BOYCOTT GRAPE!
The hunger strike by Cesar Chavez has entered its third week. The Farmworkers union leader is demanding that grape growers end the use of deadly pesticides.

TEXAS INJUSTICE!
Hundreds marched in Hemphill, Texas, where three cops beat an unnamed Black man to death.

FREE SHARON KOWALSKI
In over 20 cities actions were held in support of Sharon Kowalski, a disabled lesbian being forcibly held against her wishes in Minnesota.

A LABOR VICTORY
Three decades after unionists first began a fight for it, a new law now requires companies to give notice of layoffs and shutdowns.

EQUALITY OF NATIONS
Socialism and the equality of nations is the focus in the continuing series examining the current changes taking place in the USSR. Sam Marcy writes on the meaning of the 1986 rebellion in Kazakhstan.

PALESTINE WILL WIN!
West Bank Palestinians are anxious to take over the administration of their own land following the recent exit of Jordan's King Hussein. Optimism and confidence is being expressed not only by the militant youth, but even by those who have the most to lose.

Gentrification stops here!
New York City community defends park against police riot

By Michele Finkelstein and Michael Swietnicki
New York

Following an all-night battle with the police on Aug. 6-7, residents of the Lower East Side here won a key victory over the pro-landlord administration of New York City Mayor Ed Koch and against the ongoing attempts to gentrify them out of their own neighborhood, a multinational community of Latino, Black, Native, Asian and white people.

Koch had tried to impose a 1 a.m. curfew on Tompkins Square Park. By the afternoon of Aug. 7, Koch was forced to lift the curfew.

The struggle began as a community protest against years of gentrification, racism, police harassment and homelessness. The immediate reason was the curfew, which was ruthlessly enforced by the cops. The protest developed into a battle for the streets between the police and the people of the Lower East Side.

A militant, multinational crowd numbering over a thousand came out to defend the park. The police responded by mobilizing over 450 of their troops and a helicopter. Club-swinging cops attacked everyone indiscriminately, beating protesters, residents and bystanders alike.

Angry over the closing of the park and an earlier police attack on an anti-curfew protest the week before, residents had gathered for the 10 p.m. protest.

Swept up in the chaos, as the crowd turned to re-enter the park the police charged and the crowd broke and ran.

Nearly 70 cops mounted on and off, charged through the streets, swinging clubs and randomly beating anyone within range. Residents and protestors were beaten around the head, face and ribs by the police, who screamed racist and sexist slurs at the people of the neighborhood. The cops had removed their badges so that they could not be identified. The media reported 54 were injured, but since the majority of those who were injured did not receive medical attention, community leaders are estimating that the injuries number in the hundreds. People were chased into doorways, pulled off stoops, bloodied, beaten and knocked unconscious as the police continued their assault.

The area resembled a battleground as a police helicopter flew dangerously low and level, creating a wind strong enough to break windows and knock down people in the streets.

As the wind from a helicopter whipped dirt and debris into the faces of these reporters, Joann Taktikos, a neighborhood squatter, said, "I was just sitting in the park and the cops grabbed me by my hair and dragged me out of the park. I live in a squat and I rely on a park like this. All the people who sleep—where do they all gonna go?" As the helicopter hovered over our heads, Joann raised her fists in anger.

Despite rampant police brutality, the people of the Lower East Side heroically stood their ground, grouping and regrouping throughout the night. Handwritten and painted signs carried the message that what began as a protest into a united community-wide uprising as even people who were not involved in the protest joined in when they witnessed their friends and neighbors being savagely beaten by the cops.

Everyone in the community is united against the forced gentrification.
NYU strike deadline. Clerical and technical workers at New York University (NYU), the biggest private university in the U.S., have set a strike deadline for the end of August. The 1,500 workers, 70% women and 50% Black, Latina, Asian, Native and Arab, have been without a contract since last November. Some of these workers faced homelessness because pay is so low. Margarita Aguilar, president of AFT Local 3982, said this year started with an indictment of the housing system in New York but is an indictment of NYU which, through its low salaries and poor benefits, forces people like Linda Washington into poverty." Linda Washington is a NYU worker who is homeless because she can't afford to afford an apartment. Her struggle recently received some media attention. The strike date is set to coincide with full registration at NYU.

Support Mexican workers. Trade unionists from the U.S. went to Juárez, Mexico earlier this summer to show support for strikers at a maquiladora (a multinational corporation's factory exploiting Mexican workers at bare subsistence wages)—the Eureka Co.'s vacuum cleaner parts fac- tory. The 1,200 workers, who had not walked off their demanding two-wage-increase—get they less than $25 per week—and were met with tear gas attacks from the police and company goons. The U.S. labor support included a donation of several thousand pounds of food and participation in a daylong rally by members of the Teamsters, Communications Workers, Shoe, Metal Workers, Steelworkers and others, and from the AFL-CIO, led by El Paso AFL-CIO president Vic- tor Monzor.

Eastern Air struggle. With the unions at Eastern Airlines fighting for their lives, the latest round went to the workers—but the union-buster of the skies is poised to win. The Machinists and Air Line Pilots unions obtained a temporary injunction prevent- ing Eastern's layoff of up to 10,000 workers until Aug. 19. The unions say these layoffs, which would discard 12% of the airline's workforce, are entirely designed to intimidate the remaining workers into accepting drastic conces- sions, while at the same time allowing parent company Texas Air to shift more flights to its union-affiliated Continental Airlines. Union lawyers pre- sented the court with a confidential union memo obtained, which argues for the strategic "shock value" of Eastern's layoffs and restructuring as a means of undermin- ing the...
Capitalist greed washes up poisons on East Coast beaches
By Sharon Shelden

August 9—For people who live in the big cities along the East Coast, the beaches have traditionally offered refuge from the heat and the ever-approaching pollution of summer. Even on week-
day evenings, entire households of women and children all too painfully know that the beaches began to be closed, shut down by a virtual tidal wave of needles, sy-
ringes, pills and other hospital refuse as well as by dangerously high bacteria levels in the water.

What is behind this disaster that has made this summer particularly bad? It is a combination of the neglect by the city, state or federal leaders that has allowed the poisons to become more widespread, and the failing of the public to clean up.

