these necessities was kept at the same low level.

This Soviet policy has been a clear benefit to the lower wage earners: Now

it is being challenged by those forces in the USSR who look to the "free market" to regulate food prices.

Kellogg prematurely sets price hikes

In the U.S., on the other hand, there is the added problem that the food processing companies will take a one cent increase in costs and demand a 10 cent hike in prices. And they'll do it while still using raw materials bought at low prices. As the oil monopolies did in the 1970s after the OPEC boycott, the big agribusiness companies will try to take advantage of the mood created by the news of the drought.

Kellogg Company, one of a few breakfast cereal monopolies, has already announced price increases. This seems excessive to anyone who knows that for cereal and bakery products, the cost of the grain accounts for only 7.6% of the retail price, according to government figures.

Heinz U.S.A., dependent on the shrunken western Michigan cucumber crop for their pickles, may be ready to do the same as Kellogg. When asked if Heinz would raise prices in expectation of the short cucumber crop, a representative said, "I think we'll be waiting to see what the industry does" (New York Times, June 24).

In other words, they'll do it if they can get away with it!

Auto workers strike over heat wave death

By Gary Wilson

The heatwave has been unbearable. But it's even worse inside the 115-degree Chrysler assemblyline in Fenton, Mo., near St. Louis. It's so bad, a paint-shop worker collapsed and died on June 22.

This is not a story out of Charles Dickens. This is real life for workers in big and small sweatshops in the heat wave that has devastated the Midwest and South.

After Willie Benton, 54, died, thousands of workers staged a strike at Chrysler's two manufacturing plants in Fenton. Management and representatives of the United Auto Workers spent all day discussing the conditions for the 5,000 workers. The walk-out lasted several days.

Jerry Taylor, a welding inspector for 15 years, said, "I think they should reduce work hours in heat like that. Of course, they're not going to."

They put profits first

"They just want to sell cars. They don't care about the workers." Many

shifts are 10 hours a day, he said.

Another worker, Joe McGinnis, who has been at Chrysler for 15 years, said that the corporation didn't care about safety. "What they're actually doing is running an old-time sweatshop; they're just paying us a little more for it is all."

Air conditioning a necessity

The workers are demanding air conditioning. In a report released by the National Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta on June 27 in response to the heat wave and deaths in its wake, top medical scientists said that in high temperatures over 100 degrees, fans cannot provide proper cooling and in fact may aggravate the heat problems. The report says that air conditioning is the only possible means to safely relieve such extreme heat.

The Chrysler plant has only small fans that the company keeps covered to prevent dust from entering the plant. As McGinnis added, "They have plenty of ventilation, but they won't open it up because of the dust.

It's better to kill a worker than have a little dust in the paint or find a new system that will work. That's their attitude."

The striking workers are demanding that the company install air conditioning. In response, Chrysler spokesman Doug Nicoll in Detroit said, "I don't know of a plant in the country that's air conditioned." Nicoll was speaking from a well air-conditioned office.

While it may be true that most plants and factories across the country do not provide air conditioning for the workers (except where the equipment requires it), the Fenton Chrysler workers point out that the General Motors plant near them in Wentzville has had air conditioning throughout since 1983.

This struggle of the Chrysler workers against the oppressive heat conditions has not made national news. The big business-controlled media has completely ignored the way people are being forced to work under the most inhumane conditions during the heat crisis. It is a story of outrage that remains untold.

Building Fund Appeal

If you don't act now, WORKERS WORLD could be homeless in 1989! The lease on the WORKERS WORLD office is running out. And so is time. We're caught in a nationwide crisis between workers' decreasing income and extortionate rents. Our only solution is to purchase a permanent home for the newspaper. But that requires an enormous amount of money ... and a lot of help from our friends and subscribers.

WORKERS WORLD'S future depends on you. Give generously today.

Please mail your check to WW Building Fund. For more information write WW Building Fund, 46 W. 21 St. NY, 10010. Or call us at (212) 255-0352

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
PHONE _____

Media orchestrates attack on Brawley advisers

'Wiretap expert' turns out to be fraud

By Carmen Roundtree
New York

Quick to try and discredit Tawana Brawley, the big business media, mouthpieces for the rich, have seized upon every so-called lead in an attempt to convince the public that she couldn't possibly be telling the truth.

Media-orchestrated events have focused attention away from the potentially explosive kidnapping and rape of Brawley, a Black teenager, at the hands of six white men, one of whom she says had a badge. Instead, the media have turned more and more attention on the Brawley attorneys C. Vernon Mason and Alton Maddox, Jr., and the family adviser Rev. Al Sharpton.

Screaming headlines in this city's tabloids have proclaimed: "New bomb shell in Brawley case," "The scandal behind the Brawley case," and, "When the three stooges toss dirt pies," referring to Maddox, Mason and Sharpton.

So when Samuel McCleave stepped forward out of nowhere, proclaiming he had illegally wiretapped the home and office of C. Vernon Mason at the request of Sharpton, the media went wild. On CBS-TV news, McCleave claimed he had tapes that could prove without a shadow of a doubt that Tawana Brawley and her advisers were lying about her abduction and rape.

The headlines screamed "Hoax!" McCleave was rushed before a grand jury investigating alleged misconduct by Mason, Maddox and Sharpton. But that rush turned up empty.

The tapes were blank. And the next day the media didn't scream "hoax," they hardly screamed at all.

Those at CBS who ran the exclusive interview with McCleave on June 20 were quick to reply that they still accepted McCleave's original story. Reporter Mike Taibbi said that "my tendency is to believe that they [the tapes] were destroyed, switched, or that somebody else had them. I have no reason to believe he did not do what he said he did, or that he was untruthful."

Later, the New Jersey press revealed that McCleave had recently sought to move from his present residence in Jersey City, valued at \$3,100, and was looking into buying a town house valued at over \$500,000 in Port Liberty, N.J. Wouldn't that raise a slight question as to where McCleave, who is presently unemployed, would get the kind of money even to leave a down payment on a piece of property like that? Many progressives, especially in the Black community, feel that the media in this city didn't check McCleave out, they just jumped on his claims, and made them banner headlines.

McCleave's subsequent arrest on charges of perjury didn't get the kind of media attention his claims against the Brawley advisers did. Neither did Sharpton, Mason and Maddox's announcement that they would sue CBS.

Media—an arm of the state

When it comes to the Brawley case the big business media has dropped all pretense of objectivity and is really

acting as an arm of the state.

Why is the government trying so hard to discredit Tawana Brawley and her advisers and convince the public that she is lying? By sticking to their demand for a special prosecutor, the Brawley family, their attorneys and adviser have exposed the racism of the judicial system as a whole.

Once in a great while, the media, the courts and the government will sheepishly admit that there is some injustice, and even that there is something to the oppressed community's claim that Black people are systematically treated unfairly by the legal system.

Of course, they admit this only when a struggle forces them to, and then they claim that they will "look into it," and that should be that. Never do they tolerate actions from the community itself to correct those injustices.

This is what they really mean when they say that the Brawley family and their advisers are totally out of line when they challenge and attempt to change that system.

Mr. Liberal, Governor Cuomo, in refusing to appoint a special prosecutor acceptable to the Brawley family,

stated that the legal system in New York had been in place and working well for over two hundred years. But what he didn't say was that it only worked well for the white, rich and powerful, and that for over 400 years right up until today, Black people in this country have been denied equal rights.

The assault on Tawana Brawley encompasses the 400 years of endurance that Black people have lived with. Tawana Brawley encompasses Eleanor Bumpurs, Michael Griffith, Yvonne Smallwood and the ever-growing list of Black, Latino and Asian people who are murdered and raped in this country on a daily basis.

And just as the state tried to stop the forward movement of the Black community 20 ago years when it attempted to wipe the Black Panther Party off the planet, today it is trying to halt the forward movement of the Black community by attacking Tawana Brawley and those close to her. We must not be swayed by the government tactics to sow division among us, and must press forward to bring justice to Tawana Brawley and all victims of racism.

News from Indian Country

Canada unions back Native rights

By Mahtowin

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labor (SFL) has issued a statement strongly condemning the actions taken by the Canadian government against the people of the Kahnawake Mohawk Reserve in Quebec.

On June 1, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) invaded the reserve and arrested 17 members of the Mohawk Nation.

The Canadian government has painted this as an attempt to halt the flow of cigarettes from Mohawk territory in New York State into Canada, where they are sold duty-free. The Canadian government is disturbed because it is losing an estimated \$60 million per year in cigarette taxes.

By treaty right all members of the Six Nations (Iroquois) Confederacy, which includes Mohawks, are guaran-

teed freedom of exchange within their territorial boundaries. But as the SFL noted, "Cigarette sales are not the issue here. The issue is human rights, specifically the aboriginal rights to self-determination and self-government. Negotiations by governments must begin with recognition of these rights, not at the point of RCMP sub-machine guns."

