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

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

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

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.

TEAMSTERS
By electing a new president, the largest union in the country has defied a government attempt to take it over.
10,000 workers strike General Dynamics in Conn. Bosses’ contract offer cuts insurance, gives no wage increase

By Dick Lens
Hartford, Conn.

More than 10,000 workers at the Electric Boat Division (EB) of General Dynamics Corp. went out or 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-one margin to reject what the company called its "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 workers 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 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 Connecticut were stuck with two years of lump sum payments. According to the International Association of Machinists, which represents the workers, their members lost over $4,000 each as a result. The eyes of Pratt unionists—and many other stateside—are now on the talks.

A Machinists’ steward from Pratt who recently visited the EB strike headquarters with a complimentary ‘Dump the Lumps’ T-shirt, says that workers literally came over the tables for it.

General Dynamics’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 last corruption/payoff 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 own 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 Reagan-dominated Congress, it is obvious that this was the irrefutable determination of the workers that influenced the Board’s decision.

In a recent news, UPIU Local 14 spokesperson Pete Bernhard 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 De Pere, Wis.

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

In addition, 27 of 36 IP plants are now operating without contracts, either because the locals have rejected them or because the companies have refused to sign the concessionary contracts demanded by IP. Plus, the union’s call for a boycott of Aero 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.

"If 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 have to win.

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 7-1 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 afford the $1,000 per month cost to maintain benefits for themselves and their families.

About 2,000 ENs 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 working hours and rotating shifts. These hospitals are making profits above the industry average.

Also, 600 nurses at the St. Mary’s General, the city’s public hospital, are expected to vote at 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 in a time of recession. Their current $19 to $27 million from the health budget.

In this Issue

GENERAL DYNAMICS STRIKE
San Francisco nurses set walkout for July 26

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

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

CALENDAR

DETROIT
Sat., July 23: "Cuba: Socialism, international solidarity and the legacy of Che Guevara." Workers Voice meeting, 11 a.m. at the YWCA, childcare $2 donation ($1 for unemployed). 6 p.m. At 1454 Grand River. Call (313) 962-4979

NEW YORK
Fri., July 29: Celebration of the Workers World Party. 5 p.m. At 146 W. 25 St., 3rd floor, Manhattan, Call (212) 255-0352.

SAN FRANCISCO
July 25: Workers World Party Forum. Dick Becker, just returned from demonstrations outside SuperMall in Washington, DC, present slides and show art. Gabriel La Riva, with slide show and presentation on the Mosiito City demonstration and elections there. Free. 6 p.m. At 2480 Mission St., #30. Call (415) 826-4628.

Workers World
49 W. 21 St., NY. 10010
Editorial: (212) 394-4022
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Closed-down date: July 25, 1988
Teamster board defies gov’t by electing new president
Opening exists for rank-and-file democratic initiative

By MITI Heidelberg

The General Executive Board (GEB) of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) has wisely ignored the threat of a government-backed trustee- ship and elected a new presi- dent of the 1.6 million IBT members.

In a split decision made behind closed doors on July 17, the 17-member GEB elected William J. McCarthy, an in- ternational vice president from the New England Region, to replace the remainder of President Jackie Pres- sner’s five-year term, ending in 1991. Pressner died on July 6.

Though McCarthy is an unknown to the Teamster members, except through what the media reports, 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.

The IBT’s action was backed by Attorney Rudy Giuliani, with the backing of the Reagan administration, to use the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) laws to take over the IBT, has back- fired. A U.S. federal district judge has refused Giuliani’s request for a court- appointed officer to take over the de- ties of the 17-member General Execu- tive Board, and set a February 1989 date to “permanently replace” 280 maintenance workers in its Mo- bile, 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 pre- vents the IBT from performing its professional union-busting company H & K was illegal because the entire workforce had been locked out by the company in a company-wide lockout.

The Board ordered IP to pay back wages to the workers, which the un- ions estimate could run as high as $15 million. If the ruling is inter- preted to apply to all 1,200 workers at the plant, as it should, the figure could rise to some $40 million.

IP is appealing the ruling and, accor- ding to UAW’s Coordinating and Inter- national Union (UPIU) Local 265 treasurer Fred Hawsay, a decision should come from a federal court in Mobile sometime next month. “I can’t say we’ve won this thing,” Hawsay 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 and go to another settlement. The Mobile paperworkers will have been locked

Mobile, Ala., paperworkers win back wages
International Paper appeals court decision

By Phil Wilyo

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled July 11 that the giant International Paper Co. (IP) had acted illegally when it moved two Alabama paper mills to "permanently replace" 280 maintenance workers in its Mo- bile, 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 pre- vents the IBT from performing its professional union-busting company H & K was illegal because the entire workforce had been locked out by the company in a company-wide lockout.

