Gov't attack on all unions seen in Teamster takeover

By Shelley Ettlinger

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
It is easy to see the contradictions within the news 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 losses. 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, 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.

One 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 spoke Spanish or more in the U.S. as a farm worker during the 12-month period ending May 1, 1986, and can pay the $150 processing fee.

**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.

---

**California farmworkers on a bus to work.**

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, these are the "surplus" workers going to work?

The U.S. government and the corporations have a long history of exploiting 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 row moving into cities such as Los Angeles, looking for employment in restaurants 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 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 who get jobs 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 collapse by big business?

The U.S. government and agricultural workers 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 statement says, "An injury to one is an injury to all." (See article on how U.S. banks are undermining Mexico's economy, page 3.)

---

**In This Issue...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATIONAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teammates</strong>-sweat by sweat...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Farmworkers’ hurt by drought.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agricultural labor lost in drought.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Auto workers strike over health.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Terror in Reading.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>News from Indian Country.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Far life is stopped in San Francisco.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Latino gang ruled by Petegos.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On the picketline.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Half-million women search in Calzones.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>23 arrested in AIDS action.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Michelina, gay Spanish-speak.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New York inan and gay pride.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AIDS split.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bosnian in U.S.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Angola representatives in Heron.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vallarta Peace Conference.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INTERNATIONAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maestro from Missouri.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>South African cultural center.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leon Trotsky.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mexican.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nicaraguans.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EDITORIALS AND FEATURES**

U.S. dismemberment and the Third World... |
Court's shields arms makers... |

**NOTICIAS EN ESPANOL**

| **Terror in Reading.** |
| **Die del Orugio Day.** |

**Labor World**

46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010
Editorial: (212) 206-8222
Business: (212) 206-8220
Vol. 30, No. 27, July 7, 1990
Closing date: June 25, 1990

---

**CALENDAR**

**NEW YORK**

Tues, July 12: A People's Anti-War Mobilization and Students & Youth Against Fascism forum on the Korean's people's struggle for democracy and reunification. Featuring speaker from the Korean community. 7 p.m. Wheelchair accessible.


---

**Workers World**

1000 South 40 St., New York, N.Y. 10016
Phone: (212) 206-8222
Fax: (212) 206-8220
Editorial Mailing: (212) 206-8222
Vol. 30, No. 27, July 7, 1990
Agribusiness, speculators set to feed off drought

By John Cataldo

The worst U.S. drought in a half-century is killing crops and opening the land to erosion, it is exposing how ready capitalist agri-

business is to exploit this disaster at the expense of the working and poor people.

As of June 22, some 1,233 counties in 30 states, making up 40% of U.S. coun-
ties, were declared hit by a drought emergency. If the dry weather con-

tinues, 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 se-

vere hardship for farm workers (see article in this issue) for it will cut estimated 10% of individual farmers in the drought areas who face bankruptcy and foreclosure. It will also hit the standard of living of everyone for whom food makes up a large part of their 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.

Speculative monopolies utilize a perceived shortage or falsely create a shortage in order to raise prices. An example 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 "short-

age" 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, keep-

ing prices artificially high. This main-
tains high profits for the giant agri-

business monopolies which dominate U.S. agriculture.

When there are bad years, the govern-

ment sells these stores — not to working people but back to corporations, once again to insure their profits. And these same monopo-

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 know that "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 in the Chicago commodities market when the weather service pre-
dicted scattered showers in the Mid-

west. (New York Times, June 23.)

In their lust for quick profits, these traders are no better than the owners of the weapons industry whose great-

est sorrow is that peace might be de-

clared by the military-industrial com-

plex. The capitalist system is so good 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 govern-

ment 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 prod-

ucts like bread and pasta.

In 1944-45 and again in 1976-1977, government stocks of grains were de-

pleted. Both times food prices soared. Currently, analysts are predicting that food prices will rise by as much as 6% 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, peo-

ple with small incomes will be hurt more by the food price rises than those with larger incomes.

This is in contrast with socialist agri-

culture. In the Soviet Union, if grains were purchased from abroad when bad weather caused partial crop fail-

ures, the government would lower prices. 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 prematurity sets price hikes

In the U.S. on the other hand, there is the added problem that the food pro-

cessing companies will take a one cent increase in costs and demand a 10 cent increase in prices. April 1 they'll do it once more, still using raw material bought at lower prices. As the oil sold elapid did in the 1976's after the OPEC boycot, many 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 al-

ready 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 stricken western Michigan cucum-

ber crops (for pickles, maybe) is ready to do the same as Kellogg. When asked if Heinz would raise prices in expecta-
tion of a relatively good harvest, a rep-

resentative said, "I think we'll be wait-

ing 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-de-

gree Chrysler assemblyline in Fenton, Mo., near St. Louis. It's so hot, 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, thou-

sands of workers staged a strike at Chrysler's two manufacturing plants in Fenton. Management and repre-

sentatives of the United Auto Workers spent all day discussing the condi-
tions 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 all."