The statement describes the government raid as "just one more example of the unwillingness of the Canadian government to recognize the full rights of aboriginal people," and explains that "a united response by democratically-minded Canadians, native and non-native, is needed to defeat racism and advance the cause of aboriginal rights."

The SFL statement was read outside the Department of Indian Affairs office in Regina, along with letters of solidarity coming from as far away as Scotland and Ireland.



WW PHOTO: DAVE SOLE

Detroit Freedom Walk. Some 2,000 people participated in Freedom Walk II on June 26 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the historic Freedom Walk I, led in Detroit by Martin Luther King, Jr. It was the largest civil rights demonstration up to that time. The theme of this week's commemorative march was, "We've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go."

Political prisoners

Mexico rebuffs Meese, frees Morales

By Leslie Feinberg
New York

The Mexican government has drawn "outrage" from the U.S. State Department by refusing the Justice Department's demand to extradite prisoner William Morales to the U.S. Released from a Mexican prison on June 24, Puerto Rican independence fighter Morales flew to Cuba.

On June 28, Washington actually withdrew its ambassador to Mexico in protest.

Morales was convicted here in 1979 of possession of explosives and other charges and sentenced to 99 years in prison. He escaped from a Bellevue Hospital prison ward in 1979 and lived underground until captured in Mexico in 1983.

The U.S. government and media labeled William Morales a "terrorist" and treated the trial as strictly a criminal matter. But Morales and his sup-

porters charged that he was a prisoner of war in the struggle to free Puerto Rico from U.S. colonization.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry notified U.S. officials on June 23 that Morales is accused of political crimes and is not eligible to be extradited to the U.S. under a 1978 treaty.

Speaking by telephone from a Mexican jail before he left for Cuba, Morales said, "This is a recognition of the legitimate struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico."

Morales was sentenced to 12 years and 6 months in prison following an FBI and police shootout in Puebla, Mexico, where he was recaptured in 1983. He was sentenced for the death of one policeman and wounding of another in the gun battle. Morales, who lost his hands in an explosion which led to his initial arrest in the U.S., had his sentence reduced after arguing that he could not possibly have shot the police.

—Teamsters

Continued from page 1

a federal court in New York issued a ten-day temporary restraining order against the union's executive board to prevent it from carrying out any union business other than payment of routine expenses and benefit funds. The court is expected to extend the restraining order into a preliminary injunction at a hearing on July 5.

In effect, then, the biggest and one of the strongest unions in the country is under government control. And it was accomplished with the full cooperation of the judiciary, without even the pretense of due process for the 1.7 million working women and men represented by the Teamsters.

The RICO statutes, supposedly directed at organized crime, have already been used several times to take

over Teamster and other union locals. While the Teamsters have been the target of almost continuous government attacks since the 1950s, RICO now provides a cover for an all-out offensive.

The real goal of the lawsuit is to take over the union's day-to-day operations — which include grievance handling, organizing, and so on — so it is unable to fight for the workers. Ultimately, the ruling class hopes to apply this strategy to the whole labor movement.

Spark to militancy

But it may backfire, and uneasiness on that account is making some politicians wary about the Teamster takeover. Rank and file workers see the tactic for what it is, and may mobilize to really fight back. In the Teamsters, especially, where a mood of militancy resulted in the overwhelming vote to reject a new contract by over-the-road

Continued on page 5

Fare hike stopped due to people's struggle

New battle needed against layoffs

By Jane Cutter
San Francisco

cents and maintained the 25-cent youth fare.

The ruling class here is furious about the freeze on senior, disabled and youth fares. Both major newspapers, the Chronicle and the Examiner, lashed out with editorials on June 24 demanding that the Board of Supervisors rescind the PUC vote and raise the fares for seniors, disabled people and youth. The Examiner wrote an editorial which especially targeted the All-Peoples Congress for its role in organizing opposition to fare increases and service cuts on MUNI.

Although the PUC's partial rejection of the mayor's proposal is a definite victory, the struggle is far from over. The PUC will hold a hearing June 28 on proposed MUNI service cuts, which would reduce the already strained system to a parody of public transit.

Hearings are being held on cuts to other vital services, such as public health, mental health and programs for the homeless. The 400 layoffs will have a devastating effect. But the PUC vote and the saving of the libraries shows that struggle can make a difference.

To get involved, call the Committee Against Budget Cuts of the All-Peoples Congress at (415) 821-6545.

June 27 — In an unprecedented move, the city Public Utilities Commission (PUC) voted on June 21 to reject Mayor Art Agnos' proposal to raise public transport fares for seniors, disabled and youth.

In a related development, funding was found to keep open four branch libraries which had been threatened with closure. However, as part of his attempt to solve the city budget deficit on the backs of the poor and working people here, the Mayor has announced the immediate layoff of at least 400 city workers.

The PUC acts as a tool of the monopoly utility interests, rubber-stamping proposals after sitting through mandatory public hearings. But on June 21 the commissioners were faced with an angry crowd, mobilized by the All-Peoples Congress, which has played a leading role in opposing fare hikes and service cuts on MUNI, the San Francisco public transit system, since they were announced in March.

While the PUC did vote to raise the regular adult fare ten cents, the monthly Fast Pass by \$3 to \$28, and the Cable Car by \$1, it rejected the proposed 67% increase in the senior/disabled fare from 15 cents to 25

A-26 Friday, June 24, 1988 ★ San Francisco

San Francisco Examiner
FOUNDED 1865

Randolph A. Hearst
PRESIDENT

William R. Hearst III
EDITOR & PUBLISHER

A \$2.50 fare? Are they kidding?

CITY HALL IS about to pluck the golden goose. The proposed \$1 fare increase to \$2.50 for a cable car ride is aimed at tourists, whose patience and pocketbooks we take for granted. That is a mistake. So is this suggested fare hike.

Tourists may be the only large bloc in San Francisco without a special-interest lobby. They can't complain and don't vote. So it was not visitors who crowded into Tuesday night's Public Utilities Commission hearing on rate-increase proposals, but a noisy crowd organized by a group called the All Peoples Congress, supposedly representing seniors and the handicapped. Arguing that the "big banks and corporations profit from Muni," they apparently persuaded commissioners to reject more reasonable recommendations by the mayor's office.

Consider the applies to cable PUC wrote off the attraction, a Disney use to locals. On the cable car fare at 25 cents, elderly residents use the system, which seems obvious that is an interim measure — headed for \$1 eventually. Unfortunately, Muni seems to be resisting the necessity to invest in paper-money collection

—Teamsters

Continued from page 4
truckers last month, there is a basis for a new activism in a struggle to defend the union.
The Teamsters represent not only truckers, but increasing numbers of service workers, Third World and women workers. There, and in many other unions, the latest anti-labor attack could in fact help provide momentum for the kind of anger and unity needed to push the labor movement forward.
The potential is there. At time of PATCO, it was tapped in the form of Solidarity Day, a huge labor rally. While "pro-labor" politicians will try to divert it into the electoral arena, labor can go another way. Labor Day is in two months. That could be the time to take a united stand.

On the picket line

Writers Guild still walks. The new fall TV season may start next winter. The Writers Guild strike against TV and movie producers, now four months old, is still going strong after members voted by a four to one margin on June 23 to reject management's latest "final offer." Although the media have made much of a supposed split among the striking writers, packed union halls in New York City and Los Angeles cheered strike leaders' call to reject the take-backs, and there was a good turnout at a strike rally at the Paramount Building in New York City. As a result of the 9,000 striking writers' solid front, the networks reportedly will have to postpone the season premiers for most of their TV series.

Timber strike. Strikes against timber mills and logging operations in the Pacific Northwest, begun in early June, spread to 20 sites by the second week. Some 4,500 workers at Willamette Industries, Champion International Inc. and DAW Wood Products Co. were on the picket lines in Oregon, Washington and Montana. Members of the International Woodworkers and the Western Council of Industrial Workers were fighting to regain wages lost to givebacks in their last contract two years ago. Meanwhile, talks have begun at Weyerhaeuser Co., which, with about 6,000 timber workers, was the scene of a bitter strike two years ago.

Meatpackers' organizing victory. The Food and Commercial Workers have won union recognition for 1,700 workers at IBP's Joslin, Ill., plant. IBP, formerly Iowa Beef, is the biggest beefpacking company in the world and has a long history of union-busting. Until now, only the headquarters plant in Dakota City, Neb., was organized, and workers there have waged many struggles. The most recent was a seven-month strike-turned-lockout last year. The militancy of that battle obviously made an impression on IBP, which agreed to recognize the union at the Joslin plant without forcing an election.