Government officials have been generally bad. New York Health Commis-
sioner Stephen Joseph, for example, publicly proclaimed that the need for action was "not urgent" in the water by "local junkies," while other officials blamed the bacteria on the public, noting that too many people throw their trash into the streets of New York City. The city has performed no significant cleaning up.

The residents, however, are far beyond "local junkies" and rain. Medical

Tompkins Sq.
Continued from page 1

sion of the neighborhood being or-
chestrated by the big landlords, Mayor Koch, who is closely tied to the landlords, and the police.

Several cops seized a young man who was taking pictures of the police riot, smashed his camera, drew his gun and threw him to the ground and began to kick him while a woman on a nearby street shouted, "Stop them! We won't let you get away with this!"

As several of us crouched in a doorway while police ran by swinging clubs, a young man named Pete said that he had been evicted from his apartment. Gesturing toward the scene on the street, he said, "They've always been the rich against the poor. I'm disgusted with it."

That is exactly how the people of the Lower East Side feel—disgusted and angry at the cops as well as the real es-
tate developers whose interest they are serving.

The Lower East Side is a community that has long been under attack—an at-
tack called gentrification. For years the poor, oppressed and working people have been pushed farther and farther down the street by the real estate developers to make way for high-income dwellers. It has not al-
ways been this way.

The Lower East Side has always been a poor and working-class area. It was tradi-
tionally a place where each new wave of poverty had a chance to live, bringing with them their own cul-
tures and traditions. It has been a com-

munity where people of different cul-
tures and ethnicities have lived to-
gether in harmony.

The real estate developers and wealthy newcomers view the long-time residents as well as the neighborhood a rich cultural heritage as something to be swept away, a broom if possible, a crime against the city. The complaints that the police claim

as the reason for the imposition of the curfew came from places like Christodora. For decades Christodora was a community center, free to all, open and to all. Recently it was sold to private developers who converted it into condominiums selling for $500,000 and up.

The struggle on the Lower East Side is a prime example of how the city gov-
ernment—be it the state, the city or the developers and the police work together against poor and working people.

It is also a prime example of community—Black, Latino, Asian, Na-
tive and white, young and old, women and men, lesbian, gay and straight—can join together in struggle against the forces of gentrification and oppression for their rights as a community.

Ricardo Thomas, a protester and Lower East Side resident, summed up the spirit of this community rebellion when he said, "This is my park. This is our park. Black, white, Latino, young and old, we're out here to defend it and we're staying today."

Maggie Vascasenno, Workers World Party candidate for the New York State Assembly in a district that includes much of the Lower East Side, said, "We are becoming a more and more openly racist and brutal in their harassment and intimidation in order to gentrify communities through out this city."

"The people are ready to fight back. The time is now to unite all parts of the community in all parts of the city to fight for democracy and to protect our neighborhood from an end to racial harassment and lesbian and gay oppression. The community should stand together."

A victory march to Washington Square Park was held Aug. 7. A community meeting on Monday, Aug. 8, was held in preparation for a meeting on Wednesday with city officials. Meet-
ings will continue during the week and a schedule for Saturday, Aug. 13, at 10 p.m. at

- a half miles from Macedonia Bap-

tist Church to the center of town. Many astonishment residents listened to his address. "Hemphill, Hemphill have you heard, that is not Johannesburg." "Tom, Billy and Bo, racist cops have got to go."

-Racist cops have got to go!

The marchers rallied under huge oak trees at the courthouse. Although sev-
eral individuals from Hemphill were in the march, many were afraid to join in. A white resident and participant in the march explained, "There's a lot of them that the blacks just wasn't done at the trial, but they're afraid of getting shot if they come out here today."

When asked why he picked his wife, the two cops responded by beating him unconscious and then placing him in a cell without medical attention. Two days later he died in a Tyler hospital of brain damage caused by multiple blows to the head.

In response to this racist injustice, delegations came from Beaumont, Dal-
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doches, Newton and Pine. The spirited crowd marched one

Rights march in Hemphill, Texas, demands justice in police killing

March demands justice for Loyal Garner, Jr., killed by Texas police.

By Deborah Charles

Hemphill, Texas

August 6—"No justice, no peace!" was the battle cry heard throughout the tiny town of Hemphill, Texas, today. Over 300 demonstrators marched in near-100 degree heat to protest the ac-
quittal of the former police chief and two former deputy sheriffs.

On July 15, the three former law off-
cers were acquitted of violating Loyal Garner Jr.'s civil rights. Garner, a 34-
year-old Black man from Florian, La., was arrested for allegedly driving while intoxicated.

When Garner asked his police wife, the two cops responded by beating him unconscious and then placing him in a cell without medical attention. Two days later he died in a Tyler hospital of brain damage caused by multiple blows to the head.

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ers...
Abortion rights victory. Chanting "Our bodies, our lives, our right to decide!" women's rights activists recently confronted anti-abortionists misnamed "Operation Concern" at a recent northern California gathering. The bigots had planned to shut down several clinics in the Bay Area. Hitman Grant Loans. They met such right to choose, the anti-abortionists were forced to call off other planned actions.

Zoe Kaeli

Racism of Detroit-area banks guts city’s economic growth

By Jerry Goldberg

Detroit

The normally hidden role of the banks in destroying entire neighborhoods and restricting economic development in this hard-hit, two-thirds Black city was recently exposed in a series of stories in the Free Press.

Banks and savings institutions in Detroit make home loans in the city's white middle-income neighborhoods at three times the rate of similar Black neighborhoods with comparable median incomes. The lending gap between white and Black neighborhoods increased every year from 1983 until it reached the three-to-one ratio in 1986. In addition, in 19 major Detroit development projects, built since 1980 and costing more than $560 million, local banks put up only $65 million or 10.7% of the dollars needed. Unlike in other cities, and although Detroit is a leading recipient of federal grants, local banks will provide little financing for major projects.

Banks won't lend in Detroit

Detroit banks rank lowest in relation to banks in four other comparable cities in the percentage they lend to develop- ment projects backed by Federal Urban Development Action Grants. The difference in percentages is dramatic—Cleveland, 40.5%; Chicago, 38%; St. Louis, 24.4%; and Detroit banks only 14.6%.

