Bank failures unmask true state of economy

Reagan's press agents paint rosy picture but Texas collapse tells another story

By Robert Dobrow

The capitalist economy is like a giant oak tree that seems strong and formidable from a distance. But getting closer you can see that there are no leaves on the branches and bark is falling off the trunk. Closer still and one sees that the roots are rotting and diseased.

Last week the Reagan administration took credit for some good news in the national economy. The stock market went up. Unemployment went down. Exports and new orders continued to expand in July. But other developments, which were downplayed in the media, show that the profit system isn't as bright and rosy as administration press agents would have us believe. The federal government, for instance, announced it was bailing out a huge Texas banking conglomerate, the First Republic Bank of Panhandle, which was hemorrhaging so fast it threatened to disrupt the economy of the Southwest.

The Four will pump some $4 billion into the ailing bank, making it the second largest bailout in U.S. history after the 1984 rescue of Continental Illinois of Chicago. The government's Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) lost $1 billion as a result of the Continental fiasco. It expects to lose almost $2 billion from the First Republic Bank. And that is only a spit in the ocean compared to what banking insiders fear are the potential losses coming soon.

The Comptroller of the Currency says that more than one of three Southwestern banks have been losing money over the last two years. Banks are failing at a rate not seen since the Great Depression. And while the media attention is focused on the big financial institutions like First Republic Bank, most of the insolvent banks in the Southwest are small, with $1 billion in assets or less. And there are hundreds of them.

Even those commercial banks are doing good compared to the savings and loans banks-called thrifts. Estimates of what is needed to save the thrifts, where millions of people have accounts and many of their life savings, range from $60 billion to $100 billion. The FDIC and FSLIC (Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation) are supposed to insure bank deposits of up to $100,000. But their operating budgets are just a fraction of what would be needed in the case of a full-scale bailout. The result would be a huge increase in the federal deficit with higher taxes and/or increased inflation. In plain words, the masses of people would be forced to bail out a handful of rich bankers.

U.S. banks, long considered the solid foundation stones of the world capitalist economic order, are in serious trouble these days. Giants like Citicorp, Morgan Guaranty and BankAmerica used to be the undisputed singlings of capitalist high finance and industry.

But a newly released report shows that of the world's top 25 banks not one is from the U.S. Most are Japanese, West German, British and French. Of course, U.S. banks, backed up by U.S. military muscle, are still spread across the globe sucking out super-profits from the exploited labor in oppressed countries and financing right-wing, anti-worker dictatorships from south Korea to El Salvador. But their relative decline compared to their imperialist rivals is insignificant.

Even more important, the U.S. banks are plagued by incurable troubles caused by the instability of the capitalist system both at home and abroad.

The banks squeezed enormous profits out of Third World countries for decades. Now there is no more blood to be squeezed from the stone and bad loans to countries like Mexico, Argentina, Brazil and the Philippines are costing U.S. banks about $10 billion a year.

The banks financed the biggest oil and energy boom this country has ever seen throughout the post-World War II period. They pumped and pumped and made stupendous profits. Now there is over-production and oil-producing states like Texas, Oklahoma...
Cops, FBI thugs picket Willie Nelson over support for Leonard Peltier

By Matthew

When hundreds of cops, prison guards and FBI agents swarmed Rhodes Island's Warwick Musical Theatre to protest a concert appearance by country singer Willie Nelson, they had every right to do so. In a benefit last October for Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier, whom they characterized as a "cop-killer," a Lake County, Illinois, police officer was shot and killed by Peltier. The incident has caused concern among Native American leaders, who have called for justice for Leonard Peltier.

Disputed protests demand to ride the RIDE in Boston

By Brian Shea

July 27—Over 100 disabled people and their supporters turned out today at a demonstration at City Hall Plaza to demand that the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) live up to its legal obligation to provide equal access to the public transportation system.

The specific focus of today's action was the RIDE, the MBTA's door-to-door service used by approximately 11,000 people with disabilities in the Boston area. The RIDE is used predominantly by wheelchair users, to whom the buses, trolleys and subways are mostly inaccessible.

Since July 1 when the RIDE was given to a new contractor there have been hundreds of incidents, including failed or missed pickups, as well as several accidents resulting in severe injuries to RIDE users. Today's rally was part of a response to the suffering people to the lack of regard for their community by both the MBTA and the new RIDE subcontractor, Transportation Management Systems, Inc. (TMSI).

Taxi operators are mandated by law to provide service to all people who request it, and all people have a right to use the public transportation system. The mass transit system is not a luxury, but a requirement for the life of urban people. The RIDE is a required service under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the MBTA and the new RIDE operators have failed to meet the demands of the disabled community.

Disability Action Coalition fights traffic gridlock in San Francisco

By Ron Holaday

San Francisco

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors rubber-stamp Mayor Art Agnos' 1988-89 budget on July 27. The 3 a.m. vote came in the face of organized community outrage.