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GUILD CHARGES Washington Post with bias

By Judy Greenman

The Washington-Baltimore Newspapers Guild filed a class action complaint on July 13 against the Wash- ington Post, charging that the newspaper discriminates against employ- ees on the basis of race, sex, and national origin.

The complaint, filed before the D.C. Commission on Human Rights, represents new workers, old workers, editorial, advertising, business and cir- culation department workers, "one important focus of the complaint is the low starting pay and salaries of non- union Post." Among reporters, Black women earn approximately $72 per week less than white male reporters. Among non-reporter women workers earn $121 a week less than their white male counter- parts.

Polsak 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 3% of its work force.

The Guild’s human rights complaint charges that older workers are discriminated against by the Post in job advancement and work perform- ance reviews and attempts are made to coerce these workers to leave the Post. At a July 13 press conference an- nouncing the filing of the complaint, Newspaper Guild President Charles Dals discussed the union’s role in combating discrimination. He pledged the continued support of the Guild in combating discrimination.

The Guild has filed a complaint with the Post to investigate the union contract by refusing to address wage disparities and other discriminatory employ- ment practices.

History of racism, discrimination

The Post has a long history of dis- criminationary practices. In November 1972, the Equal Employment Opportuni- ty Commission, after investigat- ing a complaint by seven Black met- ropolitan desk reporter, found the Post guilty of racism discrimination in its hiring, promotion and assign- ment policies.

In June 1974, the EEOC held that the Post had engaged in sex discrimi- nation "in unlawful employment practices." The EEOC cited as evi- dence the fact that women reporters were denied equal consideration for reporting assignments, were releg- ated to lower paying jobs in the News Departments and were re- stricted from managerial positions because of their sex.

In the mid 70’s, the Post refused to negotiate with the union represent- ing 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 suc- ceeded in breaking the pressman’s union.

Earlier this year, Black commu- nity and religious leaders sponsored weekly demonstrations outside the editorial offices of the Post to protest racist stereotyping and biased re- porting of young Black people in the Sunday Post Magazine Section. Af- ter nearly two months of demonstra- tion, the Post was forced to apolo- gize to the Black community for its inflammatory and racist reporting.
By Janie Cutler
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 76 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 want to face cuts in 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 more 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 black; 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 Hedgecock, 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 increased overcrowding on remaining, bus lines. Coupled with cuts in maintenance staff, she said, this makes a serious bus accident a certainty.

The "whole service cut proposal is a public outrage," Hedgecock said. "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 at least consider what 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 board will be voted to the county chair 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 $50 million 3-year budget.

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 Hedgecock
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 at the camp have filed suits 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 long-term police sweep of the possession 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 30,000 over November 1985, official estimates. The Los Angeles Times reports some 33,000 homeless in that city alone. The Times says 240,000 people in southern California are either homeless or in sub-standard housing, including 42,000 living in garages and 4,000 living 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 squatters live on the streets in Los Angeles and San Francisco. But there are only 32 shelters in San Francisco, 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 that 200,000 people across the U.S. are now out of a decent home. As the number of people in the streets, parks, garages, or dorms in Southern California and New York, the skyrockets, the struggle for affordable housing has become a most urgent issue.

Capitalism has offered no solutions to the crises facing working and poor people. This is starkly illustrated by 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.

Community fights San Francisco fare hikes

By John Jones
San Francisco

Community fights San Francisco fare hikes
New murder in Kingston, N.Y., smacks of racism
Court decisions on Howard Beach add to tension

By Lillian Stein
New York

The racist slurs cut into the body of Anna Kithcart, a black teenager who was involved in a race riot, were part of a larger pattern of violence that took place 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 Griffin, Cedric Sandford 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 rocks and hurled debris while chasing them through the streets.

Michael Griffin, suffering severe head injuries, was rushed onto a highway in the path of a speeding car. He never stopped, even after his battered body was thrown up over the windshield and crushed. The driver of the car that killed Michael Grif-


Biased court free two Texas sheriffs in racist killing

By Joanne Gasin
Hemphill, Texas

The former police chief of this east Texas town and two former deputy sheriffs from Waller County were acquitted on July 15 of violating Loyal Garner’s civil rights by severely beating him after he asked them for medical attention.

The 34-year-old black truck driver from Florida, La., died after the Guardian Angels had caused him to be arrested and then denied him medical attention.