The Free Press pointed out that since 1980, Detroit area banks made the fewest Small Business Administration loans among the country's largest cities.

The city of Detroit has been forced to return apartment rehabilitation money to the federal government at a greater rate than any other comparable city. Detroit is designated to match bank loans, but Detroit banks don't loan. For the same reason, the FHA home loan program that allows low down payments by home buyers is also not used as much in Detroit.


The seven companies had total assets of $79 billion. They employ 40,600 workers, many in downtown Detroit, yet combined these banks have a total of six Black people on their Boards of Directors out of 114 total board members.

The action of Detroit banks clearly violates the federal Community Reinvestment Act of 1977. This law requires financial institutions to demonstr- ate that "they serve the convenience and needs of the communities in which they are chartered to do business."

Banks foster Detroit's depression

Detroit has been in a continuous de- pression for years. Abandoned houses proliferate throughout this city and apartment buildings are left vacant while 27,000 are homeless. Shut-down factories and stores are everywhere in a city where Black and Arab people and many others once migrated because of its decent-paying un- ion jobs. The official unemployment rate in Detroit has been above 20% since 1982, with the rate currently at 38%.

Community organizations, including the NAACP, the Michigan Leader- ship Conference, Detroit Association of Black Organizations, SCCL, and Metro-Detroit AFL-CIO have formed a new coalition to challenge the racist practices of the banks and their dis- investment from the city of Detroit.

The crisis in Detroit demands a bold political response. The billions in bank assets are a direct result of the labor of the workers in Detroit as well as their deposits. But millionaire banks in suburbia have used that money to run the banks themselves while ignoring the basic survival of Detroit and its popula- tion. There's a good reason why Marx said one of the first acts of any socialist re- volution should be the seizure of the banks. Only such an action can insure that the billions in assets that are de- rived from the workers and community can be utilized to meet the needs of the people.
Case of disabled lesbian draws nationwide support

‘Free Sharon Kowalski Day’ marked in over 20 cities

By Leslie Feinberg

August 7—“Free Sharon Kowalski Day” was commemorated in more than 20 cities today, bringing together disabled and able-bodied people—lesbian, gay and straight—to demand her release from a nursing home in Hibbing, Minnesota, where she has been kept by her father for three years. This pre-<br>cedent-setting case involves the rights of adults who are developmentally disabled and the legal and social valuation of the relationships of lesbians and gay men.

Sharon Kowalski’s life changed in November 1983 when her car was hit by a drunk driver, leaving her severely injured. Although Kowalski and her lover, Karen Thompson, had exchanged rings and bought a house together, when Thompson arrived at the hospital the night of the accident, she reports that she “couldn’t find out if the person I loved most in the world was alive or dead because I was not blood ‘tied’ to her.”

Thompson, a physical education professor with a background in physical therapy, began working with Kowalski, who soon regained the ability to feed herself, read, write and type responses to questions. Affidavits filed by health professionals stress that Karen was kept to Sharon’s recovery.

But when Kowalski’s parents learned of the nature of the two women’s relationship, they tried to block Thompson from visiting and moved Kowalski to a hospital farther north, which has inadequate facilities for rehabilitation of her type of disability. Thompson filed a motion to be named legal guardian, but failed.

Twenty-four hours after Kowalski’s father was named guardian he reportedly told Thompson she could never visit her daughter again.

‘Help get me out of here’

Karen Thompson says she lives with the memory of her last meeting at the hospital when Sharon typed, “Help me, get me out of here.” Since then, she has been barred from seeing her lover for three long years since then.

Thompson filed a motion in District Court in Duluth, Minn., asking that Kowalski’s capabilities be tested and that she be legally “restored to capacity,” which would give Kowalski complete control over her own life’s course. Last month a court in Hibbing ordered a new set of mental tests to determine Kowalski’s “competency” to select her own attorney and visits.

Support network grows

Actions today, the day before Kowalski’s 32nd birthday, included vigils, rallies, marches and street theater and birthday parties in Boston, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York City, Seattle, Colorado Springs, N.Y., Louisville, Nashville, Portland, Ore., Pittsburgh, Tallahassee, Houston, New York and Madison, Wis.

This weekend major articles on this landmark case for disability and gay rights appeared in the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, New York Daily News and many other local newspapers as well as receiving airtime on numerous electronic news programs across the country.

Activists from California, Colorado, New York, Boston, Minneapolis, Maine, New Jersey and Washington D.C. met in Minneapolis earlier this year to plan a continuing support campaign. This was the second meeting of the Brown-Sharon Kowalski Home Committee—formed the day before the Oct. 11 March on Washington for lesbian and gay rights in order to build a national network.

Jesse Jackson said during his recent presidential campaign, “I wish to express my support for Ms. Thompson. Ms. Thompson has been infinitely patient but there comes an end to patience with a system that is unfair and unjust. It’s my fervent hope that very soon we will be able to end Sharon Kowalski’s nightmare.”

Fight opens vs Circle K Corp.

Giant company stops insurance for people with AIDS

By Shelley Ellinger

Gay men who have AIDS and who work for the Circle K Corporation, the second-biggest convenience store chain in the country, are no longer covered by the company’s health care plan. Neither are IV drug users with AIDS.

The policy, which went into effect earlier this year, came to light in early August when Circle K workers contacted lesbian and gay rights and civil liberties groups.

AIDS activists and supporters immediately notified Circle K and simultaneous demonstrations are planned for Aug. 9 at Circle K offices in New York City and several other cities in the Southwest.

The same week the Circle K move reached the news, President Reagan gave the green light to discriminate against people with AIDS by refusing to adopt the strong measures enjoined by his own hand-picked commission. The commission had recommended as its strongest measure an executive order against discrimination.

Reagan chose to sign a statement saying that he personallydoesn’t like discrimination and doesn’t think any one else should. It is a clear statement to big business and the insurance industry that they do not discriminate, nothing will be done by the government to stop them.

Anti-gay, anti-worker

Twenty-six thousand Circle K workers receive medical coverage directly from the company rather than through a third-party insurer. So the nonunion chain uninterruptedly and quietly took an action that could cut off insurance. From a whole it has been itching to take for some time, but which has been prevented by the strength of the AIDS activist movement.