Shelley Ettinger

Government-issue anthrax, special delivery

By Andy Stapp

It happened back during the height of the Vietnam war and kind of got lost in the combat news, but the people of Utah will never forget it. If it hadn't been raining that night, a lot of people driving down Route 36 would have been killed. Fortunately for them, they had their car windows rolled up because of the storm.
The sheep weren't so lucky. About 1,600 of them died. The U.S. Army had experienced a little accident with its nerve gas test at the Dugway Proving Grounds, everything had gone wrong and the stuff had blown for miles beyond the base perimeter.
As to be expected, the Pentagon began by denying everything, but there was the obvious problem of explaining all those dead sheep. Finally the military geniuses responsible for this near holocaust admitted the truth, paid off the scared and angry sheep farmers for their losses and promised never to

do anything this stupid and reckless again.
That was back in 1969.
Now, almost 20 years later, the Pentagon has become involved in a new potential horror. According to an environmental impact statement casually filed by the U.S. Army, the military has been sending highly toxic and infectious substances through the public mail for many years. It's called "etiologic material," but it's really freeze-dried death.
Mailing anthrax, botulism
How about using the public post office to mail anthrax, a disease that three centuries ago killed 60,000 people in southern Europe in just one year? Would the Army really do this? Sure. Anthrax mailing is a big favorite.
The U.S. government has all sorts of regulations in effect to prevent anthrax-contaminated horse hair from being imported into the U.S. from other countries, but according to

the Pentagon, it's safe to send vials of anthrax through the mail. See, we haven't had a really bad outbreak of epidemic anthrax since 1920, so why worry?
True, anthrax spores can live on for years in contaminated material, but doctors can do wonders if they treat the victim in the first 12 hours after the infection hits. After that, things become a bit tricky once the germ gets into the lymphatic and blood system. But we're sure the Pentagon has taken every precaution, sealing and corking the bottles very carefully.
And you can bet that all the same safety measures are in place for the vials of hepatitis the Army sends through the postal service. It's true that doctors really fear this disease, warning about the dangers of "exogenous chemical agents" that cause "hepatic necrosis and parenchymal failure," but everyone knows that doctors just like to use big scary words to frighten people and make themselves look important. Anyway, liver disease

is usually painless and short.
We're sure the Army has a perfectly good reason for mailing hepatitis. But why botulism?
My mother was always careful to avoid buying dented cans at the A&P fearing botulism lurked there, waiting to kill the whole family. Such timidity does not afflict the Army. Your botulism is in the mail.
There are really two ways of looking at this whole question. On one hand, the military says it wants to use the post office for its germ carrier because it's cheaper than private courier. On the other hand, the postal workers' unions are against it, many of their members looking forward to living to retirement age.
There is a third possibility, of course. Put all those generals and admirals in a big room together, sort of like a family picnic, along with their vials of anthrax and hepatitis and botulism. What harm could come to them? After all, they've told everyone "this stuff is perfectly safe."



New York City

NYC WW PHOTOS: JOYCE CHEDIAC



New York City



Connecticut protests. Over 800 Connecticut Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade, the Lesbian and Gay Focus of the All-Peoples anti-gay attacks, and called for funding joined by members of Latinos Contra SIDA Connecticut Committee Against Repression Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project demand justice for Reihl.

Close to half-million march in Calif.

By Joan Marquardt
San Francisco

On June 26, tens of thousands marched through West Hollywood in the Christopher Street West Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade Sunday. Many felt the activity was about 200,000, the biggest turn-out ever here. Among the many participants was the ACT UP/L.A. contingent, wearing black T-shirts with pink triangles, reading "Silence equals Death."

In San Francisco, some 275,000 people participated in the annual Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade, the largest crowd in the 18-year history of the event and the largest of its kind in the world.

There were several hundred contingents and floats. Participating was Sylvester, the nationally-known Black gay entertainer in a wheelchair. Having performed for countless AIDS benefits in recent years, Sylvester himself now has AIDS.

The rally following the parade, running simultaneously from three separate stages, included a tribute to James Baldwin and a speaker from Dubuque, Iowa, and Ilse Kornreich, co-founder of the first openly lesbian organization in Argentina, Cuadernos de Existencia Lesbiana.

Michael Ryan, a person with AIDS and a member of ACT UP/S.F., (formerly the AIDS Action Pledge) stated, "As I struggle as an individual with this disease I am also struggling collectively with many others committed to ending this epidemic. I often feel that my present 'healthy' status is due

Continued on page 10

Michigan marchers hope to erase anti-g

By Kris Hamel
Detroit

June 26 — About 800 gay men, lesbians and their supporters marched down Woodward Avenue in Detroit's annual Gay and Lesbian Pride march today.

On June 19 in Grand Rapids, Mich., the first gay pride demonstration ever held there drew 500.

"Rightfully Proud!" was the theme of the spirited event here today. The motto was right on target. As one marcher observed, "This was one of the more militant and multinational gay pride marches here in recent years." The most popular chants demanded gay and lesbian rights, money for AIDS and not war, Black-white unity in the struggle.

Sponsors and participants included the Michigan Organization for Human Rights (MOHR), Detroit Area Gay/Lesbian Council, Lesbian Connection, All-Peoples Congress, Na-



New York City



San Francisco

WW PHOTO: JOAN MARQUARDT

32 arrested at AIDS demonstration in San Francisco

By Joan Marquardt
San Francisco

June 27 — Thirty-two people were arrested at the doors of the old Federal Building here today. They were attempting to see the local representative of the federal Health and Human Services Department, George Miller, who oversees the local Federal Drug Administration (FDA) office. Federal police seized a group of people with AIDS and ARC and other AIDS activists; and then others were apprehended while blocking the entrances in protest.

Protesters demanded that the government declare a national health care emergency and provide access to all promising AIDS/ARC/HIV treatments. Co-sponsored by ACT UP/San Francisco (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) and the ARC-AIDS Vigil, the action underscored the unconscionable failure of the federal government to compassionately respond to the AIDS epidemic.

It was pointed out that even the head of the President's AIDS Commission, James Watkins, has called for a declaration of a national AIDS emergency. And as the growing number of people with AIDS necessitates immediate AIDS treatment approval and distribution, FDA officials continued to prevent alternative treatments, such as AL 721, from reaching people with AIDS.

Hank Tavera of the Third World AIDS Task Force pointed out the need to continue fighting for change. Hank Wilson, a person with AIDS, said, "Look back to the Black struggle in

Selma. Dr. Martin Luther King marched not just once, but came back again and again. That's what we're undertaking — we must come back here again and again."

Reggie Williams, a Black man with ARC, and Dolores Huerta, United Farmworkers Union first vice president, who came all the way from Bakersfield to participate, both pointed out that the government has the money to deal with the epidemic, demanding that the necessary funds be taken from the military budget.

Martin Delaney, from Project Inform, demanded an end to FDA harassment, and Fred Eggan of C-FAR (Chicago For AIDS Rights) said, "In a system that's designed to kill people, it's right to rebel." Pat Norman, Black lesbian community activist, pointed out that, "41% of all people with AIDS in the U.S. are people of color. . . . The government red tape — it's genocide."

Terry Beswick, member of ACT UP/San Francisco, and coordinator of the Spring AIDS Actions of the national AIDS activist grassroots network ACT NOW (AIDS Coalition To Network, Organize, & Win), declared: "FDA, let the drugs be free!" He added, "NIH — we want you to test drugs. If you won't do it, we'll do it. Test drugs, not people!"

Members of ACT UP/San Diego, ACT UP/Sacramento, the Community Health Coalition and others participated in the action, as well as many local veterans of the Oct. 13, 1987 "Out and Outraged" Action at the Supreme Court and the Jan. 24 demonstration at the Burroughs Wellcome office south of San Francisco.

GAY PRIDE DAY 1988 • LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE DAY 1988 • LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE DAY 1988 • LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE



New York City



New York City



WWW PHOTO: PETER GOSSELIN

Over 100,000 people attended the seventh annual largest ever in Hartford. A contingent led by Peoples Congress protested the recent gay-bombing in Hartford, demanded an end to racist, sexist and homophobic laws for AIDS, not war. The contingent was led by the ACT UP, SONG, and anti-nuclear group, and the Peoples Congress. Earlier, members of the newly-formed Peoples Congress rallied at the criminal court building to de-

Peter Goselin

Peoples Congress show strength at anti-gay laws

Peoples Congress for Women and many others.

At the post-march rally, silence fell as the names of those who have died of AIDS were remembered. Panels to be sewn onto the Names Project Quilt were held aloft on the stage (the quilt will be displayed July 6 and 7 at Cobo Hall).

The struggle for gay and lesbian rights will continue on June 29 with demonstrations in Detroit and Lansing. On that date MOHR and 12 individual plaintiffs will file a lawsuit in Wayne County Circuit Court seeking to strike down Michigan's "sodomy" and "gross indecency" laws which are used against victimized gay men and against women.

The lawsuit seeks to have these laws declared unconstitutional under Michigan's constitution. In addition, a petition campaign will further pressure the state to ensure the rights of privacy and equality for all persons.



'We're rightfully proud and fighting on!'

By Leslie Feinberg
New York

Over 100,000 people from all walks of life came together here today to make this clear statement: "We're rightfully proud and fighting on!"