Air conditioning a necessity

The workers are demanding air conditioning. In a report released by the National Centers for Disease Con-

trol 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 "single most effective way to reduce 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 atti-

tude." The striking workers are demanding that the company install air condi-
tioning. 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-condi-
tioned office.

While it may be true that most plants and factories across the coun-

dry do not provide air conditioning for the workers (except where the equip-

ment requires it), the Fenton Chrysler workers point out that the General Motors plants in them in Westvite has had air conditioning throughout since 1983.

The example of the Chrysler work-

ers against the oppressive heat condi-
tions 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 re-

 mains untold.
Media orchestrate attack on Brawley advisers
Wiretap expert turns out to be fraud

By Carmen Rondondo
New York

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

But the media have focused attention away from the potentially explosive kidnapping and rape of Brawley, a Black teenage girl, 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. A.J. Sharpton.

Scouring headlines in this city's tabloids have proclaimed: "New bombshell in Brawley case," "The scandal behind the Brawley case," and, "When the three strokes toll dirt pits," referring to Maddox, Mason and Sharpton.

So when Samuel McCleese 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, McCleese claimed he had tapes that could prove without a shadow of a doubt that Tawan a Brawley and her advisers were lying about her abduction and rape.

The headlines screamed "Hex!" McCleese 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. "None at CBS who ran the exclusive interview with McCleese on June 20 were quick to reply that they still accepted McCleese's original story. Report- er Mike Taibbi said that "my tendency is to believe that [the tapes] were destroyed, perhaps 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 McCleese 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 $3,200 in N.J. Wouldn't that raise a slight question as to where McCleese, who is presently unemployed, would get the kind of money even to leave a down payment on a property of like that? Many progressives, especially in the Black community, feel that the media in this city didn't check McCleese out, they jumped on his claims, and made them banner headlines.

McCleese's subsequent arrest on charges of perjury didn't get the kind of media attention his claims against the Brawley advisers did. Neither 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 and their political right of 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? The obvious answer is that she is lying? By sticking to their demand for a special prosecutor, the Brawley advisers have convinced the judicial system that she is lying? By sticking to their demand for a special prosecutor, the Brawley advisers have convinced the judicial system that she is lying. But they have also convinced the courts and the government that they have exposed the racism of the judicial system as a whole.

In a great while, the media, the courts and the government will aephe- mishly admit that there is some injus- tice involved in the handling of these cases by some of the local police departments, but that is about it. It is what is called in the legal community's claim that Black people are systematically treated as "less than family," the legal system and its advisers have exposed the racism of the judicial system as a whole. In a great while, the media, the courts and the government will aephe- mishly admit that there is some injus- tice involved in the handling of these cases by some of the local police departments, but that is about it. It is what is called in the legal community's claim that Black people are systematically treated as "less than family," the legal system and its advisers have exposed the racism of the judicial system as a whole.

News from India

Canada unions back Native rights

Canada unions back Native rights

By Mahatm

The Saskatchewan Federation of Labor (SFL) has issued a statement strongly condemning the activity of a cigarettes smuggling gang, taken by the Canadian government against the people of the Kahowne 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 promised to end the flow of cigarettes from Mohawk territory in New York State into Canada, which is a lucrative business for the Mohawk Nation. The Canadian government is disturbed because it is losing an estimated 860 million dollars a year in cigarette taxes.

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

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

The statement describes the government as "just one more example of the unwillingness of the Canadian government to recognize the full rights of aboriginal peoples," and explains that "a united response by democratically-minded Canadians—indigenous and non-indigenous—is needed to de- feat 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 from as far away as Scotland and Ireland.

Political prisoners

Mexico reabuffa_ee, 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 request to extradite prisoner William Morales to the U.S. Morales was released from a Mexican prison on June 24, Puerto Rican independence fighter Morales flew to Cuba.

On June 23, Washington actually welcomed its ambassador to Mexico, who hopes a new strategy toward Morales will be successful. Morales was convicted in 1979 of conspiracy to murder and other charges and sentenced to 99 years in prison. He escaped from a Belleview prison in Puerto Rico in 1973 and lived underground until captured in Mexico in 1983.

The U.S. government and media la- beled William Morales a "terrorist" and treated the trial as strictly a crim- inal 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 U.S. government and media noti- fied U.S. officials on June 23 that Morales is accused of political crimes and is considered a terrorist. Morales said, "This is a recognition of the legitimate struggle for the independ- ence of Puerto Rico."

Morales was sentenced to 12 years and 6 months in prison following an F.B.I. and police shootout in Puebla, Mexico, where he was recaptured in 1983. He was sentenced for the death of one police officer and wounding of an- other 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 officers.
Fare hike stopped due to people's struggle
New battle needed against layoffs

By Jenny Cutter
San Francisco

June 27 — In an unprecedented move, the city Public Utilities Commission (PUC) voted on June 21 to reject a proposed $2.50-a-barrel hike to raise public transit fares for seniors, disabled and youth. The PUC had 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 faced 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. With the PUC only votes to raise the regular adult fare ten cents, the monthly Fast Pass by $3 to $29, and the Cable Car trip by two dollars. The proposed $7 increase in the senior/disabled fare from 15 cents to 25 cents and maintained the 25-cent youth fare.