The rationale for Circle K’s medical cutoff of people with AIDS is that they are a result of “personal lifestyle decisions.” For the same reason, the company informed employees, illnesses related to alcohol or drug use will no longer be covered.

Charles Shoemaker, Circle K’s vice president for human resources, told reporters that the move was made to protect圈K’s medical coverage to people who contracted AIDS through blood transfusions and to any woman “who unknowingly contracted the disease from her spouse.”

But as for gay men who have AIDS, Shoemaker said, “There are certain life-style decisions that we are just not going to consider for the sake of the public’s health.”

Maggie Vascaszenno, center, Workers World Party candidate for New York City’s 61st State Assembly District.

Lesbian candidate for NY Assembly urges ‘Manhattan Project’ to stop AIDS

By Mahltown New York

August 5—Workers World Party hit the streets again today to kick off the campaign of Maggie Vascaszenno, Workers World Party candidate for New York State Assembly in Manhattan’s 61st District, which includes Greenwich Village and the Lower East Side.

Vascaszenno, a lesbian activist who has been involved in progressive struggles for over a decade, was cheered by the crowd gathered at Sheridan Square when she called for a “Manhattan Project to find the cure for AIDS and fund care for people with AIDS. Workers World wants the billions spent on Star Wars to be used for healthcare. We demand people before profit!”

Workers World presidential candidate Larry Holmes, another speaker at the campaign rally, stressed “the need for poor and working people to build an independent movement to fight for a Workers Party that has a vision of a big business Republican and Democratic parties.”

Other people spoke about the problems that they face every day—sexism, racism, homophobia, a lack of childcare and healthcare—and how socialism can resolve those problems.

Hundreds of signatures were gathered to help put Vascaszenno, Holmes and other Workers World candidates on the ballot.
Cesar Chavez on hunger strike, demands grape growers end use of pesticides

By Gloria La Riva
San Francisco

August 8—Widespread support is gathering for Cesar Chavez, leader of the United Farm Workers who began the 23rd day of his water-only hunger strike in the farming town of Delano today, to protest grape growers' widespread use of five dangerous pesticides.

The refusal of state governments and growers to curb the use of pesticides in the fields has led to alarming rates of cancer and birth defects among farmworkers and their children. In McFarland, one small Chicoano town near Delano, 13 children have been diagnosed with rare cancers, four times the rate of nearby areas. Six of the children have died.

This is the third time that Chavez has fasted. In 1968 he fasted for 25 days to protest violence against farmworkers who were trying to organize and in 1972 he fasted 24 days against an Arizona law that restricted boycotts. Doctors have expressed concern about his health. His kidneys show beginning signs of failure.

Supporters say he is in high spirits as hundreds of people are sending letters and calling to say they're taking action to support the grape boycott. Also, today more than 200 workers showed their solidarity by visiting Chavez, including Lou Diamond Phillips, Luis Valdez, Morgan Fairchild, Martin Sheen, Emilio Estevez, Eddie Albert and Robert Blake.

Farmworkers are most exploited
Howard Wallace, field representative for the UFW in San Francisco, told Workers World, “The struggle by the farmworkers to ban pesticides is an environmental and consumer as well as a worker issue. Farmworkers are some of the most exploited workers, and they face very real dangers to cultivate and harvest the food that we sometimes take for granted. This is our chance to help them and ourselves. That’s why we are urging people to ‘adopt a store’ and tell their nearby store to stop carrying table grapes.”

Wallace explained that most of the chemicals are absorbed into the grapes and can’t simply be washed away. The grape boycott calls for growers to honor collective bargaining elections and collective bargaining with the UFW. The UFW also wants joint testing and monitoring of pesticides by the union and growers.

The five pesticides are captan, dinoseb, methyl bromide, parathion and phosdrin. According to the UFW, “Dinoseb is highly toxic and causes work- ers’ deaths. Captan is a cancer- and birth-defect-producing agent which contaminates the food supply.” Dinoseb is the only pesticide of the five that is banned in California, but it is used in other states.

Dr. Martin Moses, medical adviser of the UFW’s Farmworkers Health Group, said of methyl bromide, “It has been responsible for more occupation- ally-related deaths than any other single pesticide in California. Terrible cancer developed in young men who worked in a plant that manufactured that pesticide.” Ten million pounds of methyl bromide are used annually in California.

Union only assurance of safety
The dangerous working conditions for farmworkers who harvest grapes is largely due to the fact that the growers refuse to sign contracts with the union. There are presently no contracts between the UFW and grape growers. Part of the goal of boycotting table grapes is to force this substantial sec- tion of California agriculture to recognize farmworkers’ rights to a union and safe working conditions.

As agriculture reaps billions in dollars of profits, the exploitation of farmworkers throughout the country is also growing. A victory for workers in the vineyards, with community back- ing of the boycott, will contribute greatly to beat back the agribusiness assault on farmworkers and their un- ions, the UFW and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee. Boycott all table grapes! Viva la huelga!

Kits are available from the union with information on how to get grapes out of grocery stores. Write to UFW Boycott Group, Box 62, Keene, Calif. 93531.

Fines against International Paper show high level of greed, human disregard
By Phil Wilayto

The struggle against the Interna- tional Paper Co. (IP) continues, with the courage and determination of 3,400 striking or locked out workers pitted against the arrogance of the wealthiest paper products company in the world.

In Jay, Maine, IP has agreed to pay a $873,000 fine for hundreds of safety violations. In a July 27 consent agreement finalized between IP and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in Washington, D.C., the company denied all violations, but pledged not to contest the settlement.

In return, OSHA agreed not to classify any of the more than 200 violations as willful, as originally planned to fines the company $1.5 million for 29 willful violations. OSHA’s inspection of IP was aided by a near-fatal chemical leak last fall that led to the evacuation of over 4,000 townspersons. The consent agreement was condemned by the union as fallacious for seven of a adequate punishment for the com- pany.

"Someone should go to jail for the dis- regard of human life,” said John Catalinotto, President of the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU).

Small fine for death in the mill
A week after this settlement, OSHA fined IP $11,000 for the death of a ma- chinist at the Jay mill on May 29. The fine is a little less than three-and-a-half days’ pay for IP Chief Executive Officer John George.

