



# workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

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## NICARAGUAN ANNIVERSARY

Nine years after the revolution Nicaragua is still under intense attack from Washington for daring to exercise its sovereignty. 9



Some of the protestors in Mexico City on July 16.

WW PHOTO: GLORIA LA RIVA

## EYEWITNESS MEXICO

Hundreds of thousands took to the street to blast election fraud. The huge turnout shows that the workers and peasants are ready for a struggle. 11

## TEAMSTERS

By electing a new president, the largest union in the country has defied a government attempt to take it over. 3

# U.S. war ships threaten Persian Gulf peace efforts

By Andy Stapp

The war between Iraq and Iran may soon be coming to an end. On July 18, the government of Iran publicly accepted a United Nations resolution for an end to the fighting between that country and Iraq.

Under the provisions of UN Resolution 598, all military action on land, at sea and in the air will cease between the two nations and each will withdraw its forces to its own borders. An "impartial body" from various countries will then be appointed to fix responsibility for the war.

The same resolution calls on "other states to exercise the utmost restraint and refrain from any act which may lead to further escalation and widening of the conflict." This certainly applies to the U.S., which has

assembled the greatest battle flotilla since World War II and parked it right off the shores of Iran.

In compliance with the UN resolution, this provocative military force, which has turned the Persian/Arabian Gulf red with innocent blood, must leave the area.

The Pentagon's manifest intention of keeping its warships in the region is underscored by Washington's rejection of the recent UN Security Council draft statement, prepared by the Council's president, calling on those "outside the region maintaining naval forces in international waters in the Persian Gulf to promptly conduct a reassessment of their presence in such international waters."

Washington considers the gulf sort of honorary U.S. territory, like the

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## CONVENTION CENTERFOLD

- 1,000 trounce KKK in Atlanta
- Protests raise people's issues
- Big oil, military well represented by Dukakis-Bentsen
- Jackson speech arouses millions of poor, oppressed



Police unsuccessfully try to hold back anti-Klan protesters. One demonstrator's opinion of a confederate flag. WW PHOTOS: TOM DORAN

# 10,000 workers strike General Dynamics in Conn.

## Bosses' contract offer cuts insurance, gives no wage increase

By Dick Lenzi  
Hartford, Conn.

More than 10,000 workers at the Electric Boat Division (EB) of General Dynamics Corp. went out on strike on July 1 in Groton, Conn. Members of ten different unions that compose the Metal Trades Council (MTC) at the shipyard voted by a five-to-three margin to reject what the company called its "last, best and final offer." General Dynamics is the country's number two arms contractor, and the Groton shipyard produces the Trident nuclear submarine. The proposed contract includes cuts in medical insurance and an increase in the deductibles that work-

ers must pay. But the worst part is the company's attempt to saddle the membership with lump sum payments that substitute for wage increases.

### Lump sum payments opposed

Lump sum payments keep basic wage rates at a lower starting point for future bargaining. By not rolling any increase into the wage rate, pensions that are linked to hourly pay are also adversely affected. Companies are pushing for lump sum deals across the industry in the hope that workers burdened with bills (the vast majority) will settle for a one-time "big" check.

In 1985, workers at four Pratt & Whitney Aircraft plants in Connect-

icut were stuck with two years of lump sum payments. According to the International Association of Machinists, which represents Pratt workers, their members lost over \$4,000 each as a result. The eyes of Pratt unionists—and many others statewide—are now on the EB strike. A Machinists' steward from Pratt who recently visited the EB strike headquarters with a complementary "Dump the Lump" T-shirt reports that workers literally came over the tables for it.

General Dynamic's EB has a reputation as a callous employer. The many thousands of former EB workers throughout the state can testify that the shipyard is a brutal, noisy

and dangerous place to work. General Dynamics, apparently up to its eyeballs in the latest corruption/pay-off scandal in the arms industry, treats the workers in its submarine yard like so much raw meat. Despite the millions of dollars in profits from its sub building operation and alleged crooked contracts, the company refuses to grant a decent and equitable wage increase.

But MTC members also have a well-deserved reputation—for their willingness to battle the company for their rights. The last strike occurred in 1975 and lasted five months. This one promises to be as determined, with workers preparing for a long struggle.

## —Paperworkers

Continued from page 3

out for a total of 16 months this July 21. Considering the anti-labor bias of the Reaganite-dominated NLRB, it's obvious that it was this iron determination of the workers that influenced the Board's decision.

In related news, UPIU Local 14 spokesperson Pete Bernard in Jay, Maine, reports that the union's "Outreach '88" efforts are continuing to build support for the struggle of the 3,400 paperworkers on strike or locked out by IP in Mobile, Jay, Lock Haven, Pa., and in DePere, Wisc.

According to Bernard, an instrument technician with 22 years in the Androscoggin mill, 38 UPIU locals have now endorsed the "Memphis Resolution," a strike solidarity state-

ment originally signed by 25 locals in an attempt to build a united front against the company.

In addition, 27 out of 36 IP plants are now operating without contracts, either because the locals have rejected them or because the International has refused to sign the concessionary contracts demanded by IP. Plus, the union's call for a boycott of Avon products is in full swing, part of the union's "corporate campaign" to put pressure on companies with ties to IP, hoping to thereby increase pressure on the company to settle.

"IP thought they'd beat us in a few months," Bernard told Workers World. "They never thought the strike would cost them this much. Now they don't want to give in, and for us, it's been a rough year and we aim to win. So we'll just have to keep up the pressure till they settle."

## San Francisco nurses set walkout for July 26

By Bruce Baginski, RN  
Member, California Nurses Association

Hospital and Institutional Workers Local 250 members voted by a 7-to-1 margin to strike at six San Francisco hospitals and one in Daly City. The 1,700 members of the local are scheduled to walk out on July 26.

Since their contract expired on April 30, the hospitals have cut 7-to-12 days of sick leave and won't start paying this leave until after five days off work. They have also cut health insurance. Many of the workers are now unable to pay up to \$1,600 per year needed to maintain benefits for themselves and their families.

About 2,000 RNs represented by the California Nurses Association are soon expected to vote to strike at six of the seven same hospitals. Management is attempting to cut benefits and impose 12-hour and rotating shifts. These hospitals are making profits above the industry average.

Also, 650 RNs at San Francisco General, the city's public hospital, are expected to vote to strike at the end of this month. They are represented by United Public Employees Local 790. These nurses have been subjected to horrendous understaffing for years and face further hardship from the city's plan to cut \$19 to \$27 million from the health budget.

## Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues

that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society. All work together in this organization — Black and white, Latino, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian and gay, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

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

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## CALENDAR

### DETROIT

**Sat., July 23:** "Cuba: Socialism, international solidarity and the legacy of Che Guevara." Workers World Party Forum. Dinner and childcare. \$2 donation (\$1 for unemployed). 6 p.m. At 1945 Grand River. Call (313) 962-4979.

### NEW YORK

**Fri., July 29:** Celebration of the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions at Workers World Party Forum. Featuring slide show and presentations showing gains in Cuba by members of the recent Venceremos Brigade. Donation. Refreshments. Literature. Wheelchair accessible. Air conditioned hall. 7 p.m. At 146 W. 25 St., 3rd floor, Manhattan. Call (212) 255-0352.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Sun., July 24:** Workers World Party Forum. Dick Becker, just returned from demonstrations outside Democratic Convention; Gloria La Riva, with slide show and presentation on the Mexico City demonstration and elections there. Free. 6 p.m. At 2489 Mission St., #30. Call (415) 826-4828.

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# Teamster board defies gov't by electing new president

## Opening exists for rank-and-file democratic initiative

By Milt Neidenberg

The General Executive Board (GEB) of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) has wisely ignored the threat of government trusteeship and elected a new president of the 1.6 million IBT members.

In a split decision made behind closed doors, the 17-member board elected William J. McCarthy, an international vice president from the New England region, to serve out the remainder of President Jackie Presser's five-year term, ending in 1991. Presser died on July 6.

Though McCarthy is an unknown to the Teamster members, except through what the media report, his election sent a message to the government and to the Justice Department to keep their hands off the Teamsters, a message that is no doubt wholeheartedly approved by the rank and file as well as by the AFL-CIO, which has re-admitted the IBT to its ranks.

Clearly the decision by U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani, with the backing of the Reagan administration, to use the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statutes to take over the IBT, has backfired. A U.S. federal district judge has refused Giuliani's order for a court-appointed officer to take over the duties of the 17-member General Executive Board, and set a February 1989 date for the government to prove their charges that the union is controlled by organized crime. Whether the government, following the November election, plans to pursue its charges remains to be seen.

### Bosses fear suit may spur union militancy

At the same time, many representatives of big business are fearful that RICO charges will only ignite the newly merged AFL-CIO/Teamsters into a united fightback strategy. Some of the most reactionary, right-wing, pro-big-business politicians, including Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), General Alexander Haig and New York Republican Jack Kemp, signed a statement (full-page New York Times ad, July 4) attacking the Justice Department lawsuit seeking trusteeship over the Teamsters.

In an article on its editorial page, the July 14 Wall Street Journal spells out the reasons for opposing trusteeship. Written by a lawyer who advises companies on labor, the article laments the fact that the threat of trusteeship led to the Teamsters' affiliation with the AFL-CIO and further sparked a vigorous and well-financed campaign by the Teamsters to organize workers in health care, banking and computer industries, among others.

As brought out by the Wall Street Journal, the merger has eliminated jurisdictional disputes. The recent rivalry over who should organize the infamous union-busting, anti-lesbian, anti-gay Coors Brewery in Colorado has now been resolved amicably. The Teamsters have filed for a union election on behalf of 1,600 workers. (The capitulation of Coors to the union would not have been possible without the support of the Coors boycott by the lesbian and gay community.)

Still another reason for labor to rejoice and big business to mourn is the agreement to organize workers from

1,135 companies (of 30 or more employees) within a 100-mile radius of newly industrialized Nashville, Tenn.

In addition, the combined organizational strength, increased membership and the potential for political clout that mark the Teamsters' affiliation with the AFL-CIO led the Wall Street Journal writer to conclude that the merged labor movement will be "formidable... and truly a force to be reckoned with."

It is not clear what the McCarthy victory means for rank-and-file Teamsters. At the least, a power struggle among GEB leaders appears to have been involved. But at the same time, this could be the beginning of some progressive changes. For example, who could have predicted that Jackie Presser would lead the Teamsters back into the AFL-CIO?

Today, organizing clerical and technical workers in the service industries has put a new face on the Teamsters. The union is characterized by more women, more nationalities, more lower-paid workers and by a higher level of political and class consciousness among these new Teamsters. Side by side with the rank-and-file truckers who are mainly men, this new layer of Teamsters can become a strategic force in the labor battles that are sure to come.