A third of the New York City Lesbian and Gay Pride March was made up of people with AIDS, their loved ones and supporters, AIDS activists and health care providers, marching in the tens of thousands. As they passed, chanting "What do we want? Money for AIDS. When do we want it? Now!" many of those who had lined the streets to watch joined in, with raised fists, blurring the distinction between marchers and observers.

A huge ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) contingent was led by banners reading, "They say get back, we say fight back!" Large placards targeted Reagan, Dukakis, other anti-gay bigots including New York City Mayor Ed Koch and Cardinal O'Connor, Bishop of New York.

At 2:30 p.m. the demonstration halted for a moment of silence in tribute to the more than 35,000 people who have lost their lives due to AIDS. In the stillness, 10,000 balloons with messages of remembrance and pride were released into the sky.

Finding unity in diversity

James Credle, co-president of Black and White Men Together (BWMT), pointed to the groups of Black, Latino, Asian, Palestinian, Native and other nationally oppressed peoples who marched. "There is greater unity amongst us," he said.

An empty wheelchair led the contingent of gay and straight people from Disabled in Action demanding "Bring Sharon Kowalski home!" Kowalski, a lesbian who became quadriplegic after a car accident, has been isolated by her parents in a nursing home, barred from seeing her lover for over two years.

The crowd responded enthusiastically as the multinational Workers World Party contingent demanded, "Money for AIDS, not for war!" and linked the fightback movement from Stonewall to Soweto.

Straight family members, friends and co-workers of gay men and lesbians had the courage to stand up and express their solidarity. Gay fathers and lesbian mothers, who must fight for the right to raise their own children, proudly marched alongside their children.

Students came representing their high schools and colleges. Dozens of homeless gay youth marched with the Streetwork Project, which reaches out to youth trying to survive in Times Square. Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE) challenged the myth that elders are all straight.

The Gay Teachers Association was applauded throughout the route of the march. This year they are spearhead-

Continued on page 11



Quilt patch for Workers World cartoonist Bill Haislip.

The AIDS quilt — a community unfolding

By Leslie Feinberg
New York City

June 25 — In the quiet morning we walked slowly, hundreds of us on the paths of Central Park, drawn to see the New York Memorial Quilt Display.

Only weeks before I had visited the sewing room set up in the Lesbian and Gay Community Center with an idea for a panel. I explained to the volunteers that I hadn't sewn since piecing together a grade school graduation dress on a treadle machine.

I was offered materials and expertise. We shared and helped each other. We held each other. In that sunlit room, I learned that the quilt we were sewing together was in turn weaving a deeper sense of community. As I left my panel atop a mountain of fabric, I tried in vain to visualize what would unfold at the Great Lawn weeks later.

Reaching the open expanse of the Great Lawn there was the quilt — 1,100 panels, cooperatively sewn with love and memories.

The quilt is made up of colorful three-by-six foot patches of cloth sewn with materials such as leather, lace and sequins, lots of sequins. A familiar piece of clothing is sewn into many patches — a boa, a favorite shirt or a gown. Some are painted or stenciled, or include in them a snapshot, a Teddy bear, a favorite quote.

After seven years of hearing the cold statistics, the quilt provides a sense of the real people lost in no small part because of government inaction on AIDS. The patches are windows to the lives of the people who died, and mirrors of those who love them.

A panel made by children for their uncle included their beloved Kermit the frog. A giant colorful carousel honored simply "The children." An

applied house was created on a panel for a father and his 2-year-old daughter who died homeless. Another panel read, "He died alone in fear. Had we known, all of us would have been at your side."

A vivid red, black and green panel celebrated the courage of a Black liberation fighter who died in Auburn prison. A panel with a facsimile of a hypodermic needle reminded us all that the Third World woman who had died was another victim of genocide against Third World communities in the form of the large amount of drugs pumped into these communities.

At the southern end of the quilt was a 60-by-60 foot fabric square hand-dyed by Japanese artist Hiroshi Saito as a gift. Magic markers were laid out so that everyone who came could pen their own messages of grief, remembrance and farewell.

Some panels were campy and made us chuckle, many made us cry. Strangers held each other, some cried out and knelt down beside a panel, realizing for the first time that a friend had died.

The quilt did not create grief, it eloquently expressed it and released it. The quilt has captured an overwhelming power. It is visual proof of a community grieving together, angry together, fighting back together.

This is not only a community of men loving men, and women loving women. The mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, aunts, uncles, neighbors, co-workers and other friends of those who had fallen from AIDS have emerged to become part of a larger community.

Now this quilt and similar segments made in other cities, will join the National Names Project on a tour of 20 cities. On Oct. 9 the entire quilt will be viewed in Washington, D.C.

South African unions assess gains of strike

WW interviews Mahlangu of SACTU



Peter Mahlangu

WW PHOTO: TOM DORAN

The following is from an interview conducted by Workers World reporter Tom Doran of Atlanta with Peter Mahlangu, the Coordinator and Chief Representative for the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) in Canada and North America, whose task is to organize North American solidarity with South African labor.

Declared subversive by the apartheid regime, SACTU in the early eighties focused on the unification of the many new independent unions.

The unity efforts succeeded in December 1985, with the creation of the above-ground Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). Four months later COSATU, SACTU, and the African National Congress met to issue a joint declaration of commitment to non-racial organizing and to trade union unity, and opposition to apartheid. In 1987 COSATU led a 21-day strike of 320,000 mineworkers.

SACTU is barred by the Reagan administration from setting up an office in the U.S. With the big-business media refusing to publicize the vitally important workers' struggle in South Africa, the following segments from the interview make a valuable contribution.

The SACTU solidarity tour committee can be reached at (404) 521-2309 or 688-7422.

Workers World: What is your assessment of the June 6-8 general strike that shut down South Africa for three days? Where do you think the struggle will go in light of its success?

Peter Mahlangu: The most important issue of the general strike is the ability of our people to actually challenge the state of apartheid and the bosses. In fact when we talk about the general strike this is just the beginning of a lot of strikes that are going to take place.

It is easy to talk about shutting down South Africa completely economically. What is important is that the people themselves take those actions that they can get together, mobilize each other and go out on a strike like the one we've had.

Since the federation (COSATU) was born in 1985 our experience has always been that whatever we do it is together with the community. The community organizations, the student organizations support us. We have assessed the strength of the working people, meaning the confidence of the people to be able to go out on strike.

It was first the National Union of Mineworkers followed by the South African Railway and Harborworkers Union, followed by a couple of other unions — COOSA, the postal workers. Perhaps some of these strikes were not necessary. In terms of confronting the bosses we could have signed some kind of agreement, but it's a way of making sure our people do actually get together to do something great.

What I think is going to follow is a constant challenge to the regime, a constant challenge to the bosses. It's the beginning of the widening crisis between the bosses and the state.

As we went out on strike Botha had already announced the privatization in the public sector because he feels the bosses must also take part of the burden of security. This means to us that the state together with the bosses are trying to connive in order to be able to put down our people.

We have said to the bosses, "Look, this new relation, this new labor bill being discussed, we want you to challenge that bill." Some have said, "Yes we want to do that," but others have been very happy that a bill has been

proposed that may contain the strength and the ability of the workers to challenge the bosses.

'We won't submit'

Our demonstration of fighting against the bill before it becomes law by going out on strike has a lot of repercussions on the bosses and on the state. Our main aim is to demonstrate that we are not going to submit to anything that takes away our rights as working people and our rights as an oppressed people of South Africa.

We think this has been a success. We must work toward a plan to have even a longer period of strike action. This was just a dress rehearsal to see the preparedness of the people and to give them confidence in what they're doing. At the same time it makes the bosses aware that we are going to go on in such things.

The combination of the struggles in South Africa — the community organizations, the United Democratic Front, the liberation movements, the African National Congress — all those struggles are going to be escalated in many more ways than one.

This escalates the conflict and puts the enemy on the run. That's how we look at the national strike that has just taken place. It was, of course, completely a success.

Many people showed up, close to 100% of our people, even in areas where the union movement is very much affected. In Natal, for instance, where I come from, 99% came out and there was no retaliation either from the reactionary vigilantes of Buthulezi, Inkatha, or from the police. So this was an advance even in provinces where there have been problems before.

I think you have heard there has been a shutdown in the motor industry, the metal industry — total shutdown for three days.

WW: What was the role of the mineworkers in the recent strike? Could you describe what areas of labor participated?

PM: There was a partial response from the miners. This was because they have a contract in August and they had a strike last year which was very successful.

The bosses tried to break that strike by dismissing more than 60,000 workers in the mining industry. They're still recovering from that, trying to get back their strength. Otherwise we could have had a strike where there was a lot of disruption in the production of gold and diamonds, the backbone of the economy of South Africa.

We hope that the next time there is a

national strike, which will not be far away, the National Union of Mineworkers will be in a position to get together with everybody. Their staying away doesn't mean there was a failure or a weakness. They have to take care of other business. It could mean the destruction of their union if they are not careful of the tactics they use.