The three cops still have to face a malicious prosecution trial. Mr. Garner died in a hospital after doctors in Hemphill concluded he was too badly injured to survive. They said Garner was not used to the jury’s instructions, which many believe is trying to cover up what they did to her daughter.

And now the body of Anna Kith-
cart, a Black teenager, has been found 30 miles from where Tawanna Brawley was discovered. A Black man was almost immediately ar-
rested for her murder. The story flies in the face of the KKKs that were carved on her body. Nor is there any credible evidence to link the home-
lessness of a man that found her body to that racist act.

An important development in the case is the sudden new alliance be-
tween Republican County District Attorney Michael Kavanagh and Democratic Gov. Mario Cuomo. Both have vowed to prove that this was not a racist attack.

What they really both have in com-
mon is a stake in a system of racist in-
justice. As the number of racist at-
acks grow, these officials are going further and further out of their way to

cover them up. That in itself is an in-
trusive to more race violence.

The only way that there will be jus-
tice for Michael Griffin, Tawanna Brawley, Anna Kithcart and other Black people is if a mass movement wreaths that justice from the politi-
cians and the courts.

Puerto Rico 15 win major court test

By Rebecca Toledo
Hartford, Conn.

In a major victory for the Puerto Ri-
co independence movement and for all progressives, Judge T. Emmett

Clare was forced to throw out the 180 tapes that the state was plann-
ing 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 had not been sealed immediately by the FBI, a legal re-
quirement to prevent tampering.

Under pressure from all sides, it

would have been difficult for Clare 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 any seal.

In this same ruling, however, Clare definitively refused to accept the
defense assertion that all 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.”

Women prisoners win suit

By Leslie Feinberg

On July 15, a Federal District Judge ordered two women prisoners, held in the isolated unit at the Ken-
tucky prison soley because of their progressive political beliefs, to be transferred to a regular prison.

The ruling resulted from a lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union’s National Prison Project, the Correctional facilities Reform Committee (CCRF), 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 “Correctionsal Institution in Lexing-
ton, Ky. Attorneys for the women said treatment they had received was so inhumane that they may have suf-

fered permanent harm psychologically.

The ruling barred the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) from “considering a prisoner’s past political association or personal political beliefs” in deter-
ing future federal prison transfers. The BOP has been mandated to rewrite its regulations and move prisoners Silvia Barello and Sarah Rosenberg into the general prison population. The third prisoner, Sylvia Brown, was not affected by the order.
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 most widely-expected and most unvocalized statement the Dukakis camp has made about the tone of the campaign. It is difficult to see how there is anyone else in the Democratic Party further to the right than Bentsen.

Bentsen is a kingpin of the oil, chemical, agricultural, banking and insurance interests in Texas. The Democratic Party's support of the platform in Atlanta, paid a lot of lip service to working families, to farm

ers and oppressed people. But Bentsen's career says otherwise. His family company, Tide Products, Inc., a major producer of fabric softeners and pesticides, has fought for twenty years against organizing efforts by farmworkers. The Bentsens have grown rich from the super-exploitation of farm labor, mostly Mexican and immi-
gen migrant workers. As one local lawyer put it, Bentsen's great diplomatic aspirations are possible, because the Bentsen name has the 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 at the Chicago or the foreclosure auctions or on a tractor in the field struggling to eke out a living off the land and the kind of "farmer" who sits on thick leather swivel chairs in mahogany-panelled offices wearing pin-striped suits. He's the rich corpo-rate agri-businessman. Bentsen has received over $100,000 a year in federal 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 Lockhead 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), and 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?

If 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 on 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 his support of 1983 Massachusetts Miracle. But talk to a welfare mother in Boston's Roxbury district, a laid-off GE worker in Lynn or Hartford. As a governor in the mid-70s 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 Rea-
gan years, the cuts in social services like welfare and nutrition programs, the scandalous giveaways to the mi-
tillery. All this is true. But who voted for it?

Who went along with every Rea-
gan 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 one day since one day of the Reagan administration. And yet it has voted for the Reagan-Bush budgets, voted against the contras, voted for repressive AIDS legisla-
tion, voted for all the key planks of

Continued on page 10

ACT UP protest demands funding to fight AIDS.

Jackson speech arouses millions of poor, oppressed

But Democratic movement turns thumbs down on movement

By John Catalinotto

July 20—Jesse Jackson's dramatic and inspirng speech to tens of mill-
ions of people watching the Demo-

CRATIC 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 Mis-

issippi Freedom Democrats, he brough the civil rights movement to the front line.

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, espe-
cially women from the oppressed communities, that are ignored in net-
work American media.