If the Teamsters official leadership is to reflect these constituencies, however, there must be democratic reform and constitutional changes. Recently, for example, the National Freight Agreement was ratified even though the vote was 64,101 to 36,782 against it. The vote was short of a two-thirds majority necessary for rejection and/or strike. Now, the rank-

and-file drivers have to live with a miserable contract the majority didn't want.

Will President McCarthy, who went on record opposing the agreement, introduce a constitutional amendment to change the requirement to a simple majority? Will he respond to a call for a one-member-one-vote system for electing top officers? Dramatic changes are now taking place that make this possible, but not without more pressure and organization from a united rank and file, and certainly without the intervention of any government agency, as some members call for.

The election of McCarthy reveals an interim leadership that is transitional and divided. A united rank and file, strengthened by an emerging multinational work force, can make the change to a more democratic union.

## Mobile, Ala., paperworkers win back wages

### International Paper appeals court decision

By Phil Wilayto

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled July 11 that the giant International Paper Co. (IP) had acted illegally when it moved last August to "permanently replace" 280 maintenance workers in its Mobile, Ala., mill.

Acting on a complaint filed jointly by the four union locals at the mill, the Board ruled that the so-called replacement of the workers by scabs provided by the professional union-busting company BE&K was illegal because the entire workforce had been locked out by the company in a contract dispute.

The Board ordered IP to pay back wages to the workers, which the unions estimate could run as high as

\$15 million. If the ruling is interpreted to apply to all 1,200 workers at the plant, as the unions contend it should, the figure could rise to some \$40 million.

IP is appealing the ruling and, according to United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 265 treasurer Fred Hawsey, a decision should come from a federal judge in Mobile sometime next month. "I can't say we've won this thing," Hawsey told Workers World, "but the ruling was a definite bright spot."

IP had offered to take back the maintenance workers in May, but the 280 workers had refused to abandon their union sisters and brothers for a separate settlement. The Mobile paperworkers will have been locked

*Continued on page 2*



WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

Angel Legere and her son Drew march last year in Jay, Maine.

## Guild charges Washington Post with bias

By Judy Greenspan  
Washington, D.C.

The Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild filed a class action complaint on July 13 against the Washington Post, charging that the newspaper discriminates against employees on the basis of race, sex, age and national origin.

The complaint, filed before the D.C. Commission on Human Rights on behalf of the Guild's 1,400 members, demands "appropriate reinstatement, promotions, back pay and compensatory damages" for all those discriminated against.

According to Sandi Polaski, administrative officer of the Newspaper Guild which represents news, editorial, advertising, business and circulation department workers, "one important focus of the complaint is on the pay policies of the Post." Among reporters, Black women earn approximately \$172 per week less than white male reporters. White woman reporters earn \$121 a week less than their white male counterparts.

Polaski added that the Post refuses to hire women, Blacks, Latinos and other oppressed peoples in propor-

tion to their representation in the community. Despite a sizable Latino population in the D.C. metropolitan area, Latino employees comprise only 1% of the Post workforce.

The Guild's human rights complaint charges that older workers are discriminated against by the Post in job evaluation and work performance reports and attempts are made to coerce these workers to leave the Post.

At a July 13 press conference announcing the filing of the complaint, Newspaper Guild President Charles Dale discussed the union's role in combating discrimination. He pledged the continued support of the Guild in combating discrimination. Dale charged that the Post continues to undermine the union contract by refusing to address wage disparities and other discriminatory employment practices.

### History of racism, discrimination

The Post has a long history of discriminatory practices. In November 1972, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, after investigating a complaint by seven Black metropolitan desk reporters, found the Post guilty of racist discrimination

in its hiring, promotion and assignment policies.

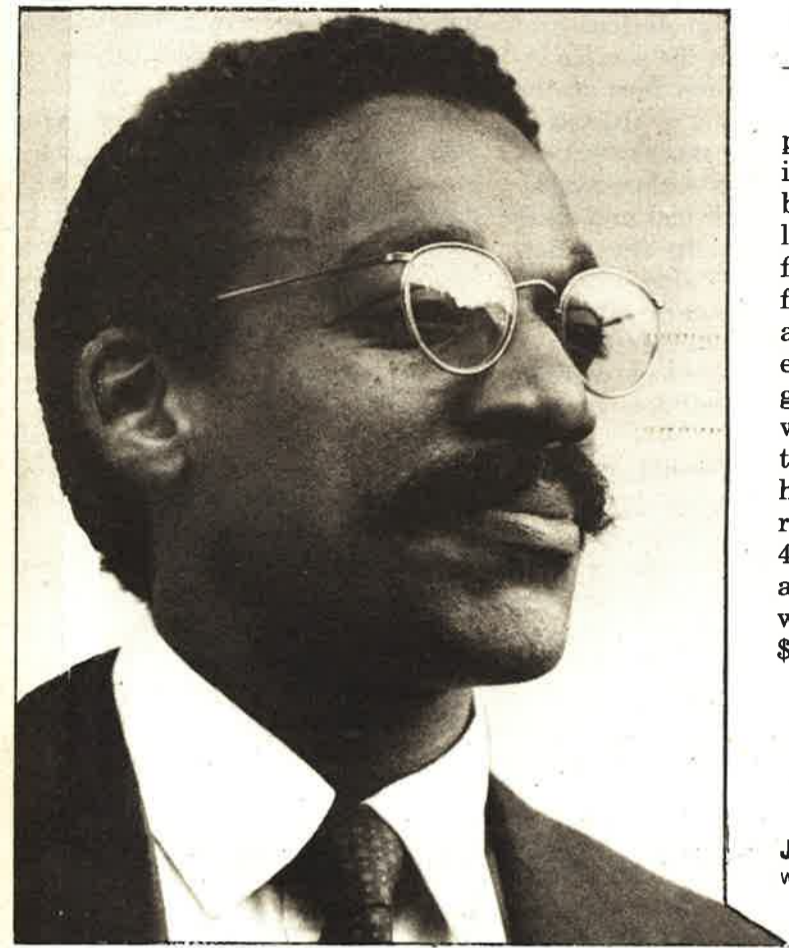
In June 1974, the EEOC held that the Post had engaged in sex discrimination "in unlawful employment practices." The EEOC cited as evidence the fact that women reporters were denied equal consideration for reporting assignments, were relegated to lower paying jobs in the News Departments and were restricted from managerial positions because of their sex.

In the mid '70s, the Post refused to negotiate with the union representing its printing press operators. After a long and bitter strike in which the union leadership was physically threatened and jailed, the anti-union, anti-worker Washington Post succeeded in breaking the pressmen's union.

Earlier this year, Black community and religious leaders sponsored weekly demonstrations outside the editorial offices of the Post to protest racist stereotyping and biased reporting of young Black people in the Sunday Post Magazine Section. After nearly two months of demonstrations, the Post was forced to apologize to the Black community for its inflammatory and racist reporting.

# Jersey City campaign battles takeover by rich

## All-Peoples Congress runs John Jones for U.S. Congress



By John Peter Daley  
Jersey City

Jersey City, a poor and working class city, is being treated like a Club Med for the rich. The federal, state and local governments have granted the wealthy real estate developers here their every request, from a 40-year tax abatement worth about \$600 million to

John Jones  
WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

billion dollar trains. But the workers here are getting the shaft.

The All-Peoples Congress (APC) is organizing resistance to this giveaway to real estate barons at the expense of the poor through its John Jones for Congress Campaign. Jones and the APC are spoiling "paradise" by exposing the mass evictions, unemployment and gentrification here as an attempt to evacuate the multi-national working and poor from Jersey City.

The message of the campaign is, "No business as usual." The hard-hit people of this county clearly want incumbent Democrat Frank Guarini, one of the richest members of the House of Representatives, to get out. The Jones for Congress Campaign is providing the clear alternative of an independent program that represents all working and poor people.

Guarini has presided over ten years of plant closings and gentrification in Hudson County. In a recent street meeting Jones pointed out that "Guarini voted to approve humanitarian aid for the contras. What

about humanitarian aid to the 20,000 families who need housing right here at home?"

People are embracing Jones' activist campaign. Many gathered recently at the Lafayette Housing Project and showed deep interest as Jones, a Vietnam war veteran, explained that "A jobs program begins at the waterfront at home, not in the Persian Gulf. The youth are held hostage by poverty and the ransom is an economic draft."

Jones also recently addressed a tenants' meeting in the Latino community where people are fighting evictions. In response to the recent attacks on the Indian community, Jones went to the Heights community here to condemn racism and call for unity.

### Rally planned July 30

The campaign has taken to the streets, giving an independent working class perspective on every issue. "Our program is addressing the needs of the people of Hudson County," says Jones. "It unites the majority of working and poor of all nationalities, the disabled, gay and straight, homeowners and homeless, young and old, employed and unemployed."

A rally for John Jones will be held on July 30 at St. Matthews Baptist Church, 391 Martin Luther King Drive in Jersey City, starting at 6 p.m. The platform of the All-Peoples Congress for housing, jobs and justice will be explained, along with a practical plan for stopping drugs in the neighborhoods and an analysis of the Jesse Jackson campaign and what it means to all working and poor people.

Meetings are being organized in every housing project in the city, and volunteers and support are needed. Contact the John Jones for Congress Campaign, 317 Grove St., Jersey City, N.J. 07302; (201) 433-2332.

## Community fights San Francisco fare hikes

By Jane Cutter  
San Francisco

July 14—Organizers opposed to city budget cuts are keeping up the pressure, and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors is feeling the heat!

On July 11, the supervisors passed a recommendation on public transit fares. While the regular adult fare was raised from 75 to 85 cents, senior, youth and disabled fares remained at 15 cents. This was a significant departure from the original request of Mayor Art Agnos, who had wanted a 67% increase in the senior/disabled MUNI fare.

The supervisors, however, did not save the senior/disabled fare out of the goodness of their hearts. The victory was the result of a struggle spearheaded by the All-Peoples Congress. Week after week, seniors and other concerned people came out to lengthy hearings usually held during working hours to say, "No MUNI fare hikes and no cuts in service!"

At the same July 11 board meeting, there was a public hearing on the MUNI service cuts. Nineteen lines are being laid on the block; service may be reduced in frequency during "non-peak" hours. One line is to be eliminated altogether and sections of certain lines are to be eliminated, requiring riders to transfer to another bus.

Once again, the All-Peoples Congress and many people from the community spoke out strongly against the cuts. Jerry Grace, a young developmentally disabled man, pointed to the supervisors and asked, "What I want to know is, how many of you ride the bus?" He stressed the need for increased service to the Recreation Center for the Handicapped, which he attends.

Stephanie Hedgecoke, APC candidate for supervisor, explained that "The fare hike and the service cuts are a regressive tax. Those who are least able to afford it will bear the greatest burden." She emphasized that cuts in service will mean in-

creased overcrowding on remaining bus lines. Coupled with cuts in maintenance staff, she said, this makes a serious bus accident inevitable.