The mineworkers' situation has been reported time and again by the media. They said it was because the miners were afraid that if they do go out on strike it would mean the end of them.

I think that's wrong because the workers came out on strike last year. Actually many miners did join this strike. Some of the plants, some of the mines did come out in support of what is happening. This was a tactical decision. It was those that came out of last year's strike most intact, when they were out 21 days on strike for wages and working conditions.

In our experience we've always been able to reinstate workers who've been kicked out of work. In the mineworkers' strike 40,000 of the more than 60,000 people who lost their jobs during the strike have gone back to work. For the other 20,000 there was an agreement that they must be paid for the period when they were thrown out of work until they get new employment.

There are many other sectors which really responded to the call. For instance, the metal industry and the auto industry were shut down completely. The public sector, the transport and postal workers, teachers — because, you know, all the schools were shut down.

Our people discussed these things and said the only people who will go to work will be the hospitals — the nurses, the doctors, and people who are helpers at hospitals. We cannot really make people suffer who are in hospitals.

Otherwise, all the industries participated. In transportation, for instance, there was a total shutdown. Most of the buses were not running, the trains were not working properly. Clothing and textiles shut down completely, chemical workers did not report to work. Many other small industries were shut down in South Africa completely.

The outlets, the big shops, what we call here the supermarkets, had only the whites helping out. The tellers, the cleaners, and the packers did not turn up to work.

The regime would like to say the strike was not important, but we're still going to hear of how much the bosses lost and how much the workers

themselves lost in terms of wages.

The media always tries to underplay the gains that people have made and overplay what the bosses have gained. June 6-8 was our first national strike. When you talk of 7.5 million people in three days that's quite a number of people. And we don't have that many working people in South Africa because of our six million unemployed.

WW: If the union strikes for fifty cents an hour and only wins twenty-five, then the media here says the strike failed. Is that how you measure the success of a strike?

PM: We don't. We don't measure the success of a strike in terms of whether we gain what we ask for. The important measurement of a strike is the ability of our people to go out. This is a success on its own.

We're not dealing with the normal situation. We're dealing with a fascist regime. We're dealing with people who will do anything to undermine our struggle. The ability to go out on strike is a success to us.

We have a program. The program is to build a strong union, a union that is not going to be a business union. A union that is going to work towards including political issues in the shop-floor issues we are fighting for.

Our main objective is to strengthen the industrial unions first, then to assess how strong our people are in terms of going out on strike.

The national mineworkers' strike last year, some people said it was not necessary. When you look at what you could have discussed with the company, what the bosses were prepared to offer, probably we didn't need to go out on that strike.

The National Union of Mineworkers forms the backbone of the labor movement in our country because the undermining of that vital industry will mean a lot for our struggle plus a lot of loss economically for the regime.

Mineworkers include many migrants

Most people, I'm sure, know that the mineworkers include migrant workers from the neighboring states. These people, all these men, speak different languages, come from different cultures. They are briefed by their governments before they leave that they mustn't involve themselves in any labor disputes in South Africa because their governments receive funds from South Africa just by sending them to work.

But if you don't have that sector of the economy, that industry, strongly unionized, it means you have a problem with all the industries. After the people had formed this union and been able to win some of the people from outside South Africa, the time had come for the workers to find out how strong they are by striking.

The bosses actually didn't think that people in that industry where they are grouped into hostels according to tribes and played one against the other — they never thought the strike was going to last three days. They got shocked when the strike went on for 21 days and in the second week another vote was taken and 100% were still prepared to strike.

This was a shock for them and a dress rehearsal for us, for the battles ahead. So we gauge the success by the numbers of people who come in support of the strike. When the strike was called there were only about 250 paid-up members of the mineworkers' union. After one week there were 320,000 mineworkers out on strike.

When the community comes in support of the strike that is actually the largest gain we make because we are still fighting for unity to be able to go forward.

Hated in Angola, puppet Savimbi is VIP here

By Monica Moorehead

June 27 — Jonas Savimbi, the leader of the so-called National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), is presently touring the U.S.

Savimbi has been receiving the royal treatment since arriving on June 22. He has been wined and dined by bankers and bosses in New York City. He has been whisked away in elegant black limousines. He has been provided with 24-hour Secret Service protection. In other words, the VIP treatment has been bestowed on Jonas Savimbi as if he were an official head of state.

Why should every progressive here and around the world feel outraged that a man like Savimbi should be treated with such respect and dignity, much less be allowed in the U.S. altogether?

Puppet of apartheid and U.S. imperialism

The truth is that the U.S. government wishes Savimbi were truly the head of state, that state being the People's Republic of Angola. Especially strong in their wishes is the ultra-rightwing of the U.S. ruling class, who sponsored his trip here.

In reality, Jonas Savimbi is nothing more than a notorious, discredited mercenary of the fascist apartheid regime in South Africa. He has been on the payroll of the brutal South African Defense Forces (SADF) since Angola won liberation from its Portuguese colonial enslavers in 1975.

In fact, it has been documented that Savimbi collaborated with the Portuguese colonialists from 1972 to 1975, under a project named "Operation Timber," in an attempt to defeat the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), the revolutionary party in the leadership of Angola.

Since the establishment of the Peoples Republic of Angola, UNITA has carried out one of the most savage wars of genocide and terror of this century, with the Angolan people as its victims. As it stands now, over 50,000 Angolans have lost their limbs due to UNITA's policy of planting land mines in cultivated fields and villages, giving Angola the highest per capita amputee rate in the world.

If it were not for the financial and military support UNITA receives from both South Africa and the U.S., this band of ruthless terrorists would

have been defeated years ago. In fact, UNITA has suffered so many military defeats at the hands of Angolan government troops that the mercenaries have been forced to integrate into the South African military, which is presently occupying the southern region in Angola.

Activists arrested in New York

The protective attitude of the state apparatus towards Savimbi was made clear in the police treatment of anti-Savimbi picketers in New York City on June 23. Police were especially brutal to demonstrators, physically preventing them from joining the picketline. One higher-up on the police force was overheard telling other cops to get the demonstrators out before the media came.

Workers World Party vice presidential candidate Gloria La Riva and



Pedro Castro Van Dunem

Party organizer Scott Scheffer were arrested. While it is the police who were pushing and shoving, La Riva and Scheffer were charged with resisting arrest and obstructing governmental administration. They are scheduled to appear in court on July 11.



This little girl is one of thousands made homeless by UNITA terrorism.

Angolan representatives greeted in Harlem

At a meeting in Harlem, New York on June 24, over 300 people heard official representatives of the Peoples Republic of Angola speak on the current situation in Angola.

The Harlem meeting was a reaffirmation of strong support for the sovereign people of Angola and their leadership, the MPLA. Representatives of the national liberation movements in Southern Africa, the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the South West Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO) of Namibia expressed revolutionary greetings and solidarity with the Angolan comrades.

The Peoples Republic of Angola's Minister of State, Pedro De Castro Van-Dunen, spoke on the sordid role Savimbi and UNITA have played in Angola since 1966, when UNITA was

founded (see article this page). He explained how Savimbi would go to any lengths to achieve power in Angola, such as seeking an ally in the apartheid regime.

He said that the U.S. government, which provided UNITA with \$15 million in aid last year, hopes that inviting Savimbi to this country will legitimize his role in Angola in the eyes of the world and therefore pressure the Angolan government to negotiate with this terrorist. Savimbi hopes to receive more U.S. aid to sustain his terrorist campaign of destabilization. De Castro commented, "There is no room for Savimbi within Angola."

Support for ANC, SWAPO affirmed

The Angolan delegation also took the opportunity to reinforce their support for the heroic national liberation

struggles in South Africa and Namibia. The Peoples Republic of Angola has provided strategic bases of operation for SWAPO and the ANC, which have been banned for many years from their respective homelands. It was explained that South African Defense forces, UNITA and the U.S. imperialists want to do everything possible to destroy these bases via the destabilization process against Angola.

De Castro stated, "Even if South Africa were to increase their attacks against us due to our support for SWAPO and ANC, we intend to increase our support to our compatriots. There will be no withdrawal of these bases. If the Angolan people are defeated, the African continent will be in danger."

From combined reportage by Pat Chin and Monica Moorehead

Soviet editor calls for clearing of Trotsky's name

By Deirdre Griswold

June 29 — It was a long over-due event. On June 28, the Soviet youth newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda published an appeal by a leading Communist Party member for the legal vindication of Leon Trotsky and the publication in the USSR of his long-suppressed works.

Otto R. Latsis, an economist and deputy editor of the Party journal Kommunist, was quoted in the youth paper as saying that Trotsky was "neither a spy nor a murderer" and had "never committed any crimes."

This is the first time since the infamous Moscow Trials in 1936 that any word absolving Trotsky has appeared in the Soviet press. He is still the only one of the leading Bolsheviks purged by Stalin who has not been rehabilitated by a special Party commission set up to review the trials.