The new budget will result in $150 million cuts in city services as well as fare and fee increases. Earlier some of the cuts had been beaten back by opposition organized by the Coalition Against Budget Cuts, library users, health providers and city unions. But when the Board of Supervisors, hidden away in their chambers at 3 a.m., finally voted on the budget, the only change was the dropping of a tax increase on parking lot operators. The final vote on cuts in badly needed transit services found all of the Supervisors falling into line with Mayor Agnos and voting to cut the services.

"We all know that big business makes billions of dollars in profits in this city," said Supervisor John Weil, the lone dissenter. "They're subsidized by the city services we are being asked to pay more for, and they never pay their share," said Supervisor Cesar Chavez. "We need a spokesperson for the Committee Against Budget Cuts—All-Peoples Congress and candidate for the Board of Supervisors, at a loud rally on the City Hall steps the day before the vote.

The rally was a combined effort of the All-Peoples Congress and the Vehegnsal residents Association (VRA). The VRA represents those facing eviction and arrest for using their vehicles as homes. They turned out to condemn the mayor's betrayal. He had earlier promised to work toward setting up a city-run vehicular residential park, but then reneged.

"We resent that homeless people are being considered the litter of the 1980s," said Jim Wolf, board member of the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council, and a vehicular resident.

Meanwhile, San Francisco residents face a future with cuts in already inadequate health and transit services. The average wait in San Francisco General Hospital's emergency room for problems that are not life threatening will go from six to eight hours. The only bus line that provides direct service from many low income neighborhoods to San Francisco General is being cut, meaning people who need the service will have to wait and wait for up to an hour for another bus.

The supervisors have passed the budget. However, they are not out of the woods yet. They have a bill over from over. To get involved, call the All-Peoples Congress—Committee Against Budget Cuts at (415) 821-6545, or write and send contributions to APC, 2489 Mission St. #28, San Francisco, Calif. 94110.

In this issue

NATIONAL

Taxe bank collapse

Willye Nelson and Leonard Peltier

San Francisco dance battle

Disabled protest in Boston

Aborto, N.A., protest

NYC AIDS action

Olive's: signs anti-gay law

Stop TMSI/Anti-'80s

WWP petitions for ballot status

INTERNATIONAL

Nicaragua

Marcos' surrender

National question in USSR

Samy Marcary

Russia and Palestine

EDITORS AND FEATURES

Apl's last lap

Silent film in Guatecema

NOTICIAS EN ESPANOL

Comando sur par hostil

Nicaragua

Purth Amboy

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Dukakis signs budget with anti-gay foster parent rule

By Phoebe Eckett
Boston

While Massachusetts governor and Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis was out campaigning, telling everyone he was the candidate for all the people, here in his home state he secretly attacked the lesbian and gay community.

Dukakis signed the Fiscal Year 1989 state budget that had a provision in it that the Department of Social Services (DSS) would lose funding unless it complied with its policy of prohibiting lesbian and gay people from becoming foster parents. The DSS could lose $8.3 million in funds. This hidden aspect of the budget was given no publicity and was not revealed until July 28, two weeks after the law was signed.

Lesbian and gay people have vigorously protested Dukakis' bigoted foster parent policies, instituted 3 years ago. Boston lesbian and gay groups have stated they feel the clause was designed through and shown Dukakis' contempt for lesbians and gay men.

Kevin Cathcart, Executive Director of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders said, "We will challenge the budget amendment just as we continue to challenge the policy. This new development proves a point that we have been making for 3 years—the Massachusetts foster care policy sets up to play a ripple effect that perpetuates homophobia.''

Activists from MASS ACT OUT and the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee are organizing the provision and the Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance participated in a press conference denouncing Dukakis.

July 30 march for justice for the Latino community in New Jersey.

Record heat and boiling anger over cop killings in Perth Amboy, N.J.

By Teresa Guzman
Perth Amboy, N.J.

A coalition of Puerto Rican, Dominican and other forces came together and called for the demonstration that took place July 30. What began as a gathering of young people mushroomed into a large demonstration as youth after youth, parent after parent, joined the march to demand that the killer cop be punished for his crimes. Protesters also demanded a full community investigation into the July 7 Black and White death in the Perth Amboy jail who was obviously killed at the hands of the guards. While the police claim that Eddie Crawford committed suicide in prison, the evidence shows otherwise.

Police try to intimidate protesters

Prior to the demonstration, a repressive air dominated the city as officials viciously re-baited community organizers in an attempt to scare off participants. The police also prevented demonstrators from marching in the downtown section of the area to further undermine the organizing efforts of the community.

Lucio Velez, Chairperson of Latinos por los Derechos Humanos (Latinos for Human Rights), the coalition that organized the demonstration, called on the spirited crowd to "watch out," and to pay attention to the politics of the situation and remain vigilant of police actions. A roar came from the crowd as he denounced all those who had helped in the organizing, especially those who helped from areas outside of New Jersey.

Cops treat people like dogs

Lydia Cruz, also from the organizing coalition, denounced the police as "they kill our people if we were dogs."