This is a very small price to pay for a human life,” commented Local 14 spokesperson Pete Bernhard. “If someone shoots a bald eagle, the fine is $10,000 and they lose their gun. Here IP has taken a human life, the fine was $11,000, and IP still has the gun.”

Mobile workers owed $25 million
In Mobile, Ala., IP is appealing a ruling by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) that the company’s re- placement of its maintenance workers with scabs last year had been illegal since the workers had been locked-out by the company at the time. The board ordered IP to pay back wages that could amount to over $25 million. A federal judge is scheduled to hear the case in Mobile Sept. 19.

And in Lock Haven, Pa., where a judge’s injunction prohibits the gathering of more than five workers in the "vicinity" of the mill’s gates, the state po- lice are now saying that “in the vicinity” means the entire southern section of town—an area that just happens to include the local union’s hall.

In Pennsylvania it’s like martial law
While it doesn’t look like this will a- ffect union meetings, the cops are saying that it will mean they can arrest strik- ers who gather on streets or in back- yards in the area, if the number of strik- ers cause the picket gates comes to over six people!

“Our freedom of speech has been taken away—it’s just like martial law,” Ron Jones, treasurer of UPIU Local 1787 told Workers World. “I feel like we should fight it—just go down there to the gates, and if they arrest us, just declare bankruptcy.” Jones lives within the area now delimited as “in the vicinity.”

Why unemployment figures
By John Catalinotto

If it’s so good, why does it hurt so much? That’s the question people are asking when they compare the official unemployment rate with the suffering they see on the streets.

Official employment may have dropped from over 10% to just 5.3% over the past four years. But this does not mean to be as many homeless, as many mil- lions living below the poverty level and more youth on the streets with no future ahead of them. Some reports appear in late July and early August point out some trends that explain why the “improved” official figures only hide the real weak- nesses of the capitalist economy. Some of these trends were especially sharp in New York City and in a number of other major cities like Baltimore and Detroit.

45.3% outside work force
In New York, 45.3% of residents over the age of 16 are outside the work force. This compares to 45.0% nationwide. This means that there is a large num- ber of people—whether disabled, dis- couraged or simply ill-prepared to find work—who do not even attempt to find jobs. These people are ignored by the offi- cial employment figures.

According to the Aug. 3 New York Times, this “trend is most troubling among young people.” For youth 16-19 years old in New York, only 22.9% are in the workforce.

Some estimate that there are as many as 150,000 young people between 16 and 21 years of age in New York who are neither going to work nor going to
New law requires notice of layoffs, shutdowns
Plant closing bill gives handle for fighting corporate attacks

By Robert Dobrow

For the first time, national legislation has been enacted forcing companies to provide notice to workers of layoffs or shutdowns. The plant closing bill became law at midnight Aug. 13. It orders employers who lose jobs in a plant closing or layoff to notify employees 60 days ahead of time. The bill gives employees the chance to find new jobs or to appeal the layoffs.

This bill is by no means perfect. It does not contain everything that the labor movement reaped for or desperately needs during this period of widespread shutdowns. But it does offer important protections for workers.

There are all too many cases of men and women who have gone to work in the morning only to find a padlock on the plant gate and a note on a bulletin board telling them they'd been fired.

When General Motors announced hundreds of shutdowns, the workers were not given a chance to save their jobs. They were simply locked out and left with nothing. Now, at least, workers who lose their jobs will be given the chance to appeal the layoffs.

Workers now get two days

That such a law is sorely needed in this country is shown by the fact that workers today, on the average, receive two days notice of layoffs and closings. Labor Department statistics show that more than 300 of those laid off get no notice at all. Almost one million workers who were discharged from their jobs last year would be covered by the new measure.

Congress debates minimum wage after 7-year decline

Workers World's Larry Holmes urges $10 an hour guarantee

By Lailian Stein

More than 8 million workers earn the minimum wage of $3.35 an hour. In addition, another 6 million make only slightly above the minimum. Also, there is a loophole that allows some bosses to pay the workers only 85% of the minimum. Yet, the minimum wage hasn't been raised since 1981 while the cost of living has gone up 32%.

Statistically a minimum wage earner is most likely a woman working in one of the service industries; a disproportionate number are Black or Latin. They are adults, 84% are age 18 or older.

The service sector, which has grown rapidly, now includes 71% of the workforce, reports the AFL-CIO. Among those who earn minimum wage or below, 60% are service workers.

Sixty percent of minimum wage earners are women. Many are the single head of a household keeping to fight a roof over their heads while providing adequate nutrition and care for their children. Working 40 hours a week for 52 weeks a year, such a woman will receive $8,968 before taxes, substantially below the poverty line.

Add to this the problems of holding down a job. Many bosses who pay the minimum also have a policy of taking their fringe benefits and the fringe benefits they owe their work.
August 8—Often in discussions on the rights of nations to self-determina-
tion, there is a tendency to forget the ultimate objective: to achieve the equality of all nations. Likewise with the furtherance of the cause of the small, struggling nation, it must be anticipated that with the exception of the USSR, which has 48.5 million lakes!

Khrushchev's 'virgin lands' and the Kazakhs

Even Khrushchev, in his memoirs (Khrushchev Remembers), edited and translated by Strobe Talbott with an introduction by Henry Kissinger, published by Little Brown & Co., 1970, is forgetful of the Kazakhs when he writes about his famous "virgin lands" campaign in

Kazakhstan, its successes and difficulties.

You can imagine the difficulties that the virgin lands campaign posed for a family which had to be picked up and moved from the home where it had lived for generations. It was a great hardship for them, but we had to resettle many such families—Ukrainians, Byelorussians and Russians—leaving behind thousands of kilometers from the graves of their ancestors. Enormous material expenditures went into the re-

settlement campaign. Among other things, we had to give credit loans and financial aid to the youth who went out to build settlements in the virgin lands. We
decided to do what we could.
The virgin lands campaign was a colossal one, aimed, as the Great Soviet Encyclopedia says, at "the reutilization of the Kazakh people and hindering the development of its national economy and culture." The migration policies of
czarism had an effect in the disintegration of the

Virgin Lands

The Virgin Lands

Lenin's stand on autonomy in 1922

The issue of autonomy or equality of nations was the subject of a debate be-
tween Lenin and another要不要 put an end to, the
development of philosophy in both the US and the
capitalist development in the USSR. It was


The term "autonomization" had come out of discussions on bringing all
the Soviet republics into the RSFSR (Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic) on principles of autonomy.