Among the other workers he gave recognition to were the hospital workers who make the beds and change the bed pana, but are often de-
edied 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 com-
unity was needed, he also showed how his base has expanded in this 1988 campaign.

Included in this quilt are the strik-
ing workers in Jay, Maine, the farm-
ers in Iowa seeking fair prices, women seeking comparable worth in their paychecks, lesbian rights and good day care, students seeking scholarships, along with Black, Latino, Native, Asian and Arab people fighting for civil rights and 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 new to a progressive leadership. They were ready to vote for a Black presidential candidate who was identified with the civil rights struggle.

This 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 Demo-

cratic Party primaries. This move-

ment 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 Demo-

cratic Party.

In fact, the establishment capital-

ist machine that calls the shots in the Democratic Party flatly turned thumbs down to this movement of the poor, the disenchained and the oppressed.

This was seen in the outright rejec-
tion of the important platform Jack-

son planks on no first use of nuclear weapons and freeing the military budget, as well as on self-determina-

tion for the Palestinian people and taxing the rich. These could have been added to the party platform, which is not binding on the presiden-
tial candidate.

This rejection was seen earlier, in how badly the Jackson was treated by the Dukakis forces when they made an attempt to enter his name by selection of the reactionary Lloyd Bentsen as a vice presidential candidate.

Despite the new influx of op-

pressed people and workers to 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 togeth,

er, while this moving talk men-

zerized the convention, it still recogn-

ized Dukakis, Bentsen and the old-

line politicians in charge of the party. This is true even if Jackson put his name in nomination for the presi-
dency.

Jackson has welded together a strong coalition. On its own it could be a viable, progressive force attract-

ing the support of the entire working class. At present, however, it is hijacked to the Dukakis-Bentsen forces and the rightwag, a dead end for any progressive movement.

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

"The movement needs to and many

may be ready to break with the Demo-

cratic Party, to go beyond the frame-

work of this capitalist institution and erect its course on an independent road."

After the first two days of the Demo-

cratic Convention, this statement has only gained in validity.
We beat the Klan out of Atlanta!

Mass demonstration stops racists from marching, rallying

By Joan Bowdish and Jimmy Raynor
Atlanta

"A victory was won here! We beat back the Klan and kept them off the streets of Atlanta!" exclaimed Mrs. Carrie Morris, president of the Atlanta All-People's 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 country to stop the march.

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 the "old-fashioned takinheads" 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 per- mit throughout the national Demo- cratic Convention.

The Atlanta chapter of the All-People's Congress (APC) called a counter demonstration to begin before the sunup in front of the State Capitol. The APC, a national organization, describes its aim as uniting "the people in a militant, mass struggle to end racism, unemployment, injustice and war."

The day before the Democratic Na- tional Convention convenes, hun- dreds 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' ad- vance. In reaction to the tremendous show of unity and militancy, city of Atlanta continued on page 9

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 individ- uals from around the country came to Atlanta and demand attention to some vital questions.

At the US ATC-NUW 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 cara- van to Atlanta. On July 15, the Jack- son campaign sponsored a Mandela birthday celebration. And July 17 is the anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolu- tion which was celebrated.

Workers World has covered some of these activities which occurred outside the Omniconvention Hall. Most of these pro- tests were progressive. Fortunately, the one outright reactionary initia- tive 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 demand for 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 right to die bill.

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

A "kiss-in" on July 18 on the side- walk next to the free speech zone be- gan as a peaceful demonstration by ACT UP New York. Within ten min- utes, riot-equipped police began to at- tack the kiss-in, injuring both particip- ants and reporters, and forcing them 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 Geor- gia 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 as- sistant, 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 lesbi- ans and gay community, to be made available to press at the Democratic Convention, as well as to make all in- ternal police communication availa- ble to ACT UP. They also called for a boycott of all activities against the city and the police department.

During testimony, lesbians and gay men, backed up by reporters, re- iterated that when they questioned police as to which law they were breaking, the police simply an- swered, "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, "Si- lence=Death," formed a sizeable con- tingent in the July 17 march against the Klan sponsored by the All-People's Congress.

The Janitors for Justice on July 17 began a week-long series of protests directed at Portman Prop- erties and the Democratic Party Con- vention.

A spirited hour-long picket ended with a brief occupation of the lobby of the Atlanta Apparel Mart. Several racist activists attempted to punch their way through the line of predominately Black and female maintenance work- ers 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 sup- ported Portman.

Later in the day the union marched on John Portman's mansion to pro- test a $100,000-a-plate banquet he hosted for the Democratic Portman is the dominant force in Atlanta real es- tate. 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 pick- ets at the various hotels and office towers owned by Portman. They are demanding a minimum wage of $8 an hour, health insurance, and paid va- cations and sick leave.