Other speakers included Santiago Manque Milla from the All-Peoples Congress who stressed the importance of unity of all the oppressed and said that take-over of the jail was justified in response to police murders, as the "streets belong to the people." Also speaking was Tom Soto from the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression, Ydanis Rodriguez from the Union of Dominican Young and representatives from the community as well. Demonstrators vowed to continue the struggle against the repressive, racist character of the Perth Amboy government that has a long history of police repression against the majority Third World people of this city.

State jails Tawana Brawley adviser, criminals still free

By Monica Moorehead

As we go to press, Rev. Al Sharpton has been released from an Albany, N.Y. jail cell after threatening to go on a hunger strike. August 2—The racist persecution against Tawana Brawley, her family, lawyers and other supporters by the local Albany and state authorities continues unabated. The latest episode occurred this past weekend as the Rev. Al Sharpton, the Brawley family's lawyer, was sent to jail along with two others to 15 days in jail following their conviction on a disorderly conduct charge.

Sharpton and the other defendants, including singer-activist Pete Seeger, were arrested this past April 4 at a demonstration held in downtown Albany to show support for the Black teenager and to denounce Gov. Mario Cuomo for the insensitive, racist manner in which the Brawley case has been handled. He was charged with violating the civil rights of the defendants.

Cuomo has been most adamant in denying the Brawley family the right to a special prosecutor of their choice. They have been denied this right by a series of convictions in denying that a special prosecutor would be key in helping to bring justice to the family and to the city. The city council has adopted an amendment to the Brawley case that has been brought in for questions about the brutality of the Black race even though the teenager has identified his assailants.

When Tawana Brawley's mother, could be arrested and jailed at any time for refusing to testify before a grand jury. Ms. Brawley has spoken clearly and courageously. However, Attorney general and Governor Mario Cuomo and Vernon Mason, have been viciously ostracized by the bourgeois press and racist establishment that have been barred for advising Ms. Brawley not to testify until the accused criminals have been brought into custody.

AIDS activists dispute NYC's revised statistics

By Leslie Feinberg
New York

Twelve AIDS activists were arrested inside the New York City Department of Health on July 28, while hundreds angrily protested in front of the building. The demonstration, organized by ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), was a swift response to a press conference held last week by City Health Commissioner Dr. Stephen Joseph. Dr. Joseph released figures to the media July 19 which halved the previous estimate of 400,000 New York City residents now infected with AIDS. Joseph told the press that the reduction was based on a new estimate of the number of New York City gay and bisexual men believed to be HIV-positive. The new figure is 400,000—250,000 to 60,000. This was based on the city's new conjectures that only 60,000 gay and bisexual men live here.

Outraged AIDS activists—lesbian, gay, straight and confrontational—perceived this as an attempt by the city to cut its responsibility in the AIDS crisis in half and to attempt to make it seem that the New York City gay community is much smaller than it really is.

This week posters appeared around the city headedlined, "Missing—200,000 New Yorkers," and calling for a picket of the Health Department on Thursday. "They say we don't exist. We say city health care doesn't exist."

Crowds of workers gathered to see the picket and the demonstration. An ACT UP leaflet being handed out explained the reason for the protest. "Mathematics is not a cure for AIDS," the flyer said. ACT UP accused Joseph and Mayork Koch of covering up a "record of failure and inaction on AIDS by falsely reducing the city's need for AIDS assessment and education programs, funds for housing, hospice and hospital care for people with AIDS and drug addiction treatment and clean needle programs."

"Invisibility is nothing new," the leaflet continued. For not 250,000 homeless people with AIDS and ARC on the streets of New York City, for TV drug users whose actual deaths from AIDS may be as much as 130% above what the city claims. For Black and Latino mothers and their babies who are HIV-positive and can't afford health care, not for women with AIDS who are excluded from AIDS drug trials, for lesbians who aren't even counted in official CDC statistics."
By Sam Marcy

August 1—For many months now the capitalistic press in the U.S. has acclaimed General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, using such adjectives as “innovative,” “imaginative,” “adroit,” “skillful,” “flexible,” and their favorite one, “pragmatic.” This presumably is to distinguish him from the “dogmatic,” “flexible,” and “conservative” leaders in the USSR.

However, on July 21, the New York Times in a front page story, took a different tack. Gorbachev, said the Times in a bold headline, had joined the “hardliners” by his and the Soviet President’s insistence on barring the annexation to Armenia of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

What a quick turnaround! The imperialist press generally has shown considerable bias in its reporting of the Azerbaijani-Armenian dispute over the autonomous region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Armenians have been labeled far too frequently and the Azerbaijanis very little, indeed—for the most part in inconsequential phrases here and there. The U.S. immediately upon the outbreak of disorders in Azerbaijan and Armenia last winter, set up a task force in Europe to assist in processing the immigration of Armenians into the U.S. This is certainly in startling contrast to the willful and cruel way in which the U.S. has barred the door to Haitian immigrants fleeing political terror, as well as to Guatemalans and Salvadorans.

The imperialist bourgeoisie may be entirely mistaken in its speculation regarding Armenia. Its interest in the conflict is worth bearing in mind, however, while awaiting developments.

Soviet constitution on boundaries

In the meantime, it is necessary to state that the decision of the Soviet leadership rejecting the appeal of the Armenians for the annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh was the only possible way out, at least for the moment.