The ruling class here is furiously attacking the free speech and youth fakes. Both major newspapers, the Chronicle and the Examiner, lashed out over June 24 demanding that the Board of Supervisors rescind the PUC vote and vote to raise the fares. The seniors and 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 setback, it is only a small step backward. The PUC will hold a hearing on June 28 on proposed MUNI service cuts which would reduce the already strained system to a parody of public transit.

Riders are being held on cuts to other vital services, such as public health, mental health and programs for the homebound. The proposed 7% increase can have a devastating effect.

The PUC vote and the saving of the library shows the need to fight against the hike.

To get involved, call the Committee Against Budget Cuts of the All-Peoples Congress at (415) 821-4545.

San Francisco Examiner

A $2.50 fare? Are they kidding?

CITY HALL is abortion, and the board who approved it are a bunch of fools.

The opposition is tossed aside at times, while the presence of housewives and public transit will not be tolerated. That is the mistake. So this suggested

Thea Price, San Francisco

They can't vote when they can't vote on

But the issue is not just the proposed $2.50-a-barrel hike, it's also about the whole question of living a decent life in San Francisco. The current fare structure is based on the idea that anyone can afford to live in San Francisco without having to work. The city is pushing for an increase in the fare structure, but the opposition is not backing down. The proposed $2.50-a-barrel hike is a clear example of how the city is trying to squeeze the working class.

The PUC is the tool of the monopoly utility interests, rubber-stamping proposals after sitting through mandatory public hearings. But on June 21 the commissioners faced 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 the announced in March. With the PUC only votes to raise the regular adult fare ten cents, the monthly Fast Pass by $3 to $29, and the Cable Car trip by two dollars. The proposed $7 increase in the senior/disabled fare from 15 cents to 25 cents and maintained the 25-cent youth fare.

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 faced 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. With the PUC only votes to raise the regular adult fare ten cents, the monthly Fast Pass by $3 to $29, and the Cable Car trip by two dollars. The proposed $7 increase in the senior/disabled fare from 15 cents to 25 cents and maintained the 25-cent youth fare.

Teamsters

Continued from page 4

trackers last month, there is a basis for a new activism in a struggle to defend the public interest.

The Teamsters represent not only truckers, but increasing numbers of service workers, Third World and women workers. There, and in many other unions, there is a growing anti-labor movement against the Teamsters, who have pointed to the dangers of the Solidarity Day, a huge labor rally. While "pro-labor" politicians who try to divorce it into itself, another way. Labor Day is in two months. That could be the time to take a united stand.

Writers Guild still walks.

The new Writers Guild contract may start next winter. The Writers Guild strike against TV and movie producers, now six months' long, is still going strong. After members voted by a four-to-one margin on June 23 to reject manag

er's latest "final offer," the media have made much of a supposed split among the striking writers, with union halls in New York City and Los Angeles cheering the strike leader's call to reject the take-home hire, and men in Hollywood and San Francisco cheering the strike leader's call to reject the take-home hire of the Paramount Building in New York City. As a result of the strike, the country's studios are not making any reports that will have to pounce to the season premiers for most of their TV series.

Timber strike.

Strikes against the logging companies in the Pacific Northwest, began in early June, spread to 20 sites by the second week. Some 4,000 loggers 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 United Paperworkers International Council of Industrial Workers were fighting to regain wages lost to givebacks in their last contract agreements. Meanwhile, talk has begun at Westerheuser 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 known as Beef, is the biggest beefpacking company in the world and has a long history of union-busting. The meatpacking industry is a gigantic business. The most recent was a seven-month strike-terminated-lockout last year. The contentiousness of this battle. So this battle has made an impression on IBP, which agreed to recognize the union at the Joslin plant without forcing an election.

Shelby Ettinger

Government-issue anthrax, special delivery

By Andy Stapp
It happened back during the height of the cold war. An arm of the government lost in the combat news, but the people of Utah will never forget it. If it hadn't been raining that night, a tire driving down Route 36 would have been killed. Fortunately for them, they had nothing to lose. Windows rolled up because of the storm.

The sheep weren't so lucky. About 1,600 of them died. The U.S. Army had experimented with a little agent. It's nerve gas test at the Fwy Proving Grounds, everything had gone wrong and people were miles beyond the base perimeter. As to be expected, the Pentagon began by denying everything, but that was the obvious problem of explaining all those dead sheep. Finally the military geniuses responsible for this video test admitted the truth, paid off the scared and angry sheep farmers for their losses and promised never to do anything like 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 filled by the U.S. Army, the military has been storing highly toxic substances--the sort that can cause injury and illnesses substances through the public mail for many years. It's called "low level toxic," but it's really freeze-dried death.

Mailing anthrax, bioterrorism

How about using the public post office to mail anthrax, a disease that could kill millions of 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 body 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. So, we have a real possibility of outbreaks of anthrax, the same strain that killed thousands of people in southern Europe in just one year. Would the Army really do this? Sure. Anthrax mailing is a big favorite.