The decision to picket convention activities has brought intense pres- sure on the union, a local of Service Employees International. Mayor And- rew Young has denounced the pick- ets, fearing that picket lines would cause boycotts of convention activi- ties. Democratic Party officials have leaned heavily on union officials.

John Sweeney, international pres- ident of the union came to town to an- nounce 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 of offi- cials of Tawana Brawley and her family, they confronted Democratic officials, and especially the delega- tion from New York State.

Their presence has already had an impact on the attendance at the con- vention. 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 conven- tion quietly.

On July 19, Glenda Brawley, Tawana's mother, confronted Dutchess County Executive Lucille Pattison, who was trying to defend county officials regarding the Braw- ley 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 editor- ial page 10.)
Mandela at 70—neither broken, nor tempted, nor coopted

By John Catalino

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 fueled this tactic against his oppressors, encouraging the youth of southern Africa to do battle with the racist system.

Allan Boesak, a founder of the United Democratic Front (UDF), a mass organization in the Black townships of South Africa, said about Mandela recently at a UDF meeting that he has been in prison for 25 years and they have not been able to break him, to correct him, to co-opt him.

And the authorities certainly tried to do all 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, he is in poor health and his treatment by prison authorities is so severe 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 Pollenhoek Prison, where he is today in the hospital.

In 1985, when the racist regime had lost their puppet structure in the township and was kept in power only by the continued killing of 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 too and refused to recognize the government.

Even this year, the apartheid gang offered to allow Mandela a six-hour visit with his family, something he has never been allowed to have. Thia too he refused, saying he wasted no special privileges that Black South Africans do not have.

Speaking in Lasaka, Zambia, recently, ANC President Oliver Tambo said about Mandela: "Nelson is a viable and non-bargaining leader. He cannot be co-opted.

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 youths have been arrested over the past four years of struggle that began in September 1984 against high rents.

In June the early outbreaks of struggle that the case of the Sharpeville Six began. On Sept. 3, 1984, a UDF meeting 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 youths were arrested and tried for his murder. They were found guilty and sentenced to be executed, even though there was no evidence that they were even present at the trial which showed that the defendants had "contributed causally" to his death. All that was shown was that they were "at the 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.

Of the defendants, all 33-year-old or younger, included one woman, Theresa Ramashamola, and five men: Mojalefe Sefatsa, Oupa Diniso, Duma Khama, Francis Mokgosi and Reid Mokoea.

With a worldwide outcry greeting their execution, they were even put off by the regime. Most recently, the authorities have announced that the executions will be postponed until all appeals, including appeals, are under consideration.

While this is a partial victory against the gangsters, it should be remembered that executions of Black youth occur regularly in South Africa, especially of those minority youth found guilty of fighting for the freedom of their people.
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 United States for daring to exercise its independence and sovereignty, the Nicaraguan revolution celebrated its ninth birthday.

The main slogan was “Melton’s gone, Reagan’s going—the revolution is here to stay.”

The 5,000-kilometer journey to Juigalpa, in the center of the country, for the main event. President Daniel Ortega announced yet another extension of the Sandinista's 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 our arms and our conscience” to violent attacks like the ones in recent days.

Noting the election of the ex-Somo- cista National Guard Colonel En- rique Mena to the Peruvian national directorate last weekend and the recent escalation of contra murders and kidnappings, Ortega said, “We are determined to defeat the enemy, to put an end to the war.”

The Sandinistas have won in the free elections to their own candidates and are fighting on three fronts: political, economic, and military.

The anti-war movement has grown stronger, and the Sandinistas believe they have the support of the people.

People burn Nazi signs

Barrett’s truck was found to contain hundreds of Nazi signs and confederate flags. People seized the flags and burnt them, while Barrett’s truck was smashed up.

A truck carrying 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 “Racists, sexists, anti-gay, we say no to the KKK,” echoed downtown.

When one of the bigots tried to hold a confederate flag out of the window, it was ripped down. The Nazis were then escorted out by the police while a wedge of riot cops protected them from the angry crowd. Behind their hole, the Klan had to scurry away.

A PC 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. For one am not going to let them spew that filth.” A roar of agreement went up from the crowd.

The racism is becoming more open and more violent. As they moved out the truck was bashed 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. Angry and outrage at what Barrett represents bung in the air as he was backed up into a fence.

Then a few fascists skinsnads showed up for their rally. They too were stopped by the yellow-shirted counter- tenants. The SWAT squad moved in to rescue the fascists.