The Soviet constitution states that no boundary lines may be changed without the voluntary agreement of the republics involved. To have agreed to a unilateral change of boundary lines in plain defiance of such an explicit constitutional provision would have brought on chaos among the many nationalities of the Soviet Union. It literally could open the door to the disarmament of the Soviet Union, and thus a multinational socialist state.

This may be putting it in extreme language, but only ones of the republics is given the green light to unilaterally change its boundaries, this could break down the sovereignty and independence of all the others.

Of course, boundaries could be changed by voluntary agreement after a period of socialist growth and class solidarity. Even the resettling of populations is possible in order to settle old boundary disputes or new ones that have developed in the many years since the Revolution. There were several instances of such agreements in the early years of the Soviet Union and after the Second World War.

It cannot be repeated too often that the USSR is a truly great, multinational state with more than 100 nationalities scattered all over its vast territory. The fact that until now, through all the decades since the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the early 1920s, there hasn’t been a major outbreak of violent nationalist struggle must attest to the highly progressive, indeed most revolutionary national structure of the Soviet government.

One merely has to contrast the situation of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (the Caucasus region) as it was before they became independent republics of the USSR at the time immediately after the First World War when the imperialists had a major influence and control.


“The population of Transcaucasia was intermingled in such an extent that it was impossible to divide the area along ethnic lines without doing violence to one or another of the groups inhabiting it. The Azerbaijani-Armenian frontier was especially troublesome, not only because the two peoples were at their worst following the mutual massacres of 1918 but also because the districts which they inhabited were usually located side by side. Thus, both Moslem and Armenian villages, located side by side, often used the same water sources and cattle and sheep grazing,” he continues.

“Since districts inhabited by a mixed Armenian and Azerbaijani population were usually claimed by both sides as their own, throughout 1919 and 1920 there were quarrels and occasional wars between the two...the internal stability of the republics andniured their prestige abroad. The main bone of contention were the Zangezur, Nakichevan and Karabakh districts.”

“The territorial aspirations of the Azerbaijani government were of considerable magnitude. In an official petition presented to the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, it claimed not only all of Eastern Transcaucasia but also Dagestan, Karab and Batum— an area comprising 60% of Transcaucasia and a portion of the North Caucasian as well. Since neither Georgia nor Armenia were willing to concede these claims, the relations between the two neighbors remained constantly tense,” Pipes says.

Thus the imperialists virtually confessed their inability to solve the national question in the Caucasus in a peaceful way.

This doesn’t mean that after the establishment of the USSR there was not a considerable residue of national sentiment in this multi-ethnic examined in its historical context to see what can be learned from it that will shed light on the present situation.

The bourgeois view, of course, is that the struggle between Armenia and Azerbaijan is either a purely nationalist one or a conflict of religions.

—Bankers

Continued from page 1

banks and Louisana are facing a se- verest crisis. The collapse of the oil econ- omy led to a collapse in the real estate market. Bad energy and real estate loans have hit home hard for the banks.

The bankers’ drive for ever greater profits was responsible for much of the speculative frenzy on the stock and bond markets throughout the 1980s. When there was a housing bubble in 1919 it sent a stock wave through Wall Street which if the stock market had continued.

The problems facing the banks are not of the type of difficulties that will be affected by whether a Bush or a Du- kakis wins into the White House.

These are problems fundamental to the economic system of capitalist production based on exploitation of workers and the accumulation of profits. That system can no longer provide for people’s needs. It generates crises, periodic unemployment, hunger, poverty, and racism. The economy is not bright and rosy, it’s rotting away from within. It takes a major bank collapse, or a massive housing or real estate crash, to bring the ugly reality to the surface for all to see.

Whatabout responsibility of Soviet leadership?

Ascan be seen from this talk, the essence of his position is to put the blame on governmental propio- nistruli and nationalist elements in both Azerbaijan and Armenia. In particular, he blames (without naming them) the so-called “European” elements, those who are opposed to perestroika, as being responsible for the current chaos. It is the only way the U.S. publics use this issue as a pretext to stir up national sentiment.

One thing is very clear from this talk: he absolves the Soviet leader- ship of any responsibility and avoids even a mention of the possibility of omissions and/or mistakes in the economic reforms (not the democratization process), nor does he pose the question as to whether the reforms could have been handled differently to prevent the pre-existing national animosities. He doesn’t explain why over all these years there has not been a national- istic uprising — certainly none that we have in the West heard of, and certainly that had been there, one capitalist press would have ferreted it out and magnified it to the nth degree.

Unfortunately, Gorbachev doesn’t
of the Soviet economic reforms

Armenia and Azerbaijan

draw on the rich historical lessons of the Soviet Union. He doesn’t go to the roots of national communism. He is a bourgeois liberal approach to the national question, invoking morality instead of revolutionary communist internationalism.

Fortunately, this rich history is available, and can be found in some documents written by Stalin and Twelfth Congress of the Party, not to speak of all the works by Lenin on the national question. The Tenth Congress, by taking up the position on the national question; the Twelfth Congress in particular carried forward all the prior discussions and resolutions.