We're sure the Army has a perfectly good reason for mailing anthrax. But why bioterrorism?

My mother was always careful to avoid buying dented cans, because the A&P fearing bioterrorism lurked there, waiting to kill the whole family. Such timidity does not afflict the Army. Your bioterrorism 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 couriers. On the other hand, the postal workers' unions are against it, many of them who are living through the retirement age. There is a third possibility, of course. The military generals and admirals in a big room together, sort of like a family picnic, along with their chemist and bioterrorism. What harm could come to them? After all, they've told everyone this stuff is perfectly safe to live with. Actually, liver disease is usually painless and short.

We're sure the Army has a perfectly good reason for mailing anthrax. But why bioterrorism?

I'm always careful to avoid buying dented cans, because the A&P fearing bioterrorism lurked there, waiting to kill the whole family. Such timidity does not afflict the Army. Your bioterrorism 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 couriers. On the other hand, the postal workers' unions are against it, many of them who are living through the retirement age. There is a third possibility, of course. The military generals and admirals in a big room together, sort of like a family picnic, along with their chemist and bioterrorism. What harm could come to them? After all, they've told everyone this stuff is perfectly safe to live with.
Close to half-million march in Calif.

By Joan Marquardt
San Francisco

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 worth 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 St. John's, Iowa, and Ilse Kornreich, co-founder of the first openly lesbian organization in Argentina, Cuadrado de la Vida Femenina.

Michael Ryan, a person with AIDS and a member of ACT UP/S.F., former 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 to the struggle for an end to AIDs."

Continued on page 10

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 availability and distribution, FDA officials continued to prevent alternative treatments, such as AL-721, from reaching people with AIDS.

Hank Tavern 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 presi- dent, who came all the way from Berkeley 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 Delany, 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 complex south of San Francisco.

Student clubs win funds

In another of a string of recent court victories for lesbian and gay students, a federal appeals court ordered on June 25 that public money must be made available on an equal basis to gay student groups. The ruling in the case of the University of Arkansas's Gay and Lesbian Students Association overturned the school's refusal to provide $165 to fund a program about lesbian and gay oppression.

The court decision sets a national precedent in explicitly recognizing the right of free speech for lesbian and gay student groups at public universities and tying that right to the right to receive public funds. The appeals court judge, overturning a lower court in Arkansas, held that any school that provides money to student groups must include lesbian and gay organizations in the budget.
We’re rightfully proud and fighting on!

By Leslie Feinberg

New York City

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, Dakikas, 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 Creede, co-president of Black and White Men Together (BWMT), pointed to the groups of Black, Latino, Native American, East Asian, Palestinian, Native and Other nationally oppressed people who marched. "There is greater unity among us, I believe.

An empty wheelchair led the contingent of gay and straight people from Disney 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, but has not heard from seeing her lovers 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 struggle for an AIDS vaccine 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 home-grown gay groups marched with the Streetwork Project, which reaches out to youth trying to survive in Times Square. Senior 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 Halsilip.

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 seen since piecing together a grade school graduation dress on a treadmill.

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. They 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 appliquéd house was created on a panel for a father and his 2-year-old daughter who died homeless.

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 to get 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

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

Declared subservive by the apartheid regime, SACTU in the early 1980s was one of the few rights organizations of the many new independent unions.

The unity efforts succeeded in December 1983, with the creation of the above-ground Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). Four months later COSATU 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 miners.

SACTU is banned 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 ban is one reason why the interview make a valuable contribution.

COSATU solidarity tour committee can be reached at (404) 521-2300 or 688-7422.

Workers World: What is your assessment of the June 6-9 general strike that saw 5.7 million workers across South Africa for three days? Where do you think the struggle will go in light of its success?

Peter Mahlangu: It’s an important issue that the general strike is the ability of our people to actually challenge the apartheid regime and to mobilize the bosses. In fact when we talk about the general strike this is just the beginning of the sort 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 from home, get together, mobilize the other and go out on a strike like the one we’ve had.

Workers World: What is your reaction to the Formation of COSATU was born in 1985 our experience has always been that whatever we do it is together because COSATU is the federation of organizations, the student organizations support us. We have assessed the labor movement in the categories of the people are wage earning and that the confidence of the people to be able to come out on strike.

PM: The first national Union of Mine Workers followed by the South African Railway and Harborminers Union, South African Metal and Chemical Union — 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 that we get what we want and not just the little things.

Some people showed up, close to 20,000 of our people where the union movement is very much af

The public sector, the transport workers, schoolteachers — also people who are in education and the like are involved in this. There was an advance in some 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 shut down for three days.

PM: There was a partial response from the miners. This was because they have a contract and in August they have a strike last year which was very successful. They have tried to break that strike by dismissing more than 60,000 workers in the mining industry. They 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 Mine Workers 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 successful in the general strike.