In Lenin's view, autonomy was inadequate.

Subsequently, the First Congress of the Union of Soviet Socialist Repub-
lics (1922) which incorporated the conscrition, i.e., equality of all the union republics. Today this is a provision of the Soviet constitution and there are 15 union republics, as well as the autonomous republics and national districts.

Kazakhstan is one of the 15 repub-
lics, officially called the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic. It is the second larg-
est republic in area in the USSR and the third largest in population.

As of January 1, 1975, it had more than 14 million people. Now the popu-
lation has substantially increased. It is a vast stretch of land, very rich in
minerals and other raw materials, in-
cluding coal, copper, lead, and tungsten. To get an idea of the vastness and diversity of the land, Minnesotans pride themselves on being the "vale of the 10,000 lakes," but Kazakhstan has 48,500 lakes!

Khrushchev's 'virgin lands' and the Kazakhs

It is of course true that the Kazakhs are scattered throughout the republics of the USSR, have innumerable nationalities. According to The Great Soviet Encyclopedia (1975), the native population is composed of Kazakhs (4,234,000, 1970 census). However, the encyclopedia states that there were at that time substantial numbers of Russians (5,522,000) and Ukrainians (853,000) in the republic, nearly 1 million people from other parts of the USSR due to drought and the general harshness of the weather.

Changes in political leadership

Having said all this, and taking note of the hostile attitude of the imperialist countries and their ideologies, it is nec-

Khrushchev's virgin lands and the Kazakhs

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Lenin's stand on autonomy in 1922
Razumovsky, Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, took part in the work of the plenary session of the AII. Achmadov, a close associate of the late Kazakh First Secretary, was appointed to the post of the Commissioner for Science and Technology in the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR. He became a candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, having been elected to the CPSU in 1966 and later a full member.

Some of his published works deal with the theme of the practical situation and the twists and turns of the new state. His main works are the Order of Lenin, the Order of the Red Banner of Labor and various medals. These are some of the works of the great encyclopaedist of "Great Encyclopaedia".

His replacement, G. G. Khabis, is a Russian, not a Kazakh. He too has a distinguished career in the Soviet Communist Party. But those who follow Kazakh national interests are sensitive to organizational questions that involve personnel changes would have cause to be concerned about the implications of this change.

One cannot dismiss it all by asserting the obvious, that Russians are now the majority nationality in the Kazakh SSR. He is also a Russian, not a Kazakh. He too has a distinguished career in the Soviet Communist Party. But those who follow Kazakh national interests are sensitive to organizational questions that involve personnel changes would have cause to be concerned about the implications of this change.

Finally, the question arises as to whether all this was not done under pressure from the Gorbachev administration. As we noted earlier, G. P. Razumovsky, the secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, also took part in this session. So we have two high-ranking officials of the Soviet government actively participating in the decisions of a union republic central committee, in deliberations which are generally the exclusive province of the central committee of the union republic.

Late, another member of the Politburo, M. S. Solomentsev, chairman of the CPSU Central Committee's Control Commission, was also there.

The Control Commission should, in any member, deal with disciplinary and personnel matters as well as security ones.

Altogether, three top-ranking members of the Soviet Central Committee were involved in a very critical decision which again would normally be the province of the Kazakhstan Central Committee.

A careful examination of this development and the operation of national policy should have created hesitation before making such a decision. It would have involved a genuine national policy having serious significance for the whole country to be justified. As it was, all that was told to the public was that Khabis was an official in the Ministry of Railways involved in retirement and pension.

Decision followed by rebellion in Alma-Ata

However, on Dec. 19, 1986, the readers of Pravda got a new view in a report from Alma-Ata. "Instigated by nationalist elements, a group of young students took to the streets in Alma-Ata yesterday evening and this afternoon to demand the recall of the leadership of the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee. However, it goes on to say that the national minorities in the republic, which has an extremely negative effect on the overall state of the region's development. "It is the Kazakh, the country of the Ministry of Electrification; he's talking about, but that of the USSR as a whole."

"Kazakhstan's Party organization has accepted as a highly important immediate task the creation on the basis of reserves of hydrocarbon raw materi- als, high-capacity steel mill, iron and steel, and gas complex. A special resolution on this question has been adopted by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers. "However, it is perfectly incompre- hensible to us why the Ministry of the Petroleum Industry, the Ministry of

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The meaning of the 1986 rebellion in Kazakhstan

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the Gas Industry and the Ministry for the Construction of Petroleum and Gas Industry Enterprises have set about the practical implementation of this resolution in a way that harks back to the old way, and without the proper sweep.

"The importance and promising nature of a new development in the west Kazakhstan also places on the agenda the task of implementing the design for the construction of a Volga-Ural pipeline, which was something of a life into a vast region of the country. The resolution of these questions will shape the structure of partments of our Party Central Committee as well.

He then went on to stress, "The further development of the economy requires drastic improvement in Kazakhstan's water supply. In this connection, it seems to us that questions of the development of the water resources of the Caspian Sea and with the ecology and economy of the regions adjacent to it, immediately become a matter to be postponed. They must be resolved as quickly and as effectively as possible, comrades, and not only for the sake of the present . . . [All emphases are ours.]

The substance of this speech is that it is a considerable way in proceeding huge projects that generally are favored by the republics which suffer from inequality in development as against the more industrialized ones.

Problem of intensive development vs. industrialization

This would pose a considerable problem for the Gorbachev administration, which is intent on slowing down the development of such projects and concentrating the financial and technical resources of the country on utilizing high technology in selective areas, the ultimate aim being the development of the entire industrial infrastructure of the USSR. For the present, however, projects in which huge sums of money will be invested, very likely the projects to which Kuyanov referred in his speech, would be cut out or slowed down in favor of a problem that is the real problem for the Kazakhstan area.