Leninist view on national question

Gorbachev makes no reference to the many documents from this early period which give such lucid expositions of the national question and described the situation of the republics and the federation in clear words, without any equivocation.

His explanation is in sharp contrast to the approach the Party took to the national question from our Revolutionary, when national antagonisms were exacerbated by the introduction of economically needed economic reforms.

The New Economic Policy (NEP) was inaugurated by Lenin in 1921 as a temporary measure. It was a step backward toward market relations made necessary by the devastation of the imperialist war, counter-revolution, and civil war. It was a desperate step to get the economy of the country back on its feet after a period of terrible shortages, wide dislocation, economic sabotage by the bourgeoisie and widespread famine. The whole idea was to supersede NEP as soon as possible with overall socialist planning of both industry and agriculture.

The partial return to capitalism was done in order to win over the peasantry to support the industrial efforts of the USSR, so that the country could take off and make the Russian economic situation into which the imperialists and the counterrevolutionaries couldn’t then play a role. Lenin was much more than anyone, while arguing that this return to some of the features of capitalism was an absolute necessity under the circumstances of post-war economic collapse, warned of its great dangers and pointed out where this could lead. At the same time, he forewarned that in favor of the first five-year plan, it brought about the enrichment of the already privileged, the so-called Bubenchikov or Middlemen Lenin called the new bourgeoisie, as well as a much greater differentiation between poor and rich.


The resolution was very important because at that time Lenin was still alive and it was adopted unani-
mously. It has become a kind of a manu-
ture leadership of the USSR. Even though there had been considerable intense debate on a number of other is-

Among the causes of national inequality of the nationalities are not only in the history of these peoples, but also economic stability. The result was the creation of the Russian bourgeoisie, which aimed at controlling the border regions into areas exclusively produc-
ting materials and finished products for the industrially developed central districts.

To remove this inequality in a short space of time, to eliminate this heritage in a year or two, is impos-
sible. The Tenth Congress of our Party has already pointed out that the elimi-
nation of actual national inequality is a lengthy process involving a stub-
born and persistent struggle against all survivals of national oppression and colonial slander. No settlement must be made at all costs. And it can be eliminated only if real and prolonged assistance is given by the Party to the backward peoples of the Union in their economic and cultural advancement..." [This assistance must, in ac-

The Tenth Congress, be rendered simultaneously with the struggle of the toil-
ing masses against the local and for-
total restriction of the factories and data, which are gaining in strength in connection with the New Economic Policy, and for the liquidation of their social positions. [Our emphasis.]

...This heritage consists, lastly, in the survivals of national oppressions of a number of peoples which have suffered the heavy yoke of national oppression and have not yet managed to rid themselves of old national grudges. ... In some of the republics, the population of which is made up of several nationalities, this defensive national feeling, this aggressive nationalism, is leading to violence, to the emotional nationalism, to the outright chauvinism of the stronger nationalities, to the subjection of other nationalities of these republics. Georgian chauvinism (in Georgia) against the Armenians, Ossetes, Azeris, and Turkmens; Azerbai-

ian chauvinism (in Azerbaijan) against the Armenians; Uzbek chauv-

inism (in Bokhara and Khorezm) against the Russians; Armenian chauvinism, and so on—are all these forms of chauvinism, which are most clearly shown by the conditions of the New Economic Policy and by competition, are a great evil which threatens to make certain of the national republics the scene of squabbling and wrangling." [Our emphasis.]

In Lenin’s day, it was ABC for the Party to combat chauvinism, which is a bourgeois economic competition against the most immediately aggravated national antagonisms notwithstanding the fact that Lenin advocated a necessary retreat in order to take the long step forward to build socialism. By the time Gorbachev’s ABC in a half of years the economic reforms have aggravated the national ani-
mosities in the USSR as exemplified by Armenia and Azerbaijan today.

Was it not the bourgeois aspects of post-revolutionary socialism that stimulated and accen-
tuated local nationalisms? Was it not an act of Great Russian chauvinism to have replaced Dneprokarpatscy, for example, as the name of the Communist Party in Kazakhstan and himself a Kazakh, with a Great Russian, Gennadi V. Kolbin, in 1926? Is it not precisely an aspect of the Chauvinism that the proletariat was a mi-
nority in the population, when it was expected that, with the development of socialism, the mirror image of socialism and a model to save the Soviet Union. Is there any justification for the introduction of economic reforms that are per-

A great deal of the chauvinism of the New Economic Policy? With virtually one voice, the whole in-

The Congress also thought it very important to point out that the New Economic Policy had exaggerated
Workers World volunteers petition for ballot status

Independent party must jump big hurdles to reach voters with socialist message

By Leslie Pinfong

Schoolchildren are taught that this is a land of opportunity in which any kid, rich or poor, can grow up to be president. But now, the way the story goes, are the expression of the “popu-
lar will.”

But never mentioned are the stumbling blocks to keeping representatives of working and poor people off the ballot. Ignored are the intrigues, backroom deals and manipulations such as those used against Jesse Jackson throughout his campaign.