The miners’ situation has been reported time and again by the media. It is important to mention that it was because the miners were afraid that if they go on strike it would mean the end of them. And it is the wrong thing to do. 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 that those 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 have always been able to reinstated workers who’ve been kicked out of work. In the mine workers’ strike 40,000 of the more than 60,000 workers who lost their jobs during the strike have gone back to work. For the other 20,000 there was an agreement that they would come in during the period when they were thrown out of work until they get new employ-

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 those things and decided that in the long run people who worked 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 textile strikes down completely, chemical workers did not report to work. Many other small industries were shut down in South Africa completely.

The outlet, 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 at work.

The regime would like to say that the strike was not important, but we’re going to hear 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 are receiving. June 6-8 was our first national strike. When you talk of 7.5 million people in three days that’s 1.8 million of people. And we don’t have that many working people in South Africa because of the shortage of labor.

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

PM: No. 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 the 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.

Our program. The program is to build a strong union, a union that is not going to be a business union. A union that will challenge the government including political issues in the shopfloor issues we are fighting for.

Our objective is to strengthen the industrial unions first, then to assess how strong our people are in terms of our strength.

The national miners’ strike last year, some people said it was not necessary, you look at what you could have discussed with the company, the wages were prepared to go out on strike. They didn’t need to go out on that strike.

The National Union of Mineworkers forms an integral part of the labor movement in our country because the undermining of that vital industry will mean undermining the whole of the loss economically for the regime.

Mineworkers include many migrants

Most people, I’m sure, know that the mineworkers include migrant workers from the rural areas. These people, all these men, speak different languages, come from different cultures. As a result it is very difficult for the government before they leave that they mustn’t involve themselves in any la-

But we know they turn to the government 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 organized, it means you have a prob-

The bosses actually didn’t think that people in that industry where they are grouped, are just a group of people who are from tribes and played on 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 end 90% of the vote was 90% and 100% were still prepared to strike.

We have to keep them for them and a dress rehearsal for us, for the battles ahead. So we gauge the success by the determination of the masses, the support of the workers. When the strike was called there were only about 250 paid- up members of the union. After one week there were 600,000 mineworkers out on strike.
Hated in Angola, puppet Savimbi is VIP here

By Monica Monheiro

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. and has been receiving the royal treatment since arriving on June 22. He has been wine and dined by the U.N. and the State Department, and frequently seen in New York City. He has been whisked away in elegant black limousines. He has been provided with CIA protection. In other words, the VIP treatment has been bestowed on Jonas Savimbi, as if he were an official head of state.

Why should any 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 and its allies are truly the head of state, that state being the "people's Republic of Angola. Especially significant is that the United States has recognized the ultra-right-wing of the U.S. ruling class, who sponsored his trip here.

In the wake of his visit, Savimbi is becoming more than a notorious, discredited mercenary of the fascist apartheid regime in South Africa. He is now the leading spokesman for the payor of the brutal South African Defense Forces (SADF) since Angola won liberation from the Portuguese colonialists in 1975.

In fact, it has been documented that Savimbi colluded with the Portuguese colonialists from 1975 to 1979, under a project called "Operation Timor," in an attempt to fight the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (Mpla) in the 1976 election, the first free elections in the leadership of Angola.

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

If it were for the financial and military support UNITA receives from the U.S., then there would be no war, because this band of ruthless terrorists would be defeated.

Angolan representatives greeted in Harlem

By Deidre Girard

June 29 — It was a long overdue step toward justice, the New York Times reported June 28, the Soviet newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda published an appeal by a leading Commissar of the Gulag, former Soviet premier Leonid Brezhnev, and the publication in the U.S.S.R. of his long-suppressed works.

Otto R. Latia, an economist and deputy editor of the Party journal Kommunist, was quoted in the youth paper as saying that Trotskii was "not a spy nor a murderer" and had "nothing to answer for.

This is the first time since the infamous Moscow Trials in 1938 that any work by the late Trotsky has been published in the Soviet press. He is still the only one of the leading Bolsheviks purged by Stalin who has not been rehabilitated and, 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 revolutionary victory in 1917, he was elected chairman of the Petrograd Soviet, the 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 Bolshevik Party. He was a central figure in the insurrection in October and became People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, in charge of the new workers' and peasants' government.

Later, as Commissar for War, Trotskii 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, Trotskii 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 "enriched" themselves through the free market.

Trotskii warned that greater social differentiation between rich and poor would lead to a capitalist counter-revolution, and proposed an intensive program of state investment in electrification and services in the countryside in order to win the peasants to collective agriculture.

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

Today in the USSR, not only has Bukharin been cleared of the fabrications and character assassinations that were carried out 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.

Trotskii'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, Latia and other leaders, including Gorbatchev himself in his speech to the 70th anniversary celebration of the Revolution last November, have attacked Trotsky's political views.

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 West, who look forward to studying the works of this great revolutionary leader.

Workers World / July 7, 1988

Page 9

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

Soviet editor calls for clearing of Trotsky's name

By Deidre Girard

June 29 — It was a long over due step toward justice, the New York Times reported June 28, the Soviet newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda published an appeal by a leading Commissar of the Gulag, former Soviet premier Leonid Brezhnev, and the publication in the U.S.S.R. of his long-suppressed works.