Trotsky was an early leader of the Marxist movement in Russia. During the unsuccessful 1905 Revolution, which was seen as a dress rehearsal for the victorious revolution in 1917, he was elected chairman of the Petrograd Soviet, a popular body of the workers, peasants and soldiers that was to surface again 12 years later as the nucleus of the revolutionary power.

Trotsky spent much of his life in exile, but returned to Russia in mid-1917 to join forces with Lenin and the Bol-

shevik Party. He was a central figure in the insurrection in October and became People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs in the new workers' and peasants' government.

Later, as Commissar for War, Trotsky organized and led the Red Army, which drove out the interventionist troops of 14 imperialist nations and defeated the counter-revolutionary White armies during the period of civil war.

After Lenin's death, Trotsky became the leader of the Left Opposition within the Communist Party. He carried on polemics with Nikolai Bukharin, leader of the right-wing of the Party, over how to proceed on the agrarian question. Bukharin argued that the peasants should be encouraged to "enrich themselves" through the free market.

Trotsky warned that greater social differentiation between rich and poor peasants posed great dangers to the Revolution, and proposed an intensive program of state investment in electrification and other modern technology for the countryside in order to win the peasants to collectivized agriculture.

Stalin, who at first sided with Bukharin on this question, later became alarmed at the growth of a rural bourgeoisie and class of rich middlemen and by 1929 reversed himself, denounced Bukharin, and proceeded to a rapid collectivization of agriculture that relied on administrative meth-

ods.

Today in the USSR, not only has Bukharin been cleared of the fabricated crimes for which he was executed in the Stalin period, but his views are raised by advocates of "perestroika" — the restructuring of the Soviet economy — as authority for their own proposals to rely more on market mechanisms to develop the Soviet economy.

Trotsky's political views, however, have so far been treated very differently. Although the Party leadership now appears to be paving the way for clearing Trotsky's name of slanders and fabricated charges, and perhaps even for publishing his works as part of "glasnost" or political openness and democratization, Latsis and other leaders, including Gorbachev himself in his speech to the 70th anniversary celebration of the Revolution last November, have attacked Trotsky's political positions.

Nevertheless, it seems that now the younger generations in the Soviet Union will be able to acquaint themselves with those views for the first time. Certainly, there must be many in the USSR who look forward avidly to studying the works of this great revolutionary leader.

(In future issues of Workers World, we will be elaborating further on these developments as we continue the series by Sam Marcy on the Soviet reforms.)

Baltimore anti-apartheid

By Sharon Black
Baltimore

Anti-apartheid activists from the All-Peoples Congress captured the evening's lead TV story on June 18. On that incredibly hot afternoon, the group — young and old, many with children and families — crammed into cars, vans and pickup trucks decorated with handmade signs calling for freedom for Nelson Mandela, support for the ANC, an end to apartheid, an end to racism here along with jobs, justice, and a higher minimum wage.

Following the car caravan, members of the All-Peoples Congress and the African National Congress set up a street rally at the downtown Lexington Mall. Hundreds of shoppers lined up at tables while listening to Tiishang Makgoba, representative of the ANC, and APC organizers Darnell Miller, Hollie Patterson, Lee Patterson and Andre Powell.



EDITORIALS

U.S. disarmament & Third World

If reasonable statements presented in compelling and eloquent terms were capable of vanquishing naked class interest, then the speeches of the Third World and socialist countries' delegates to the special UN session on disarmament should result in a historic document that would reverse the disastrous world arms race.

The wars in Central America, southern Africa and Afghanistan would grind to a halt as the U.S. stopped trying to hold back social progress and justice with billions poured into reactionary mercenary armies. The initiatives of the Soviet Union to end nuclear testing, ban weapons in space and dismantle existing missiles and bombs would be eagerly embraced by Washington, which would match each step with a move of its own.

None of this is happening, however, nor can it be expected. The modest INF agreement on medium-range nuclear weapons signed by Reagan and Gorbachev in May will remove only a small fraction of the nuclear danger, and the profit-driven U.S. military-industrial complex is already figuring out how to feed its muscle around the world and its fat at home.

The current Pentagon scandal gives us a peek at what's really at stake. While U.S. diplomats and arms experts couch all their objections to meaningful disarmament in the language of "national defense" and the "security and stability of the free world," the real motives of the merchants of death can be seen in their mad scramble for Pentagon contracts. No weapon is too hideous if the price is right.

Most galling of all, perhaps, is the sanctimonious tone assumed by U.S. imperialism's representatives in the UN debates, lecturing

the Third World countries that they are wasting their resources and should disarm. Yes, and leave themselves totally exposed to the navies, marines and special forces of the imperialists! — just as in the days when they were colonized and plundered so Western merchants and industrialists could get on with their accumulation of capital.

The masses everywhere, in the oppressor countries as well as in the oppressed, want genuine disarmament. Only then can the problems of hunger, disease, illiteracy and an impoverished environment faced by so many on this planet be conquered. But fighting the arms race is fundamentally a struggle against those who profit from war and exploitation. The class struggle can't be ignored in the interests of peace. On the contrary, the revival of working class consciousness, especially in the imperialist countries, is the key to an effective anti-militarist struggle.

Court shields arms makers

At the very moment that the giant military contractors have been exposed in a massive fraud conspiracy involving the theft of billions of dollars, the U.S. Supreme Court has declared that these same firms are immune from legal responsibility for deaths and injuries caused by faults in the products they make.

The June 27 ruling is being described as a major victory for the military-industrial complex. The ruling also appears to apply to non-military contractors as well, as in the case of companies that build government-financed dams and buildings.

Military contractors have been trying to get Congress to pass legislation shielding them from lawsuits for years, but the potential public outcry stopped any such move. Now, what they couldn't get passed by the elected politicians they have gotten through a dictate handed down by the Supreme Court.

Reaction to the ruling has been one of anger. Why, for instance, should profit-swollen chem-

ical companies be immune from lawsuits by Vietnam veterans who were systematically poisoned by Agent Orange during that war? Or why should a firm like Morton Thiokol beat the rap for incinerating the Challenger crew with defective booster rockets?

In his dissent from the new ruling, Justice William Brennan noted that the court, "unlected and unaccountable to the people," had improperly embarked on a lawmaking venture "absolving multibillion dollar private enterprises" from the consequences of their actions.

It should be noted that the U.S. Senate, Democrats and Republicans together, recently approved the judge who wrote this reactionary ruling. Didn't the Senate vote without a single "no" last year to place Anthony Kennedy on the Supreme Court? Didn't the Senators praise Kennedy as "fair" and "moderate" despite his long history of repressive rulings against women, the disabled, working people and racial minorities who have endured long years of national oppression?

The Democratic Party, which has a majority of votes in the Senate, could have blocked this Reagan nominee on the grounds that his view of justice is hostile to the majority of people in this country. But they didn't.

Now many of these same Democratic politicians like to talk about how "eight years of Reaganism is enough." But when they had a chance to do something about it, the Democratic leadership in the Senate capitulated yet again, placing a man on the high court who will give us decades of Reaganite rulings!

One of the first votes Judge Kennedy cast after his confirmation to the Supreme Court was to permit new arguments against an important 1976 law banning racial discrimination by private employers and educational institutions. And now this new decision throws the protective cloak of sanctity around crooked military contractors.

Of course, if Congress wanted to, it could correct this scandal by simply passing legislation holding these rich and corrupt defense firms legally liable for any defective and harmful material they peddle to the federal government for tax dollars.

But don't count on it.

U.S. banks scheme to plunder Mexico

By Gloria La Riva

Mexico's economy is being rapidly undermined through a new set of economic schemes developed by U.S. and other international banks, involving the wholesale theft of Mexico's wealth. One of these schemes, accepted by President Miguel de la Madrid, calls for the privatization of much of Mexico's nationalized industry.

Already this year the government divested itself of the national airline, Aeromexico, and the impending sale of the highly profitable, government-owned Cananea copper mine in Sonora, Mexico for \$910 million, would be the largest transfer ever of a nationalized industry in Latin America.

Now under discussion for transfer to private ownership are other economic giants — Mexicana Airlines, Dina, the national bus and truck factory, and Telefonos de Mexico, the national telephone concern.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari, PRI-designated candidate in the July 6 presidential elections and current minister of budget and finance under de la Madrid, declared that as president he would "reduce the role of the government" in running the economy, and open Mexico up for more foreign investment.

An echo of Reagan's deregulation of transportation, privatization means handing over essential industries to multinational corporations after they have been subsidized by workers' labor and government spending. What happens then is layoffs and cuts.

As Cananea miner Cuauhtemoc Romero remarked, "They are already laying off people left and right, and things are only going to get worse when the company passes to private hands" (New York Times, June 17). An additional danger is that much of the ownership will probably fall to U.S. control.

Nationalization a result of tremendous struggles

What is left of Mexico's economic independence from foreign domination, although eroded recently, is mainly due to struggle. Militant battles led to nationalization of almost all its industry, during the presidency of Gen. Lazaro Cardenas from 1934 to 1940.