A recent memorandum is the oral-
ad that an independent candidate has to go through for the basic democratic right to just be on the ballot!

So you want to be president?

In order to secure the right to have an independent party’s name merely printed on a state ballot, it is neces-
sary for that party to hit the streets to get thousands of signatures of regis-
tered voters on petitions and then complete complex and tedious tech-
ical paper work, all within the con-
straints of a rigid time frame.

First, an independent candidate needs to find the money and skills just to have thousands of petitions printed. And then he or she needs exp-
ensive, hard-to-obtain books which are necessary to look up each signer’s election district and assembly dis-
trict. Next, supporters must pound the pavement to get the necessary hun-
dreds of thousands of signatures of registered voters.

Someone running for president on the California state ballot would need 128,540 signatures of registered resi-
dents. Maryland stipulates 60,000. In Oregon an independent party must get 51,576 signatures; in North Caro-
olina, 44,525.

And if that’s bad, Florida demands 56,318 signatures for ballot status for

Workers World in Ohio. The

heat was oppressive. One hundred degrees. The kind of summer weather better suited for the beach or an afternoon in an air-con-
ditioned movie theater. But for Workers World Party petitioners, there was work to do. To gather signatures for Workers World Party candidates on the Ohio presidential ballot.

And those petitions were hot, too. Those weathered signers in just one week, with peti-
tioners reporting a strong response to door-to-door canvassing for signatures.

At an AIDS benefit, a sign that read “put lesbian-gay rights candidate on the ballot” brought people to the campaign table to sign on.

Alan Roth

Workers World/Jul. 31, "we are saying that our foreign policy is being set by the United States. We would be losing our indepen-
dence.”

The Sandinista government has called the Shultz trip “a deceptive offensive,” which indeed it is. As Shultz, Reagan and their fans on Capitol Hill thunder about the supposed threat to socialist reality is just the opposite. Millions throughout Latin America see Washington as the destabilizer, the war party, the aggressor. Their sympathies are growing. In Nicaragua and El Salvador, they are courageously trying to build a new country amidst the hardships of imperialist intervention and war.

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tered voters on petitions and then complete complex and tedious tech-
ical paper work, all within the con-
straints of a rigid time frame.

First, an independent candidate needs to find the money and skills just to have thousands of petitions printed. And then he or she needs exp-
ensive, hard-to-obtain books which are necessary to look up each signer’s election district and assembly dis-
trict. Next, supporters must pound the pavement to get the necessary hun-
dreds of thousands of signatures of registered voters.

Someone running for president on the California state ballot would need 128,540 signatures of registered resi-
dents. Maryland stipulates 60,000. In Oregon an independent party must get 51,576 signatures; in North Caro-
olina, 44,525.

And if that’s bad, Florida demands 56,318 signatures for ballot status for

Workers World in Ohio. The

heat was oppressive. One hundred degrees. The kind of summer weather better suited for the beach or an afternoon in an air-con-
ditioned movie theater. But for Workers World Party petitioners, there was work to do. To gather signatures for Workers World Party candidates on the Ohio presidential ballot.

And those petitions were hot, too. Those weathered signers in just one week, with peti-
tioners reporting a strong response to door-to-door canvassing for signatures.

At an AIDS benefit, a sign that read “put lesbian-gay rights candidate on the ballot” brought people to the campaign table to sign on.

Alan Roth

Workers World/Jul. 31, "we are saying that our foreign policy is being set by the United States. We would be losing our indepen-
dence.”

The Sandinista government has called the Shultz trip “a deceptive offensive,” which indeed it is. As Shultz, Reagan and their fans on Capitol Hill thunder about the supposed threat to socialist reality is just the opposite. Millions throughout Latin America see Washington as the destabilizer, the war party, the aggressor. Their sympathies are growing. In Nicaragua and El Salvador, they are courageously trying to build a new country amidst the hardships of imperialist intervention and war.

Workers World volunteers petition for ballot status

Independent party must jump big hurdles to reach voters with socialist message

By Leslie Pinfong

Schoolchildren are taught that this is a land of opportunity in which any kid, rich or poor, can grow up to be president. But now, the way the story goes, are the expression of the “popu-
lar will.”

But never mentioned are the stumbling blocks to keeping representatives of working and poor people off the ballot. Ignored are the intrigues, backroom deals and manipulations such as those used against Jesse Jackson throughout his campaign.

A recent memorandum is the oral-
ad that an independent candidate has to go through for the basic democratic right to just be on the ballot!

So you want to be president?

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U.S. suffers setback in Mideast war policy
Palestinian uprising forces Jordan's Hussein to give up claims to West Bank

By Joyce Chadicar

August 2—King Hussein of Jordan announced on July 31 that he was re-linquishing all claims to the West Bank to the Palestine Liberation Organization. While the PLO has not yet issued a statement and has called an emergency meeting of the Palestinian National Council, its congress in exile, to discuss this development, some things are clear.

Hussein's statement is a victory for a Palestinian nationalist movement that has been growing in strength, especially among the nine-month-old Palestinian uprising shaking the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is also a significant blow to Washington's plans for a pro-impediralist settlement in this oil-rich region.