It should be noted that all of Gorbachev's predecessors—Andropov, Brezhnev, and even and much earlier, Stalin — were promoters of industrial development and eagerly sought to employ high technology. In fact, it has been the basis for socialist construction in the USSR. Thus it can be seen that in this area, there is a growing belief that large projects could vitally affect the situation in Kazakhstan, where it is projects like this which would result in capital inflow to its present level. Rather than bring this out into the open, the Gorbachev administration handled it in an opportunistic manner, removing Kuyanov and his collaborators.

Accusations of corruption, favoritism

What is more, the struggle degenerated into one where the governing body was accused of corruption, arbitrariness, and lack of internationalism. This attack came in the form of a resolution of the CPSU Central Committee entitled "On the Work of the Kazakh Republic Party Organization in the Internationalist and Patriotic Struggle..."
Airbus coverup

When the U.S. ruling class commits a well-publicized crime, its first move is to blame a domestic minority for it. In this failure, it blames the workers for “human error.”

From train wrecks in New York to chemical poisoning in Bhopal, India, management investigations claim the error was not the fault of poor planning, of rushing to make a fast buck and putting safety last. No, the official reports blame “worker negligence.”

In July, the Pentagon claimed that the Pentagon handled the massacre of 290 innocent people in the drowning of Iran Air Flight 655.

First, the military brass, the Reagan and/or Gingrich-Blagojevich-Congress blamed the Iranians, relying on racism and nine years of wild, anti-Iran chauvinism.

Then the facts began to contradict the Pentagon’s lies. The flight was very well scheduled. It sent radar messages identifying its civilians. It was in its flight path. The USS Vincennes had no justifiable reason for shooting it down.

On Aug. 2, the military investigation of the mass murder moved to Plan B. To blame were not the Washington policymakers who sent the Vincennes to invade the Gulf. Nor was it the overpriced Aegis radar system that misidentified the plane. No, the report blamed the “workers,” in this case the Navy crew. Under stress, their first in a combat situation, the radar operators locked and misidentified the Iranian Airbus as an attack fighter.

In other words, the Pentagon is repeating the same old story that workers who are victims of deaths and injuries caused by the drive to increase profits. And this too should be no surprise, because it was the very same class of drive for profits that was also behind the Gulf massacre.

The U.S. navy was ordered to the gulf to hold and grab oil profits and force oil prices up. The Pentagon had the war to “sell goods” but it needed grotesque war profits to feed the war machine, especially against Iran. The Pentagon officers lied to the sailors by telling them Iran was out to get them, that the Iranian planes were going to attack them. The same lie the Pentagon spread to the American sailors. It lies squarely with Washington and the Pentagon bigwigs who devised the U.S. policy of aggression in the gulf and gave the orders to bomb the Iranians.

The Pentagon’s lie is the weapon in the oil magnates and bankers who lust for ever higher profits. They and their Pentagon servants are the real criminals, and the military investigation is just a coverup for another of their crimes.

Court assaults young women

The Reagan administration has been especially contemptuous of youth. Today Black and Latino teens have the highest unemployment rates. Reagan and his cronies have fought to pay down unemployment. And the Reagan/Reagan rightwing’s solution to the complex and pressing problems facing young people, from drugs to AIDS, is an insulting sloganspewing—“Just say no.”

Big government’s latest encroachment into the lives of young people concerns a woman’s right to control her own body. A federal appeals court has upheld a 1987 Indiana law requiring a 15-year-old age who want an abortion to notify both parents (even if they are divorced) or to get approval from a state judge.

The ruling, which could certainly make marriage hell for a young woman, could easily discourage legal abortions. At the same time, elected officials show great contempt for teenage women’s lives and motherhood.

While specifically targeting the young, who are most defenseless in the eyes of the law, this appeals court ruling is also an encroachment upon the abortion rights of all women, according to many progressive forces who want to fight this go from here.

The next legal step is to go to the Supreme Court. Some are expressing a reluctance to bring an abortion rights challenge for fear that the high Court’s Right will “tip the balance” and not only back the reactionary ruling, but also utilize it to further restrict reproduction rights.

Is there no other way? Though its justices are chosen for life, the Supreme Court is far from immune to public pressure, especially from a mass movement. An expanding movement and the politician who worker and the oppressed, is the force that has the most potential to bring about social justice in all spheres of life, from decent wages to ending racism to the right to abortion in the first place, and it is only the mass movement that can safeguard it.

Tomkins Square means fightback

Donald Trump and Edward Koch. The smooth, real estate speculator and the outspoken racist mayor. If anything symbolizes New York’s mixture of high finance and corruption, it is these two characters on the front page of some slick weekly.

For its entire history, the Koch administration has been locked in the service of the big real estate profiteers and the corporate decision to build a profitable development housing was built, hundreds of thousands were forced from their homes and whole communities uprooted. Real estate prices and rents have reached the stratosphere.

But the courage of an embattled New York neighborhood showed that behind the slick image of the rich and famous there is still the same arrogance of hirers and the gun and club of the cop.

To turn New York’s Lower East Side into a high rent area for Wall Street managers—and to make for a neighborhood that those whose livelihoods are riding on some of the worst slum housing—the working and poor people who live there have to leave. To hurry their departure, Koch has unleashed his cop army on the people.

With a heroic rebellion that united homeless people, squatters and long-time tenants as well as neighborhood visitors against the cops, the Lower East Side is fighting back. When the cops moved first battle over Tomkins Square Park, Koch has had to make concessions. He himself describes them as temporary.

The real tenants are watching this battle with the hope that it shows the way to halting gentrification and winning decent housing for working and poor people. The full battle for Tomkins Square for the tenants’ movement might well be: “Tomkins Square means fight back!”

Kazakhstan

Continued from page 9

The poverty in Kazakhstan is partly due to the legacy of imperialist policies, which is the root of its economic stagnation and the current political situation.

Great Russian dominance in Kazakhstan

The first and most critical is the property of the Politburo, which is composed primarily of Great Russians at this time, making the leader of a former empire the leader of the nation it is attempting to subdue, with the result that it is a gross attack, dismissing and placing him with a Russian. (It should be added that the former Party leader of Azerbaijani, Geldar Ali, was originally from Kazakhs.)

Kazakh officials had been violently expelled from 1987. They were then replaced by a new Politburo and Aliev, who was named to the Politburo during the Andropov administration, suffered the same fate as Kasayev and was removed in October of 1987. He and Kasayev had been the only representatives of the Bolsheviks of the Politburo of the Asian republics. They were tended to by the government.