Even though the 1910 Mexican revolution overthrew feudal and semi-feudal relations, much of Mexico was still owned outright by U.S. capitalists. U.S. control of oil, for instance, meant unbridled exploitation of the workers and resources. Eduardo Galeano, in "Open Veins of Latin America," wrote, "Standard Oil and Shell, having divided up Mexico by taking the north and south respectively . . . drained the famous Fajo de Oro deposits with startling speed and were making Mexicans pay more for their own petroleum. . ."

The revolutionary upheaval of the 1930s led to the nationalization of the oil fields and refineries and the formation of PEMEX.

Even progressive nationalization, however, is limited under capitalism,

and bound to run its course. Workers are still exploited to make profits, and the economy is still subject to boom and bust, especially in an oppressed country.

Like much of the Third World, in the 1970s Mexico embarked on a strategy of economic development based on heavy borrowing from international banks. Mexico was encouraged to take on loans by the \$30 a barrel it was getting for its vast oil supplies. But in 1982 the world oil glut led to a drop in the price of oil to \$10 a barrel. Mexico, Nigeria, Venezuela and other oil producers were trapped with billions of dollars in unpaid loans.

Even with yearly interest payments of \$10-to-\$12 billion, Mexico's debt has only ballooned. A minor recovery from 1985 to 1987 was wiped out by the Oct. 19, 1987 stock market crash. Since then the U.S. has been pressuring Mexico to open its markets for U.S. exports and to allow foreign penetration.

The peso devaluation after the crash cut workers' wages by 45%. A threatened general strike brought an inadequate 15% wage increase. However that very same day all the prices of basic necessities were raised: gasoline, 85%; telephone, 85%; sugar, 81%. Today, it is estimated that over half of Mexico's workers are unemployed or only underemployed. To force even more concessions and raise revenues for the banks, de la Madrid pressured the unions to sign a "Pact of Economic Solidarity" that calls for wage freezes.

The latest debt repayment idea,

"debt relief," thought up by J.P. Morgan and Co., involves the direct intervention by the U.S. government. Mexico had to put up \$2 billion to buy U.S. Treasury bonds that will mature in 20 years to \$10 billion. In turn, some of the U.S. debts will be traded in for a fraction of their value for new Mexican bonds that will pay the U.S. a higher interest rate. Mexico can only collect on the U.S. bonds if it keeps making its payments.

Rather than helping Mexico with its loans, this scheme is really debt relief for J.P. Morgan, which dropped from AAA rating to AA rating after the crash.

It is against this backdrop of economic plunder and deep impoverishment of the Mexican masses that the presidential elections are seen by millions of workers and peasants as an avenue for struggle through the candidacy of Cuauhtemoc Cardenas.

Next: The candidacy of Cuauhtemoc Cardenas.

— Calif. march

Continued from page 6

in part to my constant personal and political struggle combating this disease. 'Acting up' is keeping me alive."

He continued, "I urge you all to demand that the government become responsive to our needs. As I stand before you rightfully proud and righteously angry, I urge you to act up, fight back, fight AIDS!"

Shultz trip signals war danger to Nicaragua

But Sandinistas sign accord with Sumu people

By Dee Knight
Managua, Nicaragua

June 28 — The purpose of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's current tour of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica "is to find support for the U.S. policy of war against the Sandinista Revolution," President Daniel Ortega told the 150 U.S. delegates to last week's U.S.-Nicaragua Sister City Conference.

"If there is any country Shultz should visit in Central America, it's Nicaragua," the President said. Instead Shultz called Nicaragua the "rotten apple" among the so-called "democracies" in Central America.

Shultz is following Reagan's envoy Max Kampelman, who announced in mid-June after meeting with Honduran President Jose Azcona that "the U.S. and Honduras will continue supporting the contras."

Meanwhile, the Washington Post confirmed on Sunday that the U.S. government has made a decision to continue the bloodbath of Nicaraguans. The contras, according to the Post, were re-supplied with the so-called "humanitarian aid" granted recently by Congress. Now with fresh money and new uniforms the contra "refugees" in Honduras "are returning to Nicaragua to renew the conflict against the Sandinista government," the paper said.

The bad signs

Shultz' visit excluding Nicaragua is only the third bad sign, Ortega said. Reagan's mid-June "petition" to Congress to "act rapidly" in support of his "freedom fighters" following the so-called "breakdown" (really sabotage) of the peace talks was the most blatant signal. Then came the contras refusal to continue the talks in the last days of June.

The Sandinista leader told the delegates to the Sister City Conference that the U.S. peace movement must redouble its efforts to find a way to overcome the crisis between the U.S. government and Nicaragua, so that Congress will not continue approving more contra funds. He said that even now the Sandinistas are ready to extend the freeze on offensive operations against the contras if the U.S. will show even the slightest willingness to talk.

Determination and confidence

If there were any suspicion that the Sandinistas' continued peace overtures are a sign of political weakness, such concerns were allayed last weekend when thousands of Nicaraguans marched all night in the ninth commemoration of the "strategic retreat" from Managua to Masaya before the final victorious insurrection a month later on July 19, 1979.

Spirits were high among the mostly young marchers, nearly all in the customary olive green symbolizing a



These young women, members of the Nicaraguan militia, stand ready to defend their country should contra attacks resume.

population under arms. And the chants — both organized and spontaneous — showed militant readiness to "repel the aggression and smash the mercenary forces if they break the cease-fire and re-initiate their attacks."

Good news from the Atlantic coast

The contras lost another important detachment to the peace process on June 25, when the last group of indigenous people still with the contras joined the revolutionary side. The 80 Sumu fighters and 116 family members were evacuated by government helicopters from their hiding places after a month of negotiations.

"It's a hard blow for the FDN" (Nic-

araguan Democratic Force, led by ex-Somocista colonel Enrique Bermudez), said the Sumu leader Ampinio Palacios. "They lost their best force... the one with the best knowledge of the terrain, the most survival capacity." This is not idle boasting, as this contra leader has a long-standing reputation for his exploits in the region. The leader added that their decision came after "a lot of pressure from the Sumu people for us to abandon the war — and we saw the massacres, the destruction, the lack of food and the people dying."

Now, as part of the government's amnesty and autonomy programs these troops will not put their weapons down, but rather "re-construct our

town." They'll get help from the government, and have responsibility for their own territorial defense.

The cost of the war

While the war's wake of destruction is a moving force for peace here in Nicaragua, it's the main reason Reagan still hopes his mercenaries can hurt the Revolution. War damage includes some 50,000 Nicaraguans killed or wounded and more than \$12 billion in economic losses, by government estimates. That is three times as much as the country could produce in nine years. (For comparison, imagine that four million people in the U.S. were killed or wounded in a war, and that all major industry had to be cut back by at least 75%.)

Right after the peace talks broke down the government announced that desperately needed salary increases would be only modest — not enough to keep up with the still galloping inflation. And credit will be tight for farmers, despite hopes for the best harvest in years thanks to the cease-fire and propitious rains during the current planting season.

The Minister of Planning and Budget said last week that "as long as there is war, the workers and peasants — who are the power — have to tighten their belts."

Reagan hopes this belt tightening due to continued contra attacks will squeeze away the popular sentiment for the Revolution. What he can't realize — or face — is the sustenance and pride the people take in defeating the northern giant who has occupied and tormented their country for more than a century.

Demonstrations build support for Vets Convoy

By Teresa Gutierrez
Washington, D.C.

This past week, hundreds of people throughout the country demonstrated in support of the Veterans Peace Convoy to Nicaragua. Activists were responding to the U.S. government's refusal to allow the convoy to deliver the 50 vehicles and the tons and tons of food and medicine that were gathered to be donated to the Nicaraguan people.

From Houston to New York City to Washington, D.C., organizers of demonstrations reported that one of the most significant aspects of the protests was the response of people in the streets. Along march routes people honked car horns and shook their fists in support, indicating the deep anti-war sentiment that the U.S. government tries to hide.

The fact that the Veterans Peace Convoy to Nicaragua has not buckled in to U.S. government pressure, coupled with the tremendous support it has received on both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border, makes it clear that there is also much support for the Nicaraguan people.

Earlier this month the U.S. Customs Department prevented the more than 100 veterans and their supporters from crossing the U.S.-Mexico border at Laredo, Texas. The Reagan administration alleges that the donations of the goods carried by the convoy breaks the U.S.-imposed trade embargo against Nicaragua. The government has declared that the trucks, school buses, fire engines, the oats and medicine that thousands of people in this country contributed are somehow "military assistance."

These veterans and all their supporters, however, refuse to be deterred.



Texas supporters of vets' convoy.

WW PHOTO: JOANNE GAVIN

Raul Valdez, a national organizer of the convoy and a member of the Vet's Caucus of CAMILA (Chicanos Against Military Intervention in Latin America), told Workers World that the convoy is continuing its struggle and, "We will get across."