The Reagan administration has responded by sending Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy to Amman for clarification. Washington, which refuses to recognize the PLO, the chosen leadership of the Palestin- ian people, calls for Jordan to re- present the Palestinian people in any peace talks.

For Hussein to say that "Jordan is not Palestine" and "we respect the wishes of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to secede from us in an independent Palestinian state" would have been inconceivable just ten months ago. In November, an Arab League meeting in Amman, Jordan, all but wrote off the Palestinian struggle and the PLO, and encouraged Hussein to assert himself as the spokesperson of the Palestinian people.

What changed all this was the amazing uprising on the West Bank and Gaza Strip which, defying the most brutal Israeli repression, stated its ultimate goal to be the creation of an independent Palestinian state un- der the leadership of the PLO. The Hussein statement, which appeared to be inspired by this mass struggle, is an indication of the strength of a whole people in motion.

The king's announcement is a recognition of public opinion in the West Bank which, in addition to opposing Israeli occupation, has also come out strongly against Jordanian adminis- tration there. Militant youth greeted Hussein's announcement with joy.

As Daud Kuttab, a Palestinian journalist and commentator from East Jerusalem put it, "The king fin- ally understood he had no support in the West Bank. He read the writing on the wall and bowed to the inevitable."

Who is Hussein?
Who is Hussein and what does he represent? The country of Transjor- dan was actually created in the 1922 by European imperialists when they made the borders to the nations in that area to meet their own colonial needs, not to reflect the realities of the people living there.

The arid country with a small, largely nomadic population was hardly a viable state. With Britain's help, it became the Hashimite King- dom of Jordan in 1948, and its popula- tion was swelled by Palestinian refuge- es escaping Israeli terror.

London created a Jordanian throne and set upon it Abdullah ibn- Hussein, a man who was even less from the area but was the son of the sheikh of Mecca in Saudi Arabia. In 1950 this British collaborator an- nexed the West Bank and declared himself the "king of Palestine." Ab- dullah was assassinated in 1951, and it was widely felt that he was collaborating with Israel. This was Hussein's grandfather.

Hussein has continued on the path of collaboration with imperialism and his reigns over 2.8 million people, 70% of them Palestinian. He rules by the harshest repression.

In 1970 at a time when the PLO was being heavily armed and supplied to launch a bloody attack on the resistance movement, kil- ing or wounding 20,000 in ten days. In- stead of providing just in case assis- tance was needed.

With this kind of record, it is no sur- prise that Washington and elements in Tel Aviv have pushed to have Hus- sean, and not the PLO, speak for the Palestinian people. They would like a Palestinian Santan to be adminis- tered by Jordan and guarded by Is- rael.

But Hussein has problems of his own. Could Hussein deal with the 900,000 West Bank Palestinians cur- rently engaged in a prolonged revolt which, at least in part, is aimed against Jordanian administration? Could it be that right now Hussein considers the West Bank too hot to handle and wants to cut his losses?

Whatever the motivation, Hussein is not to be considered out of the picture as a tool for a pro-imperialist set- tlement. Some say he is telling the PLO to sink or swim.

Nor is it clearly precisely what mes- senger Hussein is representing. So far it has canceled a U.S.-backed $1.3 billion development plan, which is regarded as mostly a way to under- mine the PLO's leadership, and has dissolved the lower house of the Jor- danian parliament, with its token rep- resentation of the West Bank. We Withdraw the $500 million an- nually that goes to pay the $18,000 in West Bank who are part of the Jor- danian administration? Will he re- voke the Jordanian passport, which is held by West Bank residents? Will he close the bridges between Jordan and the West Bank? What is clear, however, is that Hus- sein will not in any way help the Pal- estinian people, unless forced to by that mass resistance.

———Pettler
Continued from page 2

that city.

At a press conference July 30, Nel- son affirmed his belief that Pettler wasn't given a fair trial and said that he would do whatever Pettler benefit concert if needed.

Unfortunately, Nelson didn't stop there. He went on to emphasize that he really supported law enforcement and noted that he was an honorary member of the Texas Rangers, an in- ner-city law enforcement organiza- tion, and that he was responsible for the murders andynchings of thousands of Latino and Black people.

Nelson then offered to do a joint benefit concert to raise money for both the American Indian Relief Fund and a statue in honor of police who have been killed. The organ- izer of Policemen wants to erect in Washington, D.C. The cops called off any further pickets of Nelson's con- cert.

Responding to this, Tony Young- wolf said, "Willie Nelson made his own decision. Our position remains the same. We were able to raise a lot of awareness in Rhode Island about Leonard's case, and we hope to be able to continue to do so.

Honor Cuba, Nicaragua.
"Long live the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions" was the banner prominently displayed at the front of a Workers World Party forum in New York City July 29 celebrating these two important victories. The evening's event featured a bold, vivid and colorful show portraying life in socialist Cuba by Pat Chin, who, four years ago, visited Cuba with the Venceremos Brigade, which has an- nual solidarity visits by North Americans to Cuba and by Susan Rot- gart, a participant in this brigade.