People burn Nazi signs

Barrett’s truck was found to contain hundreds of Nazi signs and confederate flags. People seized the flags and burned them, while Barrett’s truck was smashed up.

Said one counter-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...
No justice from Abrams

How can anyone expect that justice will be secured for Dr. Anna Brawley case given utterances by Robert Abrams, the New York attorney general in charge of the investigation? “There may not have been any crime committed here, according to our New York City newspaper.” "It might not have happened in the way they said it did... maybe it was consensual." "Consensual? First Abrams denied 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 form of retraction the day before. Even if his comments were on top of the tongue, it shows you where his mind is.

This vicious and outraged racist remark is completely in line with Abrams’ handling of the case from the beginning. It comes after months of slander against the victim, her family, her lawyers and her advisers. The fact that the victim is 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 New York Black community newspaper, which obtained the hospital records at St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where Tawanna was brought after her terrible ordeal. The New York’s Daily News ran a picture to corroborate Tawanna’s story. The hospital records were available to Abrams, they were available to the newspaper–it is inconceivable.

From the beginning of this case, Tawanna’s lawyers have stated that their client would appear before the grand jury if Abrams would promise to arrest the men she names as her attackers and bring them to trial. It is a sickening happenings 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 arrest warrant for any of the criminals in this case. The state, with the collaboration of the capitalist media, has 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 Tawanna’s lawyers for an independent special prosecutor had been granted, as it was in the Howie Silver case. 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 world conspiracy. 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 has been getting through.

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
Chairperson 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 capital 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 and political interest to me, also. There has been so much misinformation on this issue due to the ideological manipulation perpetuated 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.

All the heterosexual Cubans with whom I spoke personally or heard speak as representatives of the government, were consistent and steadfast about the fact that this is so. It is not possible to completely eradicate a legacy the 500 years of colonialism, exploitation and imperialism.

A gay man and his lover and father of two recently came to Cuba. I met them both at a social event with a group of other lesbian and gay North Americans who were on the Venceremos Brigade. I explained to them 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.

In Workers World Party have a unique analysis of the lesbian and gay question in the world communist movement. As Marxists, we understand that the struggle against capitalism and the struggle of the working class are the same. This is the key to the struggle for gay rights because it is the struggle for the freedom of all people and not just a struggle for sexual equality. We believe that the struggle for gay rights is a struggle for the freedom of all people.

We believe that there are no sterile questions of morality and personal freedom. We believe that the struggle for gay rights is a struggle for the freedom of all people.

Dukakis

Continued from page 6

The Reagan program.

The Dukakis-Bentsen ticket is a worthy representative of the Democratic Party’s establishment. In the final analysis, they represent the interests of the corporate rich, of the military-industrial complex, of the masters and the racists. And if they make it to the White House in November they can be relied upon to fight all their promises they made, no matter 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 a Pachy’s chariot." The workers and oppressed people need their own chariot, their own party, independent of Dukakis-Bentsen.

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 Alyaotum, 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 OCR, 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 Olívia Lira
Mexico City

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

The demonstration, called by presidential candidate Cuauhtémoc Cardenas and his National Democratic Front coalition, challenged the announcement July 13 by the Federal Electoral Commission that the candidate of the government's Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Carlos Salinas de Gortari, had won the elections by an astonishing 308,000 votes.

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

One of the most significant aspects of the Cardenas campaign is that it has opened up new possibilities for mass mobilizations and struggles among all sectors 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 manipulations of elections. But the Mexican people have reached a turning point. A movement has emerged against the suffering and exploitation.

This reporter spoke to Edelina Nava, a peasant woman from Tlaltenango, 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 Cuauhtémoc 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 people, the humble people."

Wide range of participants

"No vino nadie acarreado" (no one came transported) was how many described the tremendous mobilization of the people, who came from the capital as well as from all the 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 their jobs.

In marked contrast, all the sectors of Mexican society represented today came on their own. There were contingents from the armed forces, 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 from the country's major industries marching behind banners of independent trade union caucuses. The Mexican Workers Confederation (CUT), independent workers parties allied to the PRI, and the workers' steadily worsening conditions have alienated the membership from the CMT.

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 at 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 (parastatals)." These workers also demanded, "No pago del desdén con dinero petrolera!" (No payment of the debt with petroleum money!). They also noted that PEMEX, the nationalized oil industry, may be dismantled and sold to private ownership as part of the "reforms and privatization" plan authored by the international banks.