Their determination and will to struggle is evident as they drove over 1,500 miles from Laredo, Texas, to Washington, D.C., to protest right at the root of the problem — the U.S. government.

Valdez stated that the convoy is purposely being singled out by the Reagan administration for harassment and attack. He pointed out that other progressive groups have organized and delivered goods to Nicaragua from the United States before and

have not been stopped.

"This harassment" he said, "is another indication that Reagan's policy in Nicaragua is failing and that is why the government does not want these goods to be delivered." In addition, Valdez said, the solidarity witnessed by the convoy towards the people of Nicaragua is an act the Reagan administration wants to undercut.

As part of the long-range struggle, the convoy has filed a suit in the district of Laredo, Texas, against the U.S. government, particularly Secretary of State George Shultz, Chief of Staff Howard Baker and Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams, alleging that the government has illegally defined humanitarian aid.

— 'Rightfully proud'

Continued from page 7

ing a court suit to win equal benefit coverage for the lovers of lesbian and gay workers. The Lesbian and Gay Labor Network — "Gay pride at work!" — marched together in solidarity with the teachers.

Music, floats and balloons were everywhere. But this was not a party — it was a defiant celebration, and the mood was serious and confident that gay men and lesbians will survive as a community and will not capitulate to reaction.

Estado ataca comunidad negra

por medio de Tawana Brawley, su familia y consejeros

Por Pat Chin

Quizás ningún caso en la historia reciente ha sido más controversial y explosivo que el de Tawana Brawley.

Desde que esta adolescente de Dutchess County contó su experiencia hace ya 6 meses de su secuestro y violación por parte de seis hombres blancos, uno de ellos que usaba una insignia policíaca, el Estado — y en particular a través de sus medios de comunicación — ha hecho todo lo posible para desacreditarla a ella y a sus consejeros: el Reverendo Al Sharpton y los abogados C. Vernon Mason y Alton Maddox.

Tawana — quien ha rehusado cooperar con el gran jurado de acusación designado por el estado, por causa de su aparente falta de buena voluntad en buscar a los sospechosos — al principio le contó su historia a las autoridades locales del condado. De hecho, ella ya identificó positivamente a 3 sospechosos que incluye a un policía del estado, un asistente de la oficina del fiscal del distrito de Dutchess County, y un policía de medio tiempo quien, curiosamente, se suicidó cuatro días después que la prensa de la comunidad negra difundió la brutal información de este secuestro y violación racista.

Poco después, dos fiscales de Dutchess County asignados al caso, se retiraron por un inexplicable "conflicto de intereses." Sin embargo el Estado en vez de tratar de revelar la base de este "conflicto de intereses" y buscar a los sospechosos involucrados en el caso — a través de los medios de comunicación, el IRS y el uso de informantes — ha hecho todo lo posible para ignorarlos y en cambio se ha embarcado en un ataque

total en contra de la víctima.

Los medios de comunicación, como un órgano poderoso del estado, no sólo han detallado en forma totalmente tendenciosa la vida de Tawana Brawley, sino también han, publicado versiones que no se ajustan a la realidad para apoyar el alegato de que; ni el secuestro racista, ni la violación ocurrieron (o, si ocurrió, que su padrastro, que ha perdido el trabajo era el sospechoso). Además, su negativa a testificar ante el gran jurado es caracterizado como parte de un gran engaño que es perpetrado por hombres que tienen ambiciones políticas.

Una de las estaciones de televisión más importantes hasta fabricó "testigos" acusando a Tawana, que esta había estado de fiesta en el "callejón del crack" durante el tiempo que ella dijo que la habían secuestrado. Se divulgó, por los padres de estos jóvenes, que a ellos se les había pagado para mentir por el reportero de la noticias de CBS, Mark Taibbi.

Sharpton, Mason y Maddox no sólo han sido calumniados por los medios de comunicación, pero Sharpton mismo es víctima actualmente de una investigación por el gobierno federal, a través de su agente, el fiscal Rudolph Guliani, por "fraude por correo." Y la madre de la víctima ha sido forzada a buscar asilo en una iglesia de Brooklyn cuando se emitió una orden de detención en contra de ella, porque tanto la madre como su hija han rehusado cooperar con el sistema de justicia criminal que no tiene ningún interés comprobado en proteger los derechos de los oprimidos. Esto es verdad en particular, como lo demuestra la historia, donde ocurren ata-

ques raciales y violencia en contra de las mujeres.

Dos de los ataques más recientes cometidos por el estado y los medios de comunicación para desacreditar a Tawana Brawley y sus apoyadores — y para desviar la lucha en contra del racismo y por la auto-determinación que su caso simboliza — vino en forma de un Percy McKinnon que sostiene que el abandonó al equipo de Brawley por las supuestas "mentiras" emitidas por estos. En seguida, McKinnon fué citado por el gran jurado inscrito por el estado. ¡Que contraste al tratamiento de "guantes blancos" que han recibido los tres hombres que Tawana identificó positivamente en el caso!

Otro informante, individualizado por los medios de comunicación como uno que maneja bastante información como para exponer que el caso entero es un fraude, es Samuel McCleave. El sostiene que Sharpton lo empleó no sólo para escuchar clandestinamente la oficina de Mason y Maddox, sino también la oficina de Sharpton. El estado, en su desesperación para detener el movimiento que ha crecido para responder a la violencia racista y la opresión, sin escuchar los cassettes primero, le dieron mucha publicidad y creencia a la versión de este informante. Al poco tiempo, se reveló que los cassettes que produjo McCleave estaban en blanco, al igual que el contenido moral de la posición del estado y los medios de comunicación.

Poniendo el caso de Tawana Brawley en una perspectiva histórica es muy instructivo y puede servir para mantener el enfoque donde se debe — en los victimarios racistas, incluyendo al es-

tado y los medios de comunicación.

Esto es así porque el caso de esta joven mujer negra no puede ser separado de los otros casos tales como: Eleanor Bumpers, Juan Rodriguez, Yvonne Smallwood, Michael Stewart, y las víctimas del ataque de Howard Beach, todos ellos víctimas de los ataques racistas.

En el primer Día de Furia se vieron manifestaciones que explotaron en la escena como respuesta a los ataques racistas que se incrementaban cada día. Manifestantes virtualmente paralizaron la ciudad de Nueva York. Esto se juzgó por el estado como una amenaza seria a la estructura de poder blanco y de carácter capitalista que representa. Tenían que detenerla a todo costo. Así que usaron la vieja táctica de dividir y conquistar una vez más, tal como se usó contra el movimiento de Marcus Garvey en los años 60 a través del FBI y su programa Cointelpro.

Una de las características de Cointelpro era infiltrar con informantes y provocadores al movimiento de los oprimidos, mientras sembraban la mentira y la desinformación por intermedio de los órganos de comunicación con el claro propósito de desacreditar el liderazgo de estos movimientos. Lo interesante es que exactamente un día antes del segundo Día de Furia, todos los medios de comunicación más poderosos publicaron extensos reportajes sobre el supuesto rol de Sharpton como informante del FBI.

El caso de Tawana Brawley, puesto en la perspectiva histórica, transcende de los individuos envueltos (los cuales tienen que tener sus derechos protegidos) y en forma gráfica muestra lo complejo de la lucha por la auto-determinación y liberación nacional y en la que se vencerá sólo a través de acciones unidas y militantes.



FOTO: JOYCE CHEDIAC

Celebración del Día de Orgullo Lésbico y Gay

Como en cada año, a fines de junio, se celebró la marcha de Orgullo Lésbico y Gay en los EE.UU. Este año se llevó a cabo en muchas ciudades tales como San Francisco, Detroit, Dallas, Baltimore, Houston, Boston y muchas más, en las que miles celebraron su homosexualidad y al mismo tiempo protestaron la discriminación de que son

objetos.

En Nueva York a las 2:30 pm del domingo 26 de junio la columna que se alargaba por varias millas, se detuvo por unos instantes para dedicar unos minutos de silencio a todos aquellos que han muerto de SIDA. Miles de globos fueron soltados y subieron al cielo mientras todos miraban unidos en fuerza.

El partido Mundo Obrero está en absoluta solidaridad contra la opresión,

prejuicio y homofobia a la cual está sometida la comunidad lésbica y gay. Toda persona tiene derecho a vivir y amar libremente. Apoyamos los derechos civiles completos para lesbianas y gays, y denunciaremos todo ataque y cada instancia de discriminación. Exigimos fondos y un esfuerzo masivo para encontrar una cura y vacuna para el SIDA y que los billones de dólares que se gastan en la guerra de las galaxias sean transferidos al Proyecto SIDA.

Lucinda Sintierra

Disponible en World View Forum



El Marxismo y la Liberación de la Mujer (\$4.95)

SIDA (\$.50 — 5 por \$2.00)

Nombre

Dirección

Ciudad/Estado/Zona

Cheque o giro postal a: World View Forum, 46 W, 21 St., NY, NY 10010