A comprehensive overview about life in Cuba and the differences with life in the U.S. was given by Mahtowin, a member of the 19th contingent. Teresa Gutierrez gave a rousing solidarity talk, reaffirming Workers World Party's support for Nicaragua, besieged by the U.S. contra war. Picture: above the speakers, back row from left, Sara Flounders, Pam Kirkland, Mahtowin; front from left, Pat Chin, Teresa Gutierrez, Susan Rotgart.

Kathy Dunklin
Comando sur poder hostil

La Administración Reagan asegura la continuación del modelo de dominación, pero con nuevas modalidades estratégicas.

1. Impulsaba una política exterior que busca integrarse con la perspectiva militar de dominio del orbe.

2. Pugnó por el restablecimiento pleno del poder militar de los Estados Unidos, visualizando la superioridad militar como su eje de relación con el campo socialista y el resto del mundo.

Triángulo de la intervención

En un espacio más geográfico el Comando Sur se integra a una coordinación regional en la sanción de las Fuerzas de despliegue Rápido, FDR, y de logística, entrenamiento y coordinación a nivel de guerra y poder militar en la región, con la intervención de los militares para controlar el espacio aéreo, los mercados y las fuentes de recursos estratégicos de los países en conflicto.

Junto al Potomac

El centro nervioso de este complejo es un edificio financiado junto al río Potomac en Washington: el Pentágono.

Treinta mil empleados usan 52 kilómetros de pasillo de esta instalación, sede del Departamento de Defensa de los Estados Unidos.

El 17 de enero de 1965 el entonces presidente de los Estados Unidos, Lyndon B. Johnson, anunció el lema de la guerra de Vietnam: "Estados Unidos no se quedarán a la izquierda." El supuesto estatal para la defensa se llamaba "El proyecto militares" y los monopolios privados crearon el edificio para albergar al ejército.

Los supuestos estatales para la defensa se llaman "El proyecto de la guerra" y los monopolios privados crearon el edificio para albergar al ejército.

El proyecto de la guerra se llama "El proyecto de la guerra" y los monopolios privados crearon el edificio para albergar al ejército.

Maniobra popular por el asesinato de Carmen Coria en Perth Amboy

Por Santiago Manque-Milla

El sábado 30 de julio se llevó a efecto una manifestación en contra de la brutalidad policial y el racismo imperante en Perth Amboy, además de exigir justicia por el asesinato de Carmen Coria, cien años de maestra, de 680 euros, quien se encuentra en libertad y continúa robando su salario sin que las autoridades lo den niegan ninguno de los casos de sanción. Dejando en claro con esto que el fiscal que le va adelante esta pesquisa no tiene ningún interés en esclarecer dicho crimen, demostrando así el carácter repressivo de la justicia que hoy impera en Perth Amboy.

Sin embargo, el compromiso de las comunidades del condado fue que las movilizaciones tendrán que continuar hasta que haya justicia verdadera para Carmen Coria, Eddy Crawford y los demás quehuesos de la comunidad de Perth Amboy afectados por la brutalidad policial.

Pista de aterrizaje militar siendo construida por tropas estadounidenses en Honduras cerca de la frontera con Nicaragua, 1986.

Fracasa plan de agresión contra Nicaragua

Por Carlos Vargas

Centroamérica: Los cuatro go- biernos centroamericanos rechazan el plan norteamericano de los Estados Unidos de hacer un fuerte pronunciamento en contra de Nicaragua, acusando a estos de no haber cumplido con los acuerdos de Esquipulas II, según publicó el New York Times el 2 de agosto. El pronunciamiento acusatorio debería hacerse el lunes 1 de agosto en una reunión de los cancilleres de los países centroamericanos (exceptuando el de Nicaragua) con el Secretario de Estado norteamericano, George Shultz en Guate- mala.

Un enviado especial de Washington, Morris D. Bushy fue a centroamericana con el propósito de intimidar y presionar a estos gobiernos en su cruda agresión en contra del gobierno popular nicaragüense. En respuesta a todo esto, el presidente guatemalteco Vinicio Cereno aludió a la "independencia y neutralidad de su país mantenida por dos años, tras el derrocamiento de la dictadura militar en Guatemala. Mientras que su hermano, el costarricense Oscar Arias, que fue el constructor del plan de paz Esquipulas, pidió a la región deberían solucionarse dentro del marco centroamericano, sin la injerencia de los Estados Unidos, eschauizado con esto los planes agresivos de la administración Reagan.

A la respuesta negativa de los gobiernos de Guatemala y Costa Rica, sobre la petición estadounidense, el gobierno norteamericano aumenta las presiones sobre estos dos países. En un comunicado del 2 de agosto, emitido por el partido Demócrata Cristiano del presidente Cerezo, afirmó que si Guatemala no se unía al plan de contra Nicaragua, los Estados Unidos tomarían reparas económicas en contra del país. Esto demuestra el interés único de la administración Reagan, de encontrar una excusa para seguir apoyando al contra somocista, y continuar la guerra de agresión en contra de Nicaragua.