"The whole service cut proposal is a public outrage," Hedgecoke stated. "We should be having a public hearing on ways to improve public transportation. It doesn't take a genius to see that there is money in this town. The supervisors should look at ways to make downtown business pay for the budget deficit, because they can afford it. They receive a de facto subsidy—MUNI brings them their customers and workers.

"MUNI workers and the people of the city did not create the deficit—we

shouldn't have to pay for it! Don't balance the budget on our backs!"

Following the hearing, a resolution was introduced by some of the supervisors opposing the service cuts. However, the motion was continued until July 25, when the entire budget will be voted on. At that time, there will be no opportunity for the public to make any comment in the meeting. Also to be voted upon will be a proposed \$19 million in health cuts.

The All-Peoples Congress, intending to keep the pressure on, will be holding a rally at 12 noon that day at City Hall, then attending the supervisors meeting at 2 p.m. To get involved, call (415) 821-6545.

## LA 'solution' to housing crisis—arrest the homeless

By Stephanie Hedgecoke  
San Francisco

Los Angeles police swept a street camp at City Hall last month, seized the meager belongings of homeless people and hauled them to a dump. There was no official warning prior to the sweep, and most of the 50 people at the camp lost everything from medicine, clothing and blankets to identification.

This attack, like other recent incidents, exposes how homeless people are denied even the most basic democratic rights. Homelessness was effectively made a crime by the Los Angeles Police Department when it began the street sweeps in June 1987.

Forty-one of the 50 homeless people at the camp have filed a claim against the city seeking compensation. Community outrage over this blatant incident forced city officials to meet with homeless activists to discuss city policy on "sweeps." As a result of these meetings Mayor Bradley has issued a revised policy which sets a regular schedule for downtown sweeps. This schedule is to be permanently posted in the so-called Skid Row area.

Homeless activists, however, say the new policy will not address the problem of police seizure and destruction of personal property, even though the mayor was forced to condemn this practice.

### Hundreds of thousands denied decent housing

The state of California currently estimates that there are 150,000 homeless people around the state. This figure represents an increase of 35,000 to 50,000 over last November's official estimates. The Los Angeles Times reports some 33,000 homeless in that city alone. The Times says that 400,000 people in southern California are either homeless or in substandard housing, including 42,000 families living in garages in Orange and Los Angeles counties.

Various accounts indicate that one third of all homeless people are children or juveniles. According to a statement by the California/Nevada Community Action Association in May there are 50,000 homeless children in California, 20,000 under five years old. Also, 7,500 of the homeless are seniors.

Thousands of teenagers live on the

streets in Los Angeles and San Francisco. But there are only 32 shelter beds available for youths in Los Angeles, and a similar number in San Francisco. Children's Hospital spokesman Gary Yates, in charge of funding the Los Angeles Youth Network shelter, told the Los Angeles Times that probably one-half of homeless teens are subjected to sexual exploitation in their daily efforts to obtain food and shelter.

The National Coalition for the Homeless estimates some 3 million people across the U.S. are now out of a decent home. As the number of people in the streets, parks, garages, or doubled up in substandard housing skyrockets, the struggle for affordable housing has become a most urgent issue for the working class.

Capitalism has offered no solutions to the crises facing working and poor people. This is starkly illustrated by the stepped-up police brutality toward both oppressed youth and homeless people in Los Angeles.

Independent means of struggle must be found to take on the big landlords and the bankers whose interest in profits above all else has run millions of people into the gutter.

# New murder in Kingston, N.Y., smacks of racism

## Court decisions on Howard Beach add to tension

By Lallan Stein  
New York

The racist slurs cut into the body of Anna Kithcart and found scrawled on Tawana Brawley's skin when she was picked up by an ambulance are the threatening signs of a racist upsurge. Developments in these cases, taken together with the latest outcome in the Howard Beach trials, point to the complicity of state officials and the media in the attacks on Black people.

The mutilated body of Kithcart was discovered on July 12, in Kingston, N.Y., during the same week that two defendants in the Howard Beach case were acquitted and three others convicted on relatively minor charges in Queens, N.Y.

In Howard Beach on Dec. 20, 1986, three Black men—Michael Griffith, Cedric Sandiford and Timothy Grimes—left their car which had stopped running and set off on foot. Outside a pizzeria they were assaulted by a gang of at least a dozen racists who screamed racist epithets, beat them with baseball bats and tree limbs while chasing them through the streets.

Michael Griffith, suffering severe head injuries, was forced out onto a highway in the path of a speeding car. It never stopped, even after his battered body was thrown up over the windshield and crushed. The driver of the car that killed Michael Griffith, Patrick Blum, was never prosecuted for hit-and-run driving. He was the son of a cop.

After massive demonstrations, New York Gov. Mario Cuomo made a concession to demands of the Black community by appointing a special prosecutor.

### Media puts victims on trial

The 12 racist youth responsible for killing Griffith as well as wounding Sandiford and Grimes were showered with sympathy by big-business media throughout the prosecution. Right up through the time when the final verdicts were coming in, the major press and TV news supported them and their families while it criminalized the victims of their attack.

The results are that three racists

have been acquitted. Three others have been convicted of second degree misdemeanor riot. Three pled guilty with reduced sentences and three others were convicted of manslaughter.

Thomas Guggiardo, one of the recently acquitted, had been identified in court by Sandiford as an attacker who beat him with a tree limb. Crucial evidence in the form of statements by the other attackers was withheld from his trial.

The acquittals and mild convictions after so heinous a crime are gross injustices to the Black community as a whole. After Guggiardo's acquittal, Jean Griffith, Michael Griffith's mother, said, "This is not justice. This is injustice for my whole family."

It is no wonder that the Brawley family does not trust the New York state system of justice. Despite demands from the Black community, Gov. Cuomo has refused to appoint an acceptable prosecutor in this case. (See editorial, page 10.)

Tawana Brawley was discovered in a comatose state on Nov. 28, 1987, in Wappingers Falls, N.Y. She was suffering severe trauma and the letters KKK had been scrawled across her skin. According to the New York City Sun (July 6-12), a Black newsweekly, "A computer printout of Westchester County Medical Center's diagnoses of Tawana Brawley's condition showed that the hospital believed she was a rape victim."

A local cop committed suicide four days after Brawley was found and two county prosecutor withdrew from the case because of "conflict of interest." Law officials are strongly implicated in the racist crime. A wide spectrum of evidence points to a cover-up reaching to Cuomo himself.

But it is Brawley's family and her supporters who have been held suspect by the state and the press. Her stepfather lost his job. Her aunt was put in prison for an old bounced check and most recently her mother has been sentenced to 30 days in jail for refusing to testify before a grand jury which many believe is trying to cover up what was done to her daughter.

And now the body of Anna Kith-

cart, a Black teenager, has been found 30 miles from where Tawana Brawley was discovered. A Black man was almost immediately arrested for her murder. This arrest flies in the face of the KKKs that were carved on her body. Nor is there any credible evidence to link the homeless man that found her body to that racist act.

An important development in the case is the sudden new alliance between Republican County District Attorney Michael Kavanaugh and Democratic Gov. Mario Cuomo. Both are bound together trying to prove that this was not a racist attack.

What they really both have in common is a stake in a system of racist injustice. As the number of racist attacks grow, these officials are going further and further out of their way to



Anna Kithcart

cover them up. That in itself is an incentive to more racist violence.

The only way that there will be justice for Michael Griffith, Tawana Brawley, Anna Kithcart and other Black people is if a mass movement wrests that justice from the politicians and the courts.

## Political prisoners

# Puerto Rico 15 win major court test

By Rebecca Toledo  
Hartford, Conn.

In a major victory for the Puerto Rican independence movement and for all progressives, Judge T. Emmett-Claire was forced to throw out 48 of the 180 tapes that the state was planning to use as evidence in the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15 case. The tapes were the result of wiretaps by the FBI.

The ruling was based on the fact that these tapes hadn't been sealed immediately by the FBI, a legal requirement to prevent tampering.

Under pressure from all sides, it would have been difficult for Claire to overlook the blatant violations by the FBI. Not only were the tapes not sealed in time, the tapes were also marked by unaccounted-for pauses, interruptions, and other oddities that would indicate that the FBI tampered with and altered the tapes.

In this same ruling, however, Claire definitively refused to accept the defense assertion and evidence that the tapes had indeed been tampered with. He also refused to throw out other tapes that had not been sealed immediately on the grounds that the delays with these tapes (of three to 19 days) was "reasonable."

The tapes that were thrown out as evidence were left unsealed for up to 118 days.

All the tapes would be thrown out if Claire would abide by the Puerto Rican constitution which strictly prohibits any wire tapping at all! The fact that the U.S. court will not recognize Puerto Rican law in this matter exposes the colonial status of Puerto Rico, which is economically, politically and militarily dominated by the U.S. And the so-called U.S. "justice" system is determined to railroad the defendants, not to give them a fair trial.

Claire's ruling comes on the heels of victories hard-won by the mass struggle—bail rights for two of the defendants, Juan Segarra Palmer and Filiberto Ojeda Rios. Only through pressure and vigilance can the progressive movement wrest any justice from this unjust and corrupt system.

It is in this spirit that a demonstration has been called by all the support committees for the defendants on September 24 here in Hartford. The protest will mark the first month of the trial of the 15 as well as El Grito de Lares, the first uprising revolutionary uprising of the Puerto Rican people in 1868. Viva Puerto Rico Libre!

# Biased court frees two Texas sheriffs in racist killing

By Joanne Gavin  
Hemphill, Texas

The former police chief of this east Texas town and two former deputy sheriffs of Sabine County were acquitted on July 15 of violating Loyal Garner's civil rights by severely beating him in jail and then denying him medical attention.

The 34-year-old Black truck driver from Florian, La., died after the Christmas night beating last year. According to the two friends who were arrested with him, Garner was attacked by the cops after having asked to phone his wife.

The whole proceedings were marked by extreme racism. For example, the court refused to disqualify jurors who were known to have attended fund raisers for or otherwise contributed to the defense expendi-

tures of the defendant.

The jury had only one Black member. According to local press reports she wanted to convict former police chief Thomas Ladner. But after two days of deliberations, she yielded to the tremendous pressure from the other jurors in a court that would not declare a hung jury. She later said of the jury composition, "It should have been six Blacks and six whites."

The three cops still have to face a murder trial in Tyler, where Garner died in a hospital after doctors in Hemphill concluded he was too badly injured for local facilities. It remains to be seen whether that trial will be any less rigged than the one in Hemphill, which former U.S. Attorney John Hannah, special prosecutor in the Sabine trial, called the most unfair trial he had witnessed in his entire career.

# Women prisoners win suit

By Leslie Feinberg

On July 15, a Federal District Judge ordered two women prisoners, held in the isolation unit at the Kentucky prison solely because of their progressive political beliefs, to be transferred to regular cells.