Otto R. Latia, an economist and deputy editor of the Party journal Kommunist, was quoted in the youth paper as saying that Trotskii was "not a spy nor a murderer" and had "nothing to answer for.

This is the first time since the infamous Moscow Trials in 1938 that any work by the late Trotsky has been published in the Soviet press. He is still the only one of the leading Bolsheviks purged by Stalin who has not been rehabilitated and, a special Party commission set up to review the trials.

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

Trotskii spent much of his life in exile, but returned to Russia in mid-1917 to join forces with Lenin and the Bolshevik Party. He was a central figure in the insurrection in October and became People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, in charge of the new workers' and peasants' government.

Later, as Commissar for War, Trotskii 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, Trotskii 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 "enriched" themselves through the free market.

Trotskii warned that greater social differentiation between rich and poor would lead to a capitalist counter-revolution, and proposed an intensive program of state investment in electrification and services in the countryside in order to win the peasants to collective agriculture.

Stalin, who at first sided with Bukharin on this question, later became alarmed at the growth of a rural bourgeoisie and of rich peasants and by 1929 reversed himself, denounced Bukharin, and proceeded to rapid collectivization of agriculture that relied on administrative methods.
U.S. disarmament & Third World

If reasonable statements presented in compelling and eloquent terms were ever vanquishing naked class interest, then the speeches of the Third World and socialist countries to the nuclear arms conferences would result in genuine disarmament. Only then can the problems of hunger, disease, illiteracy and an impoverished environment faced by so many on the planet be solved. Fighting the arms race is fundamentally a struggle against those who profit from war and exploitation. The war in Vietnam is 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 from the government, the Supreme Court has declared that these 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 protect non-military contractors as well as the countless number 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 this ruling means to the many politicalicians 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-wooed chemical companies be immune from lawsuits by Vietnamese veterans who were systematically defoliated with Agent Orange during the war? Or why should a firm like Morton Thiokol bear the rap for incinerating the Challenger crew with their obsolete booster rocket?

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 law-making venture “absolving multibillion dollar private enterprises” from the consequences of their actions.

It should be noted that the U.S. Senate, Democratic and Republicans together, recently approved the judge who wrote this reaction-

ary ruling. Didn’t the Senate vote without a just cause? Is the change of Anthony Kennedy on the Supreme Court? Didn’t the Sena-
tors praise Kennedy as “fair” and “moderate” despite his long history of repressive rulings on workers, women, poor 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 Regan nominee on the grounds that his view of justice is hostile to the majority of people in this country.

Now many of these same Democratic politicians lie to talk about how “eight years of Reaganism is enough.” But when they had a chance to do something about it, the Demo-

cratic leadership in the Senate capitulated yet again, placing a man on the high court who will do the bidding of corporate interest.

One of the first votes Kennedy cast af-

fter his confirmation to the Supreme Court was to permit new arguments against an impor-
tant law banning racial discrimination by private employers and educational institu-
tions. And now this new decision throws the protective cloak of sanctity around crooked merchants and money makers.

Of course, if Congress wanted to, it could correct this scandal by simply passing legisla-
tion which would make all these arms 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 series of economic schemes developed by U.S. and other international banks, involving the hollowing out of Mexico’s wealth. One of these schemes, accepted by President Miguel de la Madrid, calls for the privatization of much of Mex-

ico’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 Son-
ora, Mexico for $910 million, would be the largest transfer ever of a nationalized industry to private hands.

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

Carlos Salinas de Gortari, PRI des-
pelled candidate in the July 1988 presi-
dential elections and current minister of budget and finance under de la Ma-

This revolution up the 1920s led to nationalization of all its industry, during the presidencies of Gen. Lazaro Cardenas from 1934 to 1940.

Even though the 1910 Mexican rev-

olution overthrew feudal and semi-feud-

al relations, much of Mexico was still owned outright by U.S. banks, but with the rise to U.S. control of oil, for instance, meant unbridled exploitation of the workers and resources. Eduardo Galleano, in "Open Veins of Latin America," wrote, "Standard Oil and Shell, hav-

ing both offices in Mexico City, lease oil north and south respectively ... drained the famous Fajlo de Oro de los Pueblos. Moreover, the government is now forcing the workers to pay them 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 export-oriented country.

Like much of the Third World, in the past the Mexican government has been unprepared to make the necessary transition to an economic development based on heavy borrowing from international banks and the payment of interest on loans by the peso a barrel it was get-

ting 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 pro-

ducers were trapped with billions of dollars in unpaid loans.

Even with yearly interest payments of $2 billion, Mexico has only been able to service the interest. 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 the dollar to rise in exchange rate.

The peso devaluation after the crash cut workers’ wages by 40%. A threat-
ened general strike brought an inad-

The Cali "march"

Continued from page 6

eternal peace agreement is personal and political struggle combating this dis-

‘Acting up’ is keeping me alive.”

Regardless of what anyone de-

mand that the government become re-

sponsive to our needs. As I stand be-

fore you, I will not flinch. I will courageously say, ‘I urge you to act up, fight back, fight AIDS!’