This week, President Miguel de la Madrid announced that the selling of parastatals (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 Telefones 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 "Sept. 12 Movement" came 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 Constitución, the rally site, the crowd gave a thunderous roar as they chanted in union, "El pueblo voto, y Cardenas gano!" (The people voted and Cardenas won!)

The three speakers were Cardenas, Huberto Castillo (the Mexican Socialist Party [PSM]) 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 and 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 alloy 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 Stock

On July 18, Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Seoul, South Korea. His main purpose of his trip, according to that day's New York Times, was "to counter recent charges by students that the presence of 45,000 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 the students. Shultz, for many years now against a police state regime backed up by the full weight of Wash- ington. The history and evolution of their anti-fascist movement against such difficult conditions were the topics taken up by Li Sung Ok, the president of a New York City meeting of Students and Youth Against Racism (SAYAR) on July 12.

Li Sung Ok, an activist in the Ko- rean community here, cited the great people's uprising eight years ago in the south Korean city of Kwangju as an example of how people can" For its part, the event was a notable success. It was there, she said, that the stu- dents opposed to the dictatorship seized the wave and the police forces were driven back. "It was a great day in the history of our struggle," 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 con- centration 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 de- scribed the U.S. military and eco- nomic domination of south Korea, Bill Doares, who spoke about the Ko- rean 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 Monthly International Solidarity with the Ko- rean People.
Pueblo mexicano enfrenta fraude electoral

Por Gloria La Riva Ciudad de México

16 de Julio—Después de una mar- cha 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 cadena humana, convocada por el candidato presidencial Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas y su Coalición del Frente Democrático Nacional (FDN), definió el anuncio del 15 de Julio hecho por la Comisión Electo- ral Federal que el candidato del go- bernante Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), Carlos Salinas de Gortari, había ganado las eleccion- es presidenciales.

La ira de los que marchaban fue di- rigida en contra del masivo fraude electoral, los años de corrupción del PRI, del partido gobiernante que han contribuido a la pobreza, corrupción y crisis económica en la reciente his- toria de México.

La clase dominante de los EE.UU., que tiene extensos intereses económicos en México, se encuentran muy preocupados ante la campaña de Cár- denas, ya que se ha convertido en un vehículo para la movilización de las masas y en una apertura más profun- da a las luchas de los desposeídos. Esta reportera habla con Elda Nativitas, una mujer campesina de Tlalpanapa, 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 desespera- ción y rabia. “Queremos que Cuauhtémoc sea presidente para que nos ayude, porque estamos cansados de ser explotados. Nosotros trabajamos y trabajamos y no podemos mante- nernos a flote. No podemos continuar viviendo con tanta explotación, que tenemos un gobierno que ayude al cam- pesino, al pueblo humilde.”

Variabilidad de participantes

“No vino nadie acabado” fue la manera en que mucha gente expresó su tremenda motivación, quienes vi- rieron desde la capital federal, como también de estados cercanos tales como Michoacán, Morelos, Guerrero y Oaxaca. “Acabado” específicamen- te se refiere al PRI de transportar a gente a sus reuni- ones electorales. Muchas veces los que luchan son obligados a asistir a una reunión del PRI y si no lo hacen pierden el salario de un día de trabajo.

Marchando en contra de todo esto, los diversos sectores de la sociedad mexicana representada hoy llegaron para protestar a la ciudad al acto de concentración. Había contingentes de trabajadores, campesinos de mu- chos ejidos (terrenos comunidades), organizaciones de mujeres, chilenos, indígenas, artesanos, periodistas. Al- más, en una muestra de desafío, lle- garon grupos que han sido repre- hendidos tradicionalmente por el PRI.

Hubo una presencia enorme de los sindicatos oficialistas, con traba- jadores de las industrias más grandes, marchando detrás de afiches y lien- zos de comités independientes. El li- mite de la cadena de la Coordinación de Tra- bajadores Mexicanos (CTM) ha esta- do atado al PRI por mícho tiempo, y las condiciones para los trabajadores continúan empeorando y han enaje- nado a muchos miembros del CTM.

Sindicatos denuncian congelación de salarios

Los sindicalistas enfoquen dos puntos políticos que han sido des- tabilizadores para la población entera, el Pacto de Solidaridad Económica (PSE) y la reprivatización de las in- dustrias nacionalizadas. El PSE es una “congelación de salarios y pre- cios” que fué impuesta a la fuerza a los sindicatos en Diciembre de 1987, pero ha sido el paso más conge- lación de salarios, mientras los precios de las necesidades básicas han subi- do tres años más.