The ruling resulted from a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union's National Prison Project, the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), the People's Law Office and private lawyers. The suit challenged regulations allowing the U.S. to isolate prisoners based on their political beliefs or affiliations.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of three women segregated in the high-

security isolation unit at the Federal "Correctional" Institution in Lexington, Ky. Attorneys for the women said treatment they had received was so inhumane that they may have suffered permanent harm psychologically.

The ruling barred the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) from "considering a prisoner's past political association or personal political beliefs" in determining federal prison transfers. The BOP has been mandated to rewrite its regulations and move prisoners Silvia Baraldini and Susan Rosenberg into the general prison population. The third prisoner, Sylvia Brown, was not affected by the

Continued on page 10

# Big oil, military, banks well represented by Dukakis-Bentsen

## Workers, poor, oppressed are left out of ticket

By Robert Dobrow

Do Dukakis and Bentsen have anything to offer poor and working people after eight years of Reagan and Bush?

There was a lot of talk at the Democratic Party convention about "new directions," about "compassion."

But what is the real substance of the Dukakis ticket?

Dukakis's selection of Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen as his vice presidential candidate was the clearest and most unequivocal statement the Dukakis camp has made about the true intentions of his presidency. There is hardly anyone in the Democratic Party further to the right than Bentsen.

Bentsen is a kingpin of the oil, chemical, agribusiness, banking and insurance interests in Texas. The Democratic Party leadership, from the platform in Atlanta, paid a lot of lip service to workers, to family farm-

ers and oppressed people. But Bentsen's career says otherwise. His family company, Tide Products, Inc., a major distributor of fertilizers and pesticides, has fought for 20 years against organizing efforts by farmworkers. The Bentsens have grown rich from the super-exploitation of farm labor, mostly Mexicano and immigrant workers. As one local lawyer put it, trying to be as diplomatic as possible, the Bentsens "don't have a good record in the way they treat their workers."

### Pin-striped farmer

Bentsen likes to call himself a "farmer." But he's not the kind you see on television at the foreclosure auctions or on a tractor in the field struggling to eke out a living off the land. He's the kind of "farmer" who sits on thick leather swivel chairs in mahogany-panelled offices wearing pin-striped suits. He's the rich corporate agri-businessman. Bentsen has received over \$100,000 a year in fed-

eral crop subsidies. He has sat on the board of directors of Continental Oil, Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Co., Trunkline Gas Co., the Houston Bank of the Southwest and Lockheed Corp., the big military contractor.

As a senator, Bentsen repeatedly opposed pro-worker bills, including the labor law reform legislation (which was killed during the Carter presidency). He voted against regulation of toxic chemicals and waste dumps. Against food stamps for striking workers. Against busing for school integration. For the MX missile. For tax breaks for oil companies. Against mass transit. So where's the difference from Reagan-Bush?

But, you say, Bentsen will only be the vice president with no real power. What about Dukakis?

Dukakis, while coming from a more liberal Massachusetts political background, is no better when it comes to his fundamental class allegiances. There are no workers in Dukakis's inner circle. Instead there

are investment bankers and real estate developers. In fact his top economic adviser is one Lawrence H. Summers, a member of the Reagan administration who sat on Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers!

Dukakis has been given a lot of credit for the so-called Massachusetts Miracle. But talk to a welfare mother in Boston's Roxbury district, a laid-off GE worker in Lynn or one of the thousands of homeless people in Springfield or Worcester and they'll give you an earful about Dukakis's "miracle."

What Dukakis has really done is take credit for the economic benefits of the huge increase in military spending which has enriched the high-tech firms along Route 128. From 1980 to 1985, prime military contracts in Massachusetts rose from \$3.7 billion to \$7.7 billion, accounting for almost 10% of the state's gross state product. True there has been a lot of new jobs in Boston and the suburbs—for lawyers, engineers, and finance analysts. But for the workers and poor there are no opportunities. Rents and prices in the Boston area have skyrocketed. There are few jobs outside of the low-wage, Burger King-type service industry.

Dukakis has catered to the high-tech, banking, military-industrial, educational elite and has not in any way been an advocate for the workers and poor. As governor in the mid-1970s he froze social programs and raised taxes against workers and the middle class.

### Who voted for Reagan program?

There was a lot of talk in Atlanta about the harsh policies of the Reagan years, the cuts in social services like welfare and nutrition programs, the scandalous giveaways to the military. All this is true. But who voted for it? Who went along with every Reagan military budget? The Democratic Party representatives in the House and Senate. Without their votes the Reagan program could never have been enacted.

The House of Representatives, by Constitutional law, has the power of the purse. It has been dominated by the Democratic Party since day one of the Reagan administration. And yet it has voted for the Reagan-Bush budgets, voted aid to the contras, voted for repressive AIDS legislation, voted for all the key planks of

*Continued on page 10*

# Jackson speech arouses millions of poor, oppressed

## But Democratic machine turns thumbs down on movement

By John Catalinotto

July 20—Jesse Jackson's dramatic and inspiring speech to tens of millions of people watching the Democratic National Convention on the evening of July 19 itself showed the roots of the movement he leads and indicated its strength.

By introducing Rosa Parks—whose actions began the Montgomery bus boycott—and talking of the Mississippi Freedom Democrats, he brought the civil rights movement to the front lines.

In describing his own origins as the son of a teenage mother in a three-room shack, Jackson described the real lives of the working poor, especially women from the oppressed communities, that are ignored in network America.

Among the other workers he gave recognition to were the hospital workers who make the beds and change the bed pans, but are often denied entrance to the hospital when they're sick because they have no medical coverage.

It is people like this that make up the core of support for Jackson.

### Jackson's rainbow quilt

When Jackson used the story of his grandmother's quilt to show how unity was needed, he also showed how his base has expanded in this 1988 campaign.

Included in this quilt are the striking workers in Jay, Maine, the farmers in Iowa seeking fair prices, women seeking comparable worth in their paychecks, gay and lesbian people fighting against discrimination and for a cure for AIDS, mothers seeking prenatal care and day care, students seeking scholarships, along with Black, Latino, Native, Asian and Arab people fighting for civil rights, disabled people and seniors, immigrants.

This year, when Jackson reached out to this rainbow quilt, he found a change had taken place among working people. More workers fed up with

Reaganism were now open to a progressive leadership. They were ready to vote for a Black presidential candidate who was identified with the civil rights struggle.

The Jackson movement came to the convention representing seven million Democratic voters as well as many millions of other working people who did not vote in the Democratic Party primaries. This movement showed itself to be more powerful and more popular than many had imagined.

### Not getting fair share

By the evening of the second day at the convention, however, there was a strong feeling that these millions were getting less than their fair share of the levers of power in the Democratic Party.

In fact, the establishment capitalist machine that calls the shots in the Democratic Party flatly turned thumbs down to this movement of the downtrodden, the disenfranchised and the oppressed.

This was seen in the outright rejection of the important platform Jackson planks on no first use of nuclear weapons and freezing the military budget, as well as on self-determination for the Palestinian people and taxing the rich. These could have been added to the party platform, which is not binding on the presidential candidate.

This rejection was seen earlier, in how badly the Jackson was treated by the Dukakis forces when they made a turn to the right by selecting the reactionary Lloyd Bentsen as a vice presidential candidate.

Despite the new influx of oppressed people and workers into the Democratic Party, despite their presence among the delegates, it was clear in Atlanta that the Democratic Party remains a capitalist party whose big decisions are in the hands of old-line politicians serving Wall Street.

While Jackson's talk gave elo-

quent recognition to the people whose work holds this country together, while this moving talk mesmerized the convention, it still recognized Dukakis, Bentsen and the old-line politicians in charge of the party. This is true even though Jackson put his name in nomination for the presidency.

Jackson has welded together a strong coalition. On its own it could be a viable, progressive force attracting the support of the entire working class. At present, however, it is hitched to the Dukakis-Bentsen forces and the rightwing, a dead end for any progressive movement.

In a recent interview, Workers World Party 1988 presidential candidate Larry Holmes said this about the Jackson movement:

"The movement needs to and many may be ready to break with the Democratic Party, to go beyond the framework of this capitalist institution and reroute its course on an independent road of struggle and fightback."

After the first two days of the Democratic Convention, this statement has only gained in validity.



ACT UP protest demands funding to fight AIDS.

WW PHOTO: TOM DORAN

# 'We beat the Klan out of Atlanta!'

## Mass demonstration stops racists from marching, rallying

By Jean Bowdish  
and Jimmy Raynor  
Atlanta

"A victory was won here! We beat back the Klan and kept them off the streets of Atlanta!" proclaimed Mrs. Carrie Morris, president of the Atlanta All-Peoples Congress on July 17.

For the first time in 50 years the racist white supremacists attempted to march and rally in Atlanta. In a struggle that grew more tense as the rally time approached, local Black people and Georgia progressives joined with anti-racists from around the U.S. to stop the KKK in its tracks. The protest not only opposed, faced down and shut the Klan off from speaking, the anti-racists took away the Klan's march route as well.

Originally using the name of the

"Nationalist Movement," the racist and fascist ilk of the Klan, Nazis and fascist "skinheads" were given permits to rally at the State Capitol building, march through downtown Atlanta, and wind up with a rally in the "free speech zone." This last area is designated for rallies held by permit throughout the national Democratic Convention.

The Atlanta chapter of the All-Peoples Congress (APC) called a counter demonstration to begin before the racists gathered at the State Capitol. The APC, a national organization, describes its aim as uniting "the people in a militant, mass struggle against poverty, unemployment, injustice and war."

The day before the Democratic National Convention was to begin, hundreds of people came out in response to this call, the crowd swelling to well

over 1,000 people. Militant white youth joined determined Black people, who came out despite opposition from the mainstream leadership in Atlanta's Black community.

### Cops harass anti-racists

As the anti-racist demonstrators moved close to the site where the hate-mongering bigots were to gather, the cops stepped in to push back the demonstration. Using a combined force of Atlanta city cops, Georgia state troopers, Georgia Bureau of Investigation officers and a riot gear equipped special "Prison Riot Control Unit," the police forced

the militant crowd away from the Capitol.

These SWAT cops had been shown films of the 1968 Chicago police riot as part of their "sensitivity training." They proceeded to push, beat, punch, batter and shove demonstrators in order to clear an intersection—even though traffic had been re-routed. The cops' clear intentions were to try out their "riot control" tactics on the demonstration.

The demonstrators refused to back down in the face of the cops's advance. In reaction to the tremendous show of unity and militancy, city of

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Anti-Klan march was a thousand-strong.

WW PHOTO: TOM DORAN

## Week of protests

With the Democratic National Convention providing the center of attention for the country for one week in July, a number of groups and individuals from around the country came to Atlanta to demand attention to some vital questions.

ACT UP and ACT NOW came to demand more funding for AIDS care and research; supporters of Tawana Brawley came to ask for prosecution of her abductors; the Palestinian Solidarity Committee came to back the demand for self-determination

for the Palestinian people.