Debt relief,” thought up by J.P. Mor-

gan and Co., involves the direct inter-

vention by the U.S. government. Mex-

ico has no chance of paying back the $60 billion in delinquent loans. The U.S. Treasury bond that will mature in 20 years to $10 billion. In turn, some of the profits go as a fraction of their value for new Mex-

ican bonds that will pay the U.S. a 10% tax. The rest is redistributed to the banks.

The possible solution to the current crisis is at the back of this ecosystem — deeper and deeper impoverishment of the Mexican masses that the presidential elections are seen by millions of workers and peasants as an avenue for struggle through the candidature of left groups like Cali march: Next: The candidacy of Cauhtemoc Cardenas.
Shultz trip signals war danger to Nicaragua
But Sandinistas sign accord with Sumo people

By Dee Knight
Managua, Nicaragua

June 28 — The purpose of U.S. Sec- 
retary of State George Shultz’s current 
tour of El Salvador, Guatemala, Hon- 
duras and Costa Rica “is to find sup- port for the U.S. policy of war against 
the Sandinista Revolution,” President Daniel Ortega told the 150 U.S. dele- 
gates 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. In- stead 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 Hon- 
duran President Jose Azcona that “the U.S. and Honduras will continue supporting the contras.”

Meanwhile, the Washington Post con- tinued to report that the U.S. govern- ment has made a decision to continue the bloodbath in Nicaragua.

The contra, 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 “return- ing to Nicaragua with renewed determination against the Sandinista government,” the paper said.

The bad signs

Shultz’s visit excluding Nicaragua is only the latest in a series of signs of political weakness, such concerns were allayed last week.

and when thousands of Nicaraguans marched all night in the ninth com- memoration of the “strategic retreat” from Managua to Masaya before the final victorious insurrection a month later on July 19, 1979.

Sparks were high among the mostly young people, nearly all in the cus- 
tomary olive green symbolizing a — ‘Rightfully proud’

Continued from page 7

ing a court suit to win equal benefit coverage for the lovers of lesbian and gay workers. The Laga Labor Network — “Gays pride at work!” — marched together in solidar- ity.

Music, floats and balloons were ev- erywhere. 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.

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

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

Good news from the Atlantic coast

The contras lost another important detachment to the peace process on June 25, when the last group of indig- enous people still with the contras joined the revolutionary side. The 80 Sumu fighters and 116 native mem- bers 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 Bermu- dez), said the Sumu leader Ampionio 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 de- struction, the lack of food and the peo- ple 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 gov- ernment, 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 not the only reason Rea- 
gan still hopes his mercenaries can hurt the Revolution. War damage in- cludes some 50,000 Nicaraguans killed or wounded and more than $12 billion in economic losses, by govern- ment 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 70%).

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 infla- tion. And credit will be tight for farm- ers, despite hopes for the best harvest in years thanks to the cease-fire and propitious rains during the cur- rent planting season.

The Minister of Planning and Bud- get for the last week that “as long as there is war, the workers and peasants — who are the people — have to tighten their belts.”

Reagan hopes this belt tightening due to continued contra attacks will sway the popular sentiment for the Revolution. What he can’t real- ize — or fear — 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

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 re- fusion to allow the convoy to deliver the 50 vehicles and the 50,000 pounds 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 demon- strations reported that one of the most significant aspects of the pro- tests 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. govern- ment tries to hide.

The fact that the Veterans Peace Convoy to Nicaragua is not at the behest 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 admin- istration alleges that the donations of the goods carried by the convoy breaks the U.S.-imposed trade embargo against Nicaragua. The government has claimed that the trucks, school buses, fire engines, the oasts and medi- cine that thousands of people in this country contributed are somehow “military assistance.”

These veterans and all their sup- porters, however, refuse to be deterred.

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 but that these problems 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. govern- ment.

Valdez said that the convoy is purposely being singled out by the Reagan administration for harass- ment and attack. He pointed out that other progressive groups have orga- nized and delivered goods to Nicaragua from the United States before and have not been stopped.

“This harassment” he said, “is an- other indication that Reagan’s policy in Nicaragua is failing and that why the government does not want these goods to be delivered.” In addi- tion, Valdez said, the solidarity wit- nessed by the convoy towards the peo- ple 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 dis- trict of Laredo, Texas, against the U.S. government, particularly Secretary of State George Shultz, Chief of Staff Howard Baker and Assistant Secre- tary of State for Inter-American Af- fairs Elliott Abrams, alleging that the government has illegally defined hu- manitarian aid.
Estado ataca comunidad negra
por medio de Tawana Brawley, su familia y consejeros

Por Pat Chin

Quién ningún caso en la historia reciente ha sido más controversial y escandaloso 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, todos ellos que usaba una insignia política, el Estado —y en particular através de sus medios de comunicación— ha hecho todo lo posible para descreditarla a ella y a sus consejeros: el Reverendo Al Sharpton y los abogados C. Vernon Mason y Alfred Maddox.

Tawana —quien ha rehusado coope-
rar con el gran juez de acusación de
significado por el estado, por causa de su aparato de buena voluntad en buscar a los sospechosos— al principio le contó su historia a las autoridades locales del condado. De hecho, ella ha identificado 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 presunta de la comunidad negra difundía la brutal información de este secuestro y violación racista.