Uno de los lineos que portaban los trabajadores del petróleo decía: “En defensa de la industria petroletas- tes.” Estos trabajadores también gigan- gas “No al pago de la deuda con di- nero petrolero!” Los obreros están preocupados que el Plan NAFTA (Pemex, Petróleos), la industria del petróleo nacionalizado, pueda ser desmantelada y vendida a dueños privados co- mo parte del “privatismo” “reprivati- zación” programada por los bancos in- ternacionales.

Esta semana, el Presidente Miguel de la Madrid, anunció que la venta de las parastate las era “irre- versibles.” Significará más perdidas de trabajos, y los precios aumentarán más aún. Salinas está a favor de esta política.

Otro probable blanco para la repri- mivación es la Compañía Teléfonos de México. Roberto G., un repre- sentante del Frente Democrático Na- cional de los trabajadores del teléfono, lo dijo a Mundo Obrero: “El ochen- ta por ciento de los trabajadores del teléfono están con Cárdenas.” Electricistas, maestros y trabajadores fe- roviarios estaban bien repre- sentados también. Mujeres costura- ras del Sindicato de 19 de Septiembre llegaron para respaldar a Cárdenas y a la vez pedir apoyo para su lucha de 5 años por su derecho a formar un sindicato independiente.

Los diferentes partidos de izquier- da dentro del FDN movilizaron mu- chísimas personas. El Partido de Trabajadores Revolucionarios, quien presentó su candidato, la acti- vistas por los derechos humanos, Ro- sario Ibarra de Piedra para presiden- te.

Los tres oradores fueron Cárdenas, Heberto Castillo (del Partido Social- lista Mexicano (PMS), candidato pre- sidential nombrado, que retiró su candidatura dos años antes de las elecciones del 6 de Julio, y Rosa- rio Ibarra.

En la Plaza de la Constitución don- nes se efectuó la concentración, la mul- titud dió un tronador aplauso mien- tras coreaban la consigna: “El pue- blo votó, y Cárdenas ganó!”

Cárdenas habló del fraude electoro- ral e hizo un llamado para poner un fin a la “muy injusta distribución de las riquezas, y la desigualdad” y cri- ticó al gobierno de los EE.UU., por so- juzgar la economía y soberanía na- cional de México. Fue interrumpido por largos aplausos de la multitud, y agregó “hacemos un llamado para el mundo, que que los trabajadores estadounidenses salgan de Panamá y Honduras, al fin de la ayuda mili- tar y financiera a los contrarrevolu- cionarios en Nicaragua y en El Salvador.”

Mientras Cárdenas y el FDN ya han empezado una campaña nacio- nal para “defender el voto” el dijo que tiene la intención de mantener la oposición “pacificamente” y dentro de limi- tes legales. Esto se vio en general como concesionario al PRI.

El PRI tiene planes de seguir ade- lante con las austeras medidas que sólo beneficiarán a los bancos impe- rialistas y a la burguesía mexicana, mientras que profundiza el empobre- cimiento de los trabajadores.

Aliena el movimiento popular

El candidato oficialista, Salinas, apoya todos estos planes entreguís- tas, pero la clase trabajadora mexi- cana y los campesinos han comenzado a reflexionar sobre la posibilidad de intermedio de la candidatura de Cár- denas. El PRI, como el Partido Demó- crata de los EE.UU., ha ganado un rol histórico en bloquear cualquier movimiento verdaderamente inde- pendiente de los obreros. Hasta aho- ra han podido cooptar y absorber los representantes de la clase obrera y mantener las masas dentro de su con- trol. Esto ha sido debilitado, abririen- do nuevas posibilidades para una luchas independiente de las masas.

¿Qué viva la revolución nicaragüense!

Por Santiago Monagas Múa

19 de julio se celebró el noven- ano aniversario del triunfo de la revoluc- ión nicaragüense. Ese día en el año 1979 el Frente Sandista de Liberi- ción Nacional (FSLN) hizo su entra- da triunfal a Managua, poniendo así fin a la tiranía somocista que por décadas sejuzgo al pueblo nicara- guense.

El FSLN ha llevado adelante este proceso revolucionario que cuenta con todo el apoyo del pueblo nicara- guense y los logros alcanzados en este período se reflejan en los progra- mas de alfabetización, en los pro- grama 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 nicara- guense que en estos momentos lu- chas por consolidar su revolución ha- ciendo frente a la agresión externa manejada por el gobierno estadouni- dense que al ver fracasada su ca- teca militar, con la derecha de su brazo armado (vale decir la contra- somocista) este último tiempo, ha hecho una ofensiva de carácter di- plomático transformando ésta en la expulsión del embajador de Nicara- gua ante los EE.UU. Carlos Tunner- man.