On Saturday, July 16, thousands welcomed Jesse Jackson's bus caravan to Atlanta. On July 18, the Jackson campaign sponsored a Mandela birthday celebration. An July 19, the anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution was celebrated.

Where possible, Workers World has covered some of these activities which occurred outside the Omni Convention Hall. Most of these protests were progressive. Fortunately, the one outright reactionary initiative by the KKK was stopped by the people before it could get started.

## Demand funding for AIDS

By Andre Powell  
Atlanta

Lesbian and gay activists from around the country converged on the Democratic National Convention to raise the demands of more money for AIDS, an end to the "sodomy laws" used almost exclusively against their communities, and to call for passage for a lesbian and gay rights bill.

Many activities were sponsored by the New York-based groups ACT UP and ACT NOW.

A "kiss-in" on July 18 on the sidewalk next to the free speech zone began as a peaceful demonstration by ACT UP New York. Within ten minutes, riot-equipped police began to attack the kiss-in, injuring both participants and reporters, and forcing many to climb over a 4-foot-high fence barricade to escape the blows of nightsticks and hard plastic shields. Many participants had visible bruises from the show of brutality.

Following a protest against Georgia state "sodomy laws" on the grounds of the State Capitol on July 19, lesbians and gays from Atlanta

and other cities marched down to City Hall demanding a meeting with Mayor Andrew Young to discuss the brutal police attack the day before.

Shirley Franklin, the mayor's assistant, met with the group to listen to their concerns. The group drew up a list of demands that included an apology from Mayor Young to the lesbian and gay community, to be made available to press at the Democratic Convention, as well as to make all internal police communication available to ACT UP in order to file suit against the city and the police department.

During testimony, lesbians and gay men, backed up by reporters, reiterated that when they questioned police as to which law they were breaking, the police simply answered, "Move, because we say so."

Among other actions, ACT UP members and other lesbian and gay men from Atlanta, carrying their banner with the familiar slogan, "Silence=Death," formed a sizable contingent in the July 17 march against the Klan sponsored by the All-Peoples Congress.



Atlanta janitors march for their rights.

WW PHOTO: TOM DORAN

## Janitors fight for justice

By Tom Doran  
Atlanta

The Janitors for Justice Campaign on July 17 began a week-long series of protests directed at Portman Properties and the Democratic Party Convention.

A spirited hour-long picket ended with a brief occupation of the lobby of the Atlanta Apparel Mart. Several racists attempted to punch their way through the line of predominately Black and female maintenance workers until they were rescued by police.

That same day, someone used a magic marker to write KKK on the Justice for Janitors office and left a note, signed by the Klan, which threatened the workers and supported Portman.

Later in the day the union marched on John Portman's mansion to protest a \$100,000-a-plate banquet he hosted for the Democrats. Portman is the dominant force in Atlanta real estate. He has been called a minor league version of New York's Donald Trump.

Portman's hotels are being used to house delegates. Justice for Janitors has asked the Democrats not to hold any official functions at his hotels. On July 19, the Democrats agreed to this demand.

Activists in the campaign have been arrested and roughed up many times over the last year during pickets at the various hotels and office towers owned by Portman. They are demanding a minimum wage of \$5 an hour, health insurance, and paid vacations and sick leave.

The decision to picket convention activities has brought intense pres-

sure on the union, a local of Service Employees International. Mayor Andrew Young has denounced the pickets, fearing that picket lines would cause boycotts of convention activities. Democratic Party officials have leaned heavily on union officials.

John Sweeney, international president of the union came to town to announce a policy that protests would be "informational" and not require Democrats to cross a union picket.

## Tawana Brawley

Among the groups trying to raise specific issues in Atlanta from the outside were the supporters of the Brawley family in New York State. Protesting the racist treatment by officials of Tawana Brawley and her family, they confronted Democratic officials, and especially the delegation from New York State.

Their presence has already had an impact on the attendance at the convention. New York's Gov. Mario Cuomo, the 1984 keynote speaker, who not long ago was widely touted as a possible presidential draft choice, had to slip into the convention quietly.

On July 19, Glenda Brawley, Tawana's mother, confronted Dutchess County Executive Lucille Pattison, who was trying to defend county officials regarding the Brawley case. "Look at me," Mrs. Brawley said, "My daughter was attacked by some white officials. Why don't you get your people to pick them up?"

*(See related story page 4 and editorial page 10.)*

# Mandela at 70—neither broken, nor tempted, nor coopted

## Sharpeville Six win indefinite stay of execution

By John Catalinotto

July 18—Last year the South African racists were terrified of funerals. Now they even fear a birthday party. Today the celebrations of imprisoned African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela have been forbidden by the fascists in Pretoria.

Mandela, 70 years old today, has been in jail over 25 years. In that time he has become the symbol of the freedom struggle in South Africa to people throughout the world. Even in New York, there is a Central Park concert celebrating his birthday anniversary.

The apartheid authorities have kept Mandela imprisoned and isolated in the hope of breaking the ANC leader. But Mandela's strength has turned this tactic against his oppressors, encouraging the youth of southern Africa to do battle with the racists.

Allan Boesak, a founder of the United Democratic Front (UDF), a mass organization in the Black townships of South Africa, said about Mandela recently: "I get strength that he has been in prison for 25 years and they have not been able to break him, to tempt him, to coerce him, to coopt him."

And the authorities certainly tried to do all those things to Mandela. Mandela was tried and convicted in 1964, along with five other ANC members, of plotting the violent overthrow of the Pretoria government.

In much of the world, this charge alone is enough to make Mandela a hero. In South Africa, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

For 15 years, he was held in isolation in the infamous Robben Island prison. As prisoners and visitors report it, his presence was so strong that whereas guards would regularly address other prisoners only by their prison number, they called him

"Mandela" or even "Mr. Mandela." Later he was moved to Pollsmoor Prison, where he is today in the hospital wing.

In 1985, when the racist regime had lost their puppet structure in the townships and was kept in power only by the terror of their tanks and their killer dogs, they had the nerve to demand of Mandela that he renounce "violence as a political tool," before they would let him out of prison.

He turned down this offer then and has continued to refuse it since.

Even this year, the apartheid gang offered to allow Mandela a six-hour visit with his family, something he has never before been allowed to have. This too he refused, saying he wanted no special privileges that other prisoners did not have.

Speaking in Lusaka, Zambia, recently, ANC President Oliver Tambo said this about Mandela: "Nelson is a victor. He conquered the banning orders, he conquered his isolation. He is everywhere in the world. He conquered prison and they are keeping him in jail because they are afraid of him."

### Sharpeville Six must be freed!

While Nelson Mandela may be the most prominent political prisoner in South Africa, he is certainly not the only one. Thousands of youth have been arrested over the past four years of struggle that began in September 1984 against high rents.

It was in one of those early outbreaks of struggle that the case of the Sharpeville Six began. On Sept. 3, 1984, the people of the Black township of Sharpeville were demonstrating against the rents. They especially targeted the township officials who were viewed as puppets of the apartheid regime and who were trying to collect the rents.

One such puppet councilman pulled a gun and fired into the crowd, hitting someone. The councilman was killed.

Six youth were arrested and tried for his murder. They were found guilty and sentenced to be executed, even though no evidence was presented at the trial which showed that the defendants had "contributed causally" to his death. All that was shown was that the six had "common purpose" with the angry crowd.

In other words, the already illegitimate regime in Pretoria had to stretch its own repressive laws to find a way to "legally" murder the Sharpeville Six.

The six defendants, all 33-years-old or younger, included one woman, Theresa Ramashamola, and five men: Mojalefe Sefatsa, Oupa Diniso, Duma Khumalo, Francis Mokgesi and Reid Mokoena.

With a worldwide outcry greeting their sentence, the executions have been put off by the regime. Most recently, the authorities have announced that the executions will be postponed until all legal remedies, including appeals, are under consideration.

While this is a partial victory against the apartheid gangsters, it should be remembered that executions of Black youth occur regularly in South Africa, especially of those youth found guilty of fighting for the freedom of their people.



WW PHOTO: CHRIS CHRISTIANSEN

Houston celebration of Mandela's birthday.

## Mandela birthday celebrated in Houston

By Joanne Gavin  
Houston

A "Mandela Weekend" climaxed Sunday in Houston with a Commemoration and Celebration of Nelson Mandela's 70th birthday organized by the All-Peoples Congress. The featured speaker was Susan Mnumzana, secretary for Women's Affairs of the African National Congress (ANC) Observer Mission to the United Nations.

Solidarity messages were offered from the Palestine Solidarity Committee, TransAfrica, City of Houston Anti-Apartheid Team, and the Veterans' Peace Convoy.

A moving greeting from Clarence Brandley, an innocent Black man on Texas' Death Row for eight years, was read by his sister, Alice Blue. There was poetry by Zimbabwean poet Rudo and South African poet-actor Domele Vogwane.

Gloria Rubac of the APC linked Nelson Mandela's July 18 birthday with the July 19 anniversary of the

Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua. She urged all people concerned with justice and liberation to work for an end to U.S. interference with the self-determination of the peoples of Africa and Latin America and the world.

The program concluded with a reading of the names of the Sharpeville Six, while six children presented roses to Susan Mnumzana—one with each name. Meeting Chairperson Deborah Charles called for the lighting of 70 candles on a huge birthday cake for Nelson Mandela and the people sang "Happy Birthday" while the children blew out the candles. With raised fists clenched in solidarity, all sang the pan-African national anthem.

On the previous day, an enthusiastic march convened by the City of Houston Anti-Apartheid Team ("City-A") drew over four hundred people and converged on the South African Consulate. This was the largest anti-apartheid event ever held in Houston.

## — U.S. out of gulf

Continued from page 1

Great Salt Lake in Utah.

The Iraqi government, which began the conflict eight years ago by invading Iran shortly after the Iranian people overthrew the pro-U.S. shah, has already indicated that it would abide with the provisions of this same UN resolution.

Given the intensity of this long and bloody war, it might take anywhere from 10 days to two months to institute a cease-fire. It does appear, however, that a movement in that direction is taking place.

### A reactionary war

An end to this fratricidal conflict, in which hundreds of thousands and perhaps one million people have been killed, would be a highly welcome development. Neither the Iraqi nor the Iranian people had anything to gain for themselves from this carnage, which has been waged in the interests of the possessing classes of these nations over territory rich in oil.

Throughout the war, Washington and its imperialist allies among the NATO countries maneuvered incessantly, looking for an opportunity to intervene with the aim of reconquer-

ing the region.

In the first half of the 20th century, both Iran and Iraq were, in effect, ruled from London, and each country was under British military occupation. In 1958 the Iraqis revolted and kicked the British out.

U.S. oil interests, which had supplanted the British after World War II in Iran, were expelled when the CIA-puppet shah was toppled in 1979.

### Bush vote hustling

If anyone wanted to plumb the depths to which official Washington has sunk in its gulf intervention policy, they had only to watch George Bush hustling votes in his campaign for president by posturing over the dead bodies of the 290 innocent civilians killed on Iran Air Flight 655.