Poco después, dos fiscales de Dutchess County asignados a 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 ignorarlo 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 secues tro racista, ni la violación ocurrieron (o, si ocurrió, que su padrastro, que ha per dido el trabajo era el sospechoso). Ade más, su negativa a testificar ante el gran jurado es caracterizado como parte de un gran enjuiciamiento que es perpetrado por hombres que tienen ambiciones políticas.

Una de las estaciones de televisión más importantes hasta fabricó "testi gos" acusando a Tawana, que está ba hía estado de fiesta en el "calabozo del crack" durante el tiempo que ella dijo que la había secuestrado. Se divulgó, por los padres de estos jóvenes, que a ellos se les había pagado por mentir por el reportero de la noticia de CBS, Mark Talbott.

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, através de el fiscal, Ralph Guliani, por "fraude de corrupción." Y la madre de la víctima ha sido forzada a buscar solu ción 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 cooprar con el sistema de justicia criminal que no tie ne ningún interés comprensivo en pro tejer los derechos de los oprimidos. Esta verdad en particular, como lo demuestra la historia, donde ocurren ataques raciales y violencia en contra de las mujeres.

Dos de los ataques más recientes co metidos por el estado y los medios de com unicación para desacreditar a Tawana Brawley y sus apoyadores— y para desviar la lucha en contra del racismo y por la auto-determinación que su ca sa simboliza— vino en forma de un Perry McKinnon que sostiene que el abandonó al equipo de Brawley por las supuestas "mentiras" emitidas por es tos. En seguida, McKinnon fue citado por el gran jurado inscrito por el congreso. "¿Que contradice al tratamiento de 'grandes 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 externo es un fraude, es Samuel McCliese. El sostiene que Sharpton lo emplazó 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 movi miento que ha crecido para responder a la violencia racial y la opresión, sin escuchar los desafíos primero le die ron mucha publicidad y creencias a la versión de este informante. Al poco tiempo, se reveló que los cassettes que produjo McCliese estaban en blanco, no en blanco, pero continuó en la misma posición de que el estado y los medios de comunicación.

Poniendo el caso de Tawana Braw ley en un perspectiva histórica es muy instructivo y puede servir para mante ner el espíritu donde debe— en los victimarios racistas, incluyendo a los ataques y los medios de comunicación. Esto es así porque el caso de esta jov en 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 Bosch, to dos ellos víctimas de los ataques racis tas.

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 jugo por el estado como una amenaza seria a la estructura de poder blan co y de carácter capitalista que repren ten. Tenían que detenlerla a todo cos to. Así que usaron su vieja táctica de di vidir y conquistar una vez más, tal co mo se usó contra el movimiento de Mar cus Garvey en los años 60 através del FBI y su programa COINTELPRO.

Una de las características de COIN TELPRO 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 pode rosos publicaron extensos reportajes sobre el supuesto rol de Sharpton como informante del FBI.

El caso de Tawana Brawley, puesto en la perspectiva histórica, trasciende los individuos envueltos (los cuales tienen que tener sus derechos protegi dos) y en forma gráfica muestra lo complejo de la lucha por la auto-determina ción y liberación nacional y en la que se ven enredados todos los medios de acciones uni das y militantes.

Disponible en World View Forum

La Crísis del SIDA

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

SIDA ($5.50 — 5 por #2.00)

Dirección

Ciudad/Estado/Zip

e-mail: o e g p o u t d e a t w o r d V w F o r u m, 44 W , 21 1 S . N Y , N Y 10010

Celebración del Día de Orgullo Lésbico y Gay

Como en cada año, a fines de junio, se celebro la marcha de Orgullo Lésbi co y Gay en las EE. UU. Este año se llevó a cabo en muchas ciudades tales como San Francisco, Detroit, Dallas, Baltimor, Houston, Boston y muchas más, en las que miles celebraron su bu homosexualidad y al mismo tiempo pro testaron la discriminación que son objeto.

En Nueva York a las 2:30 pm del domingito 16 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 a cielo mientras todos miraban unidos en fuerza.

El partido Mundo Obrero está en ab soluta solidaridad contra la opresión, prejuicio y homofobia a la cual está sometida la comunidad lésbica y gay. Todos hacen tiene derecho a vivir y amar libremente. Apoyamos los derechos civiles completos para lesbianas y gays, y denunciamos todo ataque y cada ins tancia de discriminación. Exigimos fondos y un esfuerzo masivo para en contrar una cura y vacuna para el SI DA y que los millones de dólares que se gastan en la guerra de las galaxias sean transferidos al Proyecto SIDA.

Lucinda Śniater

Fotografía: XAVIER DREYER

El movimiento por la liberación sexual es un desafío a la ideología homofóbica y al prejuicio. La comunidad gay ha luchado contra la discriminación y ha logrado avances significativos. La celebración del Día de Orgullo Lésbico y Gay es un momento para unir fuerzas y fortalecer la solidaridad entre todos.