Bush spent the Fourth of July touring the Midwest, expressing his "pride" in the U.S. Navy for shooting this passenger plane out of the air, and then followed this up by justifying the atrocity at a televised UN Security Council emergency meeting on July 14.

This was the first time Bush set foot in the UN in 15 years. He did not

attempt to answer the detailed presentation of the Iranian ambassador, who brought transcripts of the doomed airline pilot's conversations with ground controllers, clearly indicating that the plane was civilian, that its electronic transponder was turned on and was emitting a four-digit signal for civilian aircraft and that the pilot was not getting any warning that a U.S. warship was about to blow his plane to pieces.

Bush had no defense for any of this. Instead he read a prepared speech, characterizing the U.S. as "civilized" and Iran as "barbaric." Bush pounded the table, talked about how big-hearted his President Reagan was to offer money to the victim's families, even though the Iranian pilot had committed an "irresponsible and tragic error."

It has always been the case that capitalist politicians will wave the flag, dehumanize the "enemy," and praise the great deeds carried out in hot combat by their country's military. Traditionally, however, the situation being described has always been one in which the other side were soldiers and could fight back.

By rushing to associate himself with the massacre of helpless airline passengers, George Bush has given a whole new twist to that old jingoist rhetoric.



# Nicaragua celebrates 9th anniversary

## Leader vows to defend nation from U.S. attacks

By Dee Knight  
Managua, Nicaragua

July 19—Still under intense attack by the U.S. government for daring to exercise its independence and sovereignty, the Nicaraguan revolution celebrated its 9th anniversary today. The main slogan was "Melton's gone, Reagan's going—the revolution is here to stay."

Tens of thousands journeyed to Juigalpa, in the center of the country, for the main event. President Daniel Ortega announced yet another exten-

sion of the Sandinistas' unilateral halt in offensive operations, in search of peace. He called for "bilateral dialogue" with the U.S. and a renewal of peace talks with the contras. But he made it clear that the Sandinistas will continue to "respond with energy" to violations and attacks like the ones in recent days.

Noting the election of the ex-Somocista National Guard Colonel Enrique Bermudez to the contra national directorate last weekend and the recent escalation of contra murders and kidnappings, Ortega said

the United States "is reactivating its criminal policy, renewing the war in Nicaragua and killing all possibility of peace in Central America."

At a large demonstration Friday in Managua, Sandinista leader Bayardo Arce called the U.S. criticism of Nicaragua two-faced. "If the U.S. government prohibits parties in the U.S. from receiving foreign funds, how can it claim the right to come and finance Nicaraguan opposition parties?" He added that it's logical to have opposition parties, "but we just ask that they not work like paid agents of the U.S. Embassy, because then we'll treat them as paid agents of the U.S. Embassy."

### Socialist measures defended

President Ortega defended last week's nationalization of the country's largest sugar refinery—Nicaraguan Sugar Estates, Limited—saying the Sandinistas "are socialist ... and our socialism defends in the first place the workers and campesinos," but also gives the opportunity to all Nicaraguan social and economic sectors to produce and contribute to the country's progress.

While the refinery's nationalization has been criticized in Washington, it came two weeks after the Sixth National Sugar Assembly, where workers demanded the takeover. It came out at the assembly that administrative sabotage and negligence caused the loss of nearly half the crop last year, making it the worst harvest in the refinery's modern history (since 1910). The chief of the refin-

ery's field division admitted that of some 10,600 acres "accidentally" burned last year, over half was counterrevolutionary sabotage, another 20% was really accidental, and the rest was intentional but "not counterrevolutionary."

As long ago as 1981 sugar workers denounced the estates' management for inefficiency. This included a slow but sure decapitalization—allowing the company to deteriorate. Because of its size the company is central to Nicaragua's strategic sugar production. It has been called the symbol of Nicaraguan capitalism, but resembles an old-fashioned sugar plantation, incorporating 28 production "colonies" in addition to its more than 3,000 employees.

"If we hadn't taken this decision," Agrarian Reform Minister Jaime Wheelock said, "the process of deterioration of the refinery would have ended in its disappearance, or at best a faster descent in its production." Workers at the factory greeted the seizure enthusiastically, with chants of "popular power."

At the conference in early July, Comandante Victor Tirado, a member of the Sandinista national directorate, told the sugar workers that "only the Nicaraguan working class has the right to judge the Sandinista front." He added, "You are going to define the direction of the revolution, you will show where Nicaraguan history is headed in this moment."

Capitalist ideas, said Tirado, "continue to surround us and influence us, but we're going to defeat them."

## — KKK beat

Continued from page 7

Atlanta officials decided to revoke the Klansmen's permits to rally and march.

The cops announced this decision over a bull horn. A tremendous roar of victory went up. The cops pulled back in order to escort a lone racist, Richard Barrett, from the State Capitol to where the other Klan scum were waiting.

The demonstrators took to the street chanting "We beat back the racist attack!" and "Honk your horn if you hate the Klan." Downtown Atlanta echoed with the spirit and enthusiasm of this victory over racism.

Once the militant demonstration arrived at the free speech zone outside the Democratic Convention, a mini-rally was held. In addition to APC speakers there were representatives of the Palestine Solidarity Committee and from the struggle against the Klan in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Just as a representative of ACTUP (Aids Coalition to Unleash Power) began to speak, two Klansmen tried to hold a news conference not 50 feet from the demonstrators.

The racists were immediately surrounded and forced into their truck. As they moved out the truck was banged with fists and pelted with paper cups, the only things handy, before it was driven away.

The anti-racist protests stayed at the free speech zone to insure that Barrett or his ilk wouldn't show up for their previously scheduled 3 p.m. rally there. This angry crowd had already spent over three hours in 105 degree heat to stop the racists, and they weren't about to leave until the scum were driven out of town.

Then Barrett showed up again in his truck trying to drive into the rally site. His truck was stopped. Anger and outrage at what Barrett represents hung in the air as he was backed up into a fence.

Then a few fascist skinheads showed up for their rally. They too were quickly confronted by the militants. The SWAT squad moved in to rescue the fascists.

### People burn Nazi signs

Barrett's truck was found to contain huge Nazi signs and confederate flags. People seized the racist flags and signs and burned them, while Barrett's truck was smashed up.

Reports came in that a confederate flag, that hated symbol of slavery, was flying at a street corner a block away from the free speech zone. As the demonstrators moved to that corner, the cops blocked off traffic and

hid the racists in a parking garage. Once again, chants of "Racist, sexist, anti-gay, we say no to the KKK," echoed downtown.

When one of the bigots tried to hold a confederate flag out of the entryway it was ripped down. The Nazis were then escorted out by the police while a wedge of riot cops protected their exit. Like rats coming out of their hole, the Klan had to scurry away.

APC organizer Andre Powell spoke from the stage at the free speech zone. He eloquently explained why "free speech" is a false issue when it concerns the Klan.

"If the Klan got up here to speak the first thing that they'd say is that I should die because I'm a Black man," said Powell. "And the next thing they'd say is that I should die because I'm a gay man. I for one am not going to let them spew that filth." A roar of agreement went up from the crowd.

## Veterans' Convoy slips across border with Nicaragua aid

By Joanne Gavin  
Houston

After being blocked for over a month by U.S. authorities from taking their pickups and school buses loaded with aid for the children of Nicaragua out of the country, on July 9 and 10, part of the Veteran's Peace Convoy crossed, a few at a time, without incident, into Mexico.

This victory for solidarity forces is due to the determination of the veterans, backed by mass support in the U.S. and abroad, to get through.

After a few days being detained on the Mexican side of the border the convoy was allowed to proceed, accompanied by two Mexican customs officials.

July 18 found the 15 vehicles in Mexico City, awaiting the arrival of 19 more. They plan to depart July 20 for Managua where they are expected July 27.

Sixty-five convoyistas will be driving from Mexico City to Managua and others will be flying part or all the way to join them and 34 vehicles in Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, in Austin, Texas, a decision is expected July 23 on a federal suit demanding that the Treasury Department stop its selective barring of the veterans' donation of the vehicles to humanitarian agencies in Nicaragua.

### Support work continues

Demonstrations and fundraising efforts continue in several U.S. cities, including one activity in Austin on



U.S. veterans in Mexico City place wreath at a monument honoring those who died fending off a U.S. invasion. The vets attended a July 4 rally there in solidarity with their effort to bring supplies to Nicaragua.

PHOTO: PATTI SALAS/CAMILA

July 18 at the Federal Building. According to Irene Rivera of CAMILA (Chicanos Against Military Intervention in Latin America), a staff member of the Veteran's Peace Convoy in Austin, the convoy wants to keep the public eye on the contrast between the way their humanitarian effort has been treated by Washington and the ease with which military supplies get to the contras.

A strong Mexican support coalition continues to work on the convoy's behalf as well. Support from ordinary people over the U.S. and Mexico has remained consistently

strong.

On June 11, when the convoy was originally expected in Mexico City, 50,000 people rallied in their support and marched on the U.S. Consulate there. So militant was the demonstration that Mexican authorities called out the army to break it up.

On July 4, the still-blockaded convoyistas chartered a bus to Mexico City and held a solidarity demonstration at the monument to Mexico City's child heroes, teenage military cadets who helped defend Mexico City from a U.S. invasion 100 years ago.

# EDITORIALS

## No justice from Abrams

How can anyone expect that justice will be served in the Tawana Brawley case given the latest utterances by Robert Abrams, the New York attorney general in charge of the investigation? "There may not have been any crime committed here," Abrams told the New York-area Newsday paper. "It might not have happened the way she said it did.... Maybe it was consensual." "Consensual"? First Abrams denies there was an act of sexual abuse, and then he suggests it was consensual! Incredible. It means little that

Abrams was forced to issue the mildest type of retraction the next day. Even if his comments were a slip of the tongue, it shows you where his mind is.

This vicious and outrageously racist remark is completely in line with Abrams' handling of the Brawley case from the beginning. It comes after months of slander against the victim, her family, her lawyers and her advisers. The fact that the only person to be threatened with arrest in this entire affair has been the victim's mother speaks volumes.

Two weeks ago we reported on an extensive expose in the City Sun, a New York-area Black newspaper, which obtained the hospital records at St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where Tawana was brought after her terrible ordeal. The Sun article uncovered a vast amount of evidence to corroborate Tawana's story. The hospital records were available to Abrams, they were available to the capitalist media—if they cared to look.

From the beginning of this case, Tawana's lawyers have stated that their client would appear be-

fore the grand jury if Abrams would promise to arrest the men she names as her attackers and bring them to trial. This is the way it often happens in rape cases where there are no witnesses other than the victim and the assailants. But Abrams has refused this modest demand and refuses to move an inch against the real criminals in this case. The state, with the collaboration of the capitalist media, have turned the case on its head and made the victim look like the criminal!

All of this could have been avoided if the demand of Tawana's lawyers for an independent special prosecutor had been granted, as it was in the Howard Beach trial. Even more so, a **people's court** independent of the state could have secured real justice. A people's court composed of community, labor, women's and Black organizations would have the most interest and greatest concern in prosecuting the case.

The actions of Abrams and the state authorities show clearly that they are engaged in a sordid coverup. What is needed is an independent mobilization of all anti-racist and progressive forces.

## Letters

### Lesbian and gay rights in Cuba

I have been reading Workers World since I first received a copy at the Lesbian/Gay Rights March on Washington last October and respect the kind of writing, reporting and analysis I find there.

I would like to be able to receive 10-to-twenty copies of the newspaper to distribute in the Community Center here at Goddard; I have been posting my copy on the Social Justice bulletin board there, but I know more people would read the paper if they could take a copy home. I think your message is crucial.

In your June 2 issue, at the end of your article on Cuba, you say that more detailed articles on various aspects of life in Cuba will be published, but in your list of topics you don't mention lesbian/gay rights. Please do try to cover that issue; it's an important human rights issue, and many otherwise progressive communities have not yet progressed far enough in that regard. I, for one, would like to know if Cuba has.

Marianne Milton  
Coordinator of Educational Services  
Goddard College  
Plainfield, Vt.

#### Workers World replies:

Thank you for your letter. Our Party has a long and proud history of defending Cuba, a small, poor and developing Third World country a mere 90 miles away from the citadel of imperialism. Having the audacity to free itself from U.S. imperialist domination a scant 29 years ago has angered the U.S. ruling class which wages a constant ideological and material war against Cuba, including a more than 20-year trade-and-travel blockade.

You ask about life for lesbians and gay men in Cuba. As a lesbian, this is an aspect of life in Cuba of deep personal as well as political interest to me, also. There has been so much misinformation on this issue due to the virulent anti-communism generated by the U.S. government which seeks to discredit Cuba—and socialism in general—in any and every way possible.

In Cuba, homosexuality is now viewed as a private matter. Cuba is grappling with the gay question and

has, in fact, already moved forward on it. While gay people in Cuba have all constitutional rights, such as the right to jobs, housing, free medical care, education, etc., some prejudice unfortunately remains; needless to say, it varies from person to person.

All the heterosexual Cubans with whom I spoke personally or heard speak as representatives of the government were apologetic and uncomfortable about the fact that this is so. It is not possible to completely eradicate in 29 years the legacy of 500 years of colonialism, exploitation and imperialist domination.

A gay man and his lover and father whom I met with in their home (along with a group of other lesbian and gay North Americans who were on the Venceremos Brigade) explained to us that the problem is a social problem, and not one with the government or system. This gay man said that he is living proof that you can live and work and be happy as a known homosexual.

We in Workers World Party have a unique analysis of the lesbian and gay question in the world communist movement. As Marxists, we understand that it is due to vestiges of class society (and not to revolutionary Cuba) that remnants of anti-gay attitudes may remain in Cuba.

One of the seminars we attended was a presentation by the Federation Mujeres Cubanas (FMC), the women's mass organization. A lesbian brigadista from this country asked the same question you raised in your letter. Dr. Monica Kraus, a member of the FMC replied:

"We have to change this without any prejudice and substitute our own ignorance with wisdom. People still do not talk frankly about many sexual attitudes ... we have to develop strategies and a new approach to change with all professionals who take part in health programs and education. They have to face these problems. They have to be able to analyze objectively. Based on this, little by little, we will be able to accomplish this work. I am convinced that with time we will be able to assimilate gay people based on Marxist, human principals ... whatever two people do privately is of interest to nobody else and if they're not hurting anyone else, nobody has the right to interfere, gay or straight. Sexual preference is their own business. We cannot affect or analyze qualities of a person based on their sexual orientation..."

Cuba has come so very far in only 29 years. In Cuba, you really have a

sense of dialectics, of how things are changing constantly. Everything, including problems, is discussed openly. Even visiting for two short weeks, I could see how the people are truly part of the revolutionary process of shaping life in Cuba by raising issues that affect people's lives and addressing and changing things that require attention.

In the U.S. under capitalism, exploitation, racism, sexism, bigotry against lesbians and gays and all forms of discrimination serve to keep the ruling class in power by keeping the working class and oppressed divided.

In Cuba under socialism, there is a material basis for eradicating whatever inequalities may still exist. Society is organized on the basis of pro-

### — Dukakis

Continued from page 6  
the Reagan program.

The Dukakis-Bentsen ticket is a worthy representative of the Democratic Party establishment. In the final analysis, they represent the interests of the corporate rich, of the military-industrial complex, of the union-busters and the racists. And if they make it to the White House in November they can be relied upon to forget all their promises and ignore whatever progressive statements or resolutions they were forced to make in Atlanta.

Jesse Jackson himself said it several years ago when he remarked that "you can't ride to freedom in Pharaoh's chariot." The workers and oppressed people need their own chariot, their own party, independent of Dukakis-Bentsen.

viding for the needs of all the people, not for the profits of the few.

Having visited Cuba and seen the gains of the revolution first-hand, I can only feel hopeful and look to the future with optimism. In Cuba, all people are cared for and about. It is but a matter of time before the revolutionary process that you can see and feel will force any remaining attitudes about gay people, which are a legacy from class society, to catch up with the reality of a new society based upon meeting all the people's needs, including acceptance, equality, respect and dignity.

There will be a Workers World Forum on July 29 in New York City about Cuba which will include a slide show. If you happen to be in the NYC area at that time, we hope you will come to the meeting. (See Calendar page 2 for details.)

Susan Rotgard  
Participant in the 19th  
contingent of the  
Venceremos Brigade

### — Prisoners

Continued from page 5  
transfer order after the judge ruled she was placed in the unit for reasons other than her political beliefs.

Adjoa Aiyetoro, chief counsel to the prisoners, termed the ruling, "a tremendous victory," and added, "The decision vindicates the rights of prisoners to hold beliefs based on conscience."

Elizabeth Sink, lawyer for the CCR, hailed the decision, characterizing the isolation unit as "an example of the human rights violations that this country engages in."

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# 400,000 march in Mexico City against election fraud

## Shows Mexican people reached turning point for struggle

By Gloria La Riva  
Mexico City

July 16—A tumultuous crowd of 400,000 people packed the Plaza de la Constitucion after a 3-mile march "in defense of the popular will" that started at the Monument to the Revolution this morning.

The demonstration, called by presidential candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas and his National Democratic Front coalition, challenged the announcement July 13 by the Federal Election Commission that the candidate of the government's Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Carlo Salinas de Gortari, had won the presidential election.

The marchers' anger was directed against the massive electoral fraud, years of PRI corruption and the policies of the ruling party that have contributed to the worst economic crisis in Mexico's recent history.

The most significant aspect of the Cardenas campaign is that it has opened up new possibilities for mass mobilizations and struggles among all of Mexico's dispossessed. This was underscored by the size and composition of today's march. This is what the U.S. ruling class, with its vast economic interests in Mexico, is so worried about.

The masses were not just protesting a fraudulent election. They have long been aware of the PRI's manipulation of elections. But the Mexican people have reached a turning point. A new struggle has begun against the suffering and exploitation.

This reporter spoke to Eledina Nativitas, a peasant woman from Tlalepantla, who came with hundreds of other people from her area one hour from Mexico City. She expressed her sense of despair and anger. "We want Cuauhtemoc to be president to help us because we are fed up with being exploited. We work and work and we can't keep up. We can't continue to live with so much exploitation. We want a government that helps the peasant, the humble people."

### Wide range of participants

"No vino nadie acarreado" (no one came transported) was how many described the tremendous motivation of the people, who came from the capital as well as surrounding states like Michoacan, Morelos, Guerrero and Oaxaca. "Acarreado" specifically refers to the common practice of the PRI of transporting people to their election rallies. Many times workers are required to attend a PRI rally or lose a day's pay.

In marked contrast, all the sectors of Mexican society represented today came on their own. There were contingents of workers, peasants from many ejidos, popular organizations, students, artists, journalists. Groupings that have been traditionally represented by PRI-led organizations came in a show of defiance.

There was a huge labor union presence, with workers from the biggest industries marching behind banners of independent trade union caucuses. The Mexican Workers Confederation (CTM) leadership has long been tied to the PRI, and the workers' steadily worsening conditions have alienated the membership from the CTM.

Union marchers focused on two policies that have been devastating

to the whole population, the Pact of Economic Solidarity (PSE) and the reprivatization of the nationalized industries. The PSE is a "wage-price freeze" forced on the unions in December 1987, but it has only meant frozen wages, while prices of necessities have skyrocketed.

One of the petroleum workers' banners read, "In Defense of the State Industries (paraestatales)." These workers also demanded, "¡No pago de la deuda con dinero petrolera!" (No payment of the debt with petroleum money!) They are worried that PEMEX, the nationalized oil industry, may be dismantled and sold to private ownership as part of the "reprivatization" plan authored by the international banks.

This week, President Miguel de la Madrid announced that the selling of paraestatales (nationalized industries) is "irreversible." It will mean more layoffs, higher prices and rates. Salinas is in favor of this policy.

Another likely target of reprivatization is Telefonos de Mexico. Roberto G., a representative of the National Democratic Front of Telephone Workers, told Workers World, "Eighty percent of the telephone workers are with Cardenas."

Electricians, teachers and railroad workers were well represented, too. Women seamstresses from the "September 19th Union" came to back Cardenas and in turn to seek support for their three-year struggle to form an independent union.

The different left parties within the NDF mobilized large numbers in addition to the Revolutionary Workers Party, which ran human rights activist Rosario Ibarra de Piedra for president.

At the Plaza de la Constitucion, the rally site, the crowd gave a thunderous roar as they chanted in unison,



Marchers were young and old, workers and peasants.

WW PHOTO: GLORIA LA RIVA

"¡El pueblo voto, y Cardenas gano!" (The people voted and Cardenas won!)

The three speakers were Cardenas, Heberto Castillo (the Mexican Socialist Party [PMS] presidential nominee who withdrew his candidacy two weeks before the July 6 election), and Rosario Ibarra.

Cardenas spoke about the fraud and denial of the Mexican people's popular vote. He called for an end to the "very unjust distribution of wealth, of inequalities" and criticized the U.S. government for subjugating Mexico's economy and national sovereignty. He was interrupted by prolonged cheers from the crowd as he added, "We call for the end of intervention, for the U.S. troops to leave Panama and Honduras, to end the military and financial aid to the counterrevolutionaries in Nicaragua and El Salvador."

Cardenas and the NDF have already begun a national campaign to

"defend the vote." But Cardenas added that he intends to keep his opposition "peaceful" and within legal confines. This was generally viewed as conciliatory to the PRI.

The PRI plans to go ahead with the austerity measures that will benefit the imperialist banks and the Mexican bourgeoisie, while deepening the impoverishment of workers.

### Boost to mass struggle

This is what Salinas plans. But the class-conscious Mexican working class and peasantry have begun to be mobilized through the Cardenas candidacy. The PRI, like the Democratic Party in the U.S., has played the historic role of blocking any truly independent workers' movement. Until now, it has always been able to co-opt and absorb working class representatives and keep the masses within its confines. This hold has now been shaken, opening up new possibilities for independent mass struggle.

## NYC forum exposes Shultz's Korea lies

By Andy Stapp

On July 18, Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Seoul, south Korea. The main purpose of his trip, according to that day's New York Times, was "to counter recent charges by students that the presence of 43,000 American troops is an impediment to reunification with the north."

That Shultz felt it necessary to travel all the way to Seoul to make this statement is a tribute to the power and determination of these students, fighting for many years now against a police state regime backed up by the full might of Washington. The history and evolution of their anti-fascist movement against such difficult conditions were the topics taken up by Li Sung Ok, the main speaker at a New York City meeting of Students and Youth Against Racism (SAYAR) on July 12.

Li Sung Ok, an activist in the Korean community here, cited the great people's uprising eight years ago in the south Korean city of Kwangju as a turning point.

It was there, she said, that the students opposed to the dictatorship "say that the people who fought to the end were the proletariat, those who shine shoes, prostitutes, waiters and



Left to right: Dan Tranquility, Bill Doares, Li Sung Ok, Tana Loy, Jelayne Miles.

the poorest workers."

It was at Kwangju, where so many died, that the students gave up the false illusions about "liberal reform" and "painfully realized that they must turn to the people, to the workers and peasants, for genuine revolutionary change to come."

She spoke of "national reunification" as the biggest issue in south Korea, and how it would mean the end of the U.S. puppet regime. "Going side by side with this issue," Li emphasized, "is the demand that U.S. troops be withdrawn from south Korea. Reunification will not take place as long as the U.S. military is present," she stressed.

George Shultz said in his Seoul speech, "We will never seek to dic-

tate" to the south Korean people. But the U.S. has supported one dictator after another, driven south Korea \$50 billion in debt to the banks and saddled it with the largest U.S. troop concentration outside of West Germany.

Between Shultz and Li Sung Ok it's pretty clear who is lying.

In addition to Li Sung Ok, other speakers were Tana Loy, who described the U.S. military and economic domination of south Korea, Bill Doares, who spoke about the Korean war and the events leading up to it, and Dan Tranquility, who read a solidarity statement from SAYAR. Jelayne Miles chaired the meeting, which was held during the Month of International Solidarity with the Korean People.

## Pueblo mexicano enfrenta fraude electoral

Por Gloria La Riva  
Ciudad de México

16 de Julio—Después de una marcha de 3 millas que partió desde el Monumento a la Revolución, una multitudinaria concentración de 400.000 personas llenaron la Plaza de la Constitución “en defensa de la voluntad popular.”

La manifestación, convocada por el candidato presidencial Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas y su Coalición del Frente Democrático Nacional (FDN), desafió el anuncio del 13 de Julio hecho por la Comisión Electoral Federal de que el candidato del gobernante Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), Carlos Salinas de Gortari, había ganado las elecciones presidenciales.

La ira de los que marchaban fué dirigida en contra del masivo fraude electoral, los años de corrupción del PRI y la política del partido gobernante que han contribuido a la peor crisis económica en la reciente historia de México.

La clase dominante de los EE.UU., que tiene extensos intereses económicos en México, se encuentran muy preocupados ante la campaña de Cárdenas, ya que se ha convertido en un vehículo para la movilización de las masas y en una apertura más profunda a las luchas de los desposeídos.

Esta reportera habló con Eledina Nativitas, una mujer campesina de Tlalepantla, quien vino con cientos de otras personas de su área y que se encuentra a una hora de distancia del D.F. Ella expresó su desesperación

y rabia. “Queremos que Cuauhtémoc sea presidente para que nos ayude, porque estamos cansados de ser explotados. Nosotros trabajamos y trabajamos y no podemos mantenernos a flote. No podemos continuar viviendo con tanta explotación, queremos un gobierno que ayude al campesino, al pueblo humilde.”

### Variedad de participantes

“No vino nadie acarreado” fué la manera en que mucha gente expresó su tremenda motivación, quienes vinieron desde la capital federal, como también de estados cercanos tales como Michoacán, Morelos, Guerrero y Oaxaca. “Acarreado” específicamente se refiere a la práctica común del PRI de transportar a gente a sus reuniones electorales. Muchas veces los trabajadores son obligados a asistir a una reunión del PRI y si no lo hacen pierden el salario de un día de trabajo.

Marcando un contraste a todo esto, los diversos sectores de la sociedad mexicana representada hoy llegaron por su propia voluntad al lugar de la concentración. Habían contingentes de trabajadores, campesinos de muchos ejidos (terrenos comunitarios), organizaciones populares, estudiantes, artistas, periodistas, etc. Además, en una muestra de desafío, llegaron grupos que han sido representados tradicionalmente por el PRI.

Hubo una presencia enorme de los sindicatos oficialistas, con trabajadores de las industrias más grandes, marchando detrás de afiches y lienzos de comités independientes. El liderazgo de la Confederación de Trabajadores Mexicanos (CTM) ha estado atado al PRI por mucho tiempo, y las condiciones para los trabajadores continúan empeorando y han enajenado a muchos miembros del CTM.

### Sindicatos denuncian congelación de salarios

Los sindicalistas enfocaron dos puntos políticos que han sido devastadoras para la población entera, el Pacto de Solidaridad Económica (PSE) y la reprivatización de las industrias nacionalizadas. El PSE es una “congelación de salarios y precios” que fué impuesta a la fuerza a los sindicatos en Diciembre de 1987, pero ha significado sólo la congelación de salarios, mientras los precios de las necesidades básicas han subido en forma sideral.

Uno de los lienzos que portaban los trabajadores del petróleo decía: “En defensa de las industrias paraestatales.” Estos trabajadores también exigían “¡No al pago de la deuda con dinero petrolero!” Los obreros están preocupados que PEMEX (Petróleos Mexicanos), la industria del petróleo nacionalizado, pueda ser desmantelada y vendida a dueños privados como parte del plan de “reprivatización” programada por los bancos internacionales.

Esta semana, el Presidente Miguel de la Madrid, anunció que la venta de las paraestatales eran “irreversibles.” Significará más pérdidas de trabajos, y los precios aumentarán aún más. Salinas está a favor de esta



WW PHOTO: GLORIA LA RIVA

política.

Otro probable blanco para la reprivatización es la Compañía Teléfonos de México. Roberto G., un representante del Frente Democrático Nacional de los trabajadores del teléfono, le dijo a Mundo Obrero: “El ochenta por ciento de los trabajadores del teléfono están con Cárdenas.” Electricistas, maestros y trabajadores ferroviarios estaban bien representados también. Mujeres costureras del Sindicato 19 de Septiembre llegaron para respaldar a Cárdenas y a la vez pedir apoyo para su lucha de 3 años por su derecho a formar un sindicato independiente.

Los diferentes partidos de izquierda dentro del FDN movilizaron muchísimas personas. El Partido de Trabajadores Revolucionarios, quien presentó su candidato, la activista por los derechos humanos, Rosario Ibarra de Piedra para presidente.

Los tres oradores fueron Cárdenas, Heberto Castillo (del Partido Socialista Mexicano (PMS), candidato presidencial nombrado, que retiró su candidatura dos semanas antes de las elecciones del 6 de Julio, y Rosario Ibarra.

En la Plaza de la Constitución donde se efectuó la concentración, la multitud dió un atronador aplauso mientras coreaban la consigna de “¡El pueblo votó, y Cárdenas ganó!”

Cárdenas habló del fraude electoral e hizo un llamado para poner un fin a la “muy injusta distribución de las riquezas, y la desigualdad” y criticó al gobierno de los EE.UU. por so-

judgar la economía y soberanía nacional de México. Fue interrumpido por largos aplausos de la multitud, y agregó “hacemos un llamado para el fin de la intervención, que las tropas estadounidenses salgan de Panamá y Honduras, al fin de la ayuda militar y financiera a los contrarrevolucionarios en Nicaragua y en El Salvador.”

Mientras Cárdenas y el FDN ya han empezado una campaña nacional para “defender el voto,” el dijo que tiene la intención de mantener la oposición “pacífica” y dentro de límites legales. Esto se vió en general como conciliatorio al PRI.

El PRI tiene planes de seguir adelante con las austeras medidas que sólo beneficiarán a los bancos imperialistas y a la burguesía mexicana, mientras que profundiza el empobrecimiento de los trabajadores.

### Alienta el movimiento popular

El candidato oficialista, Salinas, apoya todos estos planes entreguistas, pero la clase trabajadora mexicana y los campesinos han comenzado a movilizarse en forma conciente por intermedio de la candidatura de Cárdenas. El PRI, como el Partido Democrata en los EE.UU., han jugado un rol histórico en bloquear cualquier movimiento verdaderamente independiente de los obreros. Hasta ahora han podido cooptar y absorber los representantes de la clase obrera y mantener las masas dentro de su control. Esto ha sido debilitado, abriendo nuevas posibilidades para una lucha independiente de las masas.



**Libertad para Nelson Mandela** y todos los prisioneros políticos dice la consigna en la foto. El 18 de julio fué el cumpleaños de ese gran hombre y líder Nelson Mandela. A pesar de estar en calidad de preso político desde el año 1964 por el régimen del apartheid de Sud Africa, aún es considerado como líder del Congreso Nacional Africano (ANC). Mandela también es presidente honorario de COSATU (Congreso de Sindicatos Sud Africanos), una organización con más de un millón de miembros y que incorpora 13 de los sindicatos más grandes en ese país. Abajo con el apartheid. ¡Libertad para Nelson Mandela!

## ¡Que viva la revolución nicaraguense!

Por Santiago Manque Milla

El 19 de julio se celebró el noveno aniversario del triunfo de la revolución nicaraguense. Ese día en el año 1979 el Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional (FSLN) hizo su entrada triunfal a Managua, poniendo así fin a la tiranía somocista que por décadas sojuzgó al pueblo nicaraguense.

El FSLN ha llevado adelante este proceso revolucionario que cuenta con todo el apoyo del pueblo nicaraguense y los logros alcanzados en este período se refleja en los programas de alfabetización, en los programas de salud, agricultura, vi-

vienda, etc., soportando una dura guerra que ya dura 7 largos años.

Mundo Obrero se hace partícipe y se solidariza con el pueblo nicaraguense que en estos momentos lucha por consolidar su revolución haciendo frente a la agresión externa manejada por el gobierno estadounidense que al ver fracasada su estrategia militar, con la derrota de su brazo armado (vale decir la contra somocista) este último tiempo, ha hecho una ofensiva de carácter diplomático transformada ésta en la expulsión del embajador de Nicaragua ante los EE.UU. Carlos Tunnerman.