Talking internationalism will be of no avail. It will be interpreted as Great Russian chauvinism and non-internationalism. It is talking down a form of oppression, and in any cases these accusations are made by a nation against another nation’s state.

It would be healthy if it were Kasayev, other Kazakhs, and other non-Russian Kazakh leaders to assume responsibility for internationalism and to fight the reactionary essence of Islam. Which is the essence of Islam is one victory is to avoid the issue of Great Russian chauvinists weaning down to and in fact dominating one of the smaller republics.

It is precisely what that is the subject of Lenin’s struggle in the last period of his life. And it was particularly to this question that the Twelfth Congress of the Russian Party in 1923 addressed one of its main resolutions. The Kasakh could just as well have announced the aspirations against Kasayev by recalling that the government group is for a considerable period of time promoting the art and literature of the Kasakh, the Kasakh literature and arts, the Kasakh Church, and the Kasakh culture of the Kasakh.

Harmonizing economic centralism with national democracy in the republics

Stalin leaves out a fundamental question involved in the dispute. The development of socialism requires economic centralism and socialist planning. But it is impossible to harmonize the remnants of the chaotic capitalist market forces and replace them with a completely socialist planned economy. It can only be done on a centralized but democratic basis.

The Gorbachev administration, however, is more in favor of harmonization of economic decentralization, even though it backs away from it now and then.

There may be a future. But for now, the government tries to preserve the remnants of centralized power by strengthening the state apparatus of repression. The state apparatus is in itself a combination of economic centralism and flexibility on the national question offers the best road for socialist development.

The USSR is a giant multinational state, has been able to exist and achieve such monumental tasks as defense and defense, without the multitude of rebellions which are a constant source of struggle in capitalist multinational states. The examples are there in itself in itself: a combination of economic support and flexibility on the national question offers the best road for socialist development.
Palestinians respond to pullout by Jordan’s King Hussein

‘This gives us autonomy, autonomy. That’s the answer here’

By Joyce Chiediac

The recent announcement by King Hussein of Jordan that he was relinquishing his claim on the West Bank to the Palestinian Liberation Organization is now being hailed by the big business press here as a ‘slap at the PLO.’

The media, which often functions as an arm of the Washington establishment, declared Hussein’s statement to be a clumsy maneuver designed to disguise the PLO by presenting it with a mission impossible—funding and administering the West Bank all by itself. Jordan has spent $100 million a year on the West Bank.

In making this assessment, the major media seem to have written off the struggle of Palestinians who live on the West Bank. It is not unusual for big business to underestimate the struggle of workers and oppressed people. The Palestinian people, however, are the ones who live on the West Bank and who will be affected by the PLO’s policies.

The PLO’s position is that it cannot govern the West Bank without the cooperation of the Palestinian people. Jordan’s King Hussein, on the other hand, has been fighting to keep control of the West Bank.

While there is a debate on the Palestinian question, there is no debate over the need for a Palestinian state. The struggle of the Palestinian people is crucial for the survival of the Palestinian people.

** Layoffs, shutdowns law

Continued from page 7

Effits and protections. Many workers are in the debate on the others are victims of minimum wage and sub-minimum wage super-exploitation. It is necessary to keep these workers to be covered by the law.

There are more service and clerical workers than ever before. They make up 40% of the workforce. They constitute a growing and dynamic section of the labor force who are underpaid, have few job protections, and have no benefits from a layoffs and plant closing.

** Minimum wage

Continued from page 7

Workers have a record of keeping workers an average of 60 days. And bosses who have hired trainees at 80% of the minimum follow a policy of not having them stay longer than 90 days and lay off the workers after 90 days so that they never reach even minimum wage levels.

Congress to vote on an increase

The organized labor movement has been fighting to increase the minimum wage. A bill has finally been introduced in Congress where it will be voted on during the coming weeks. Before it has even reached the floor of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the amount being proposed has been reduced to a piddling 40-cent increase for each of the next three years, bringing it to $4.54 by 1989. It also includes an exemption for the increase in Puerto Rico.

Reportedly, there is still opposition in Congress to this increase. All of the debate has centered on proof that those in Congress, who have never held back on increasing their own pay, are most interested in holding workers’ wages down than in guaranteeing a living wage.

Since 1981 top U.S. business executives have been reported to have a 30% increase in salaries and bonuses. The big bosses have made 31 times more than the average worker’s wage. The wage gap between the bosses and the workers has become twice as large as any other industrialized capitalist country in the world.

WFP demands $10 an hour

Larry Holmes, Workers World Party candidate for president in the 1988 elections, called both the present minimum wage and the increase being proposed in Congress “unhonoring, unmanaging, unpaying, not the answer here.”

Holmes pointed out that the amount bosses pay workers has nothing to do with the value of the goods and services that workers produce. Rather bosses hold wages down to the lowest level they can get away with at the same time maintaining an adequate workforce.

The difference in value between what the workers produce and what they get paid has reduced the bosses’ profit. In the last twelve years the standard of living of all working people has eroded. It helps the capitalists to depress the wages of workers, who are holding down the pay of the most super-exploited workers and by maintaining a pool of long-term unem- ployed labor.

Holmes’ election campaign calls for an immediate minimum wage increase to $10 an hour. “The guarantee of a living wage will benefit all working people,” he said.

** AIDS

Continued from page 5

AIDS is the same for IV drug users who have AIDS. For that matter, it’s your own fault if you have any kind of drug-related illness, as though that were your own choice.

The real issue is that diseases don’t discriminate—bosses do. And, with lesbian and gay, AIDS, and civil liberties groups all organizing to mount a campaign against it, Circle K management may live to regret its assault on workers’ rights to medical care.

ANC tells Buffalo, N.Y., meeting: “Dual power exists in South Africa”

Special to Workers World

Buffalo, N.Y.

“People’s power in the communities; dual power exists in the country; class warfare has broken out,” declared Winston Zinnel of the African National Congress (ANC). Addressing an enthusiastic meeting on July 29, Zinnel said that the only way for the apartheid regime to survive is by “unleashing unspeakable violence against the African people.”

The ban on the press by the South African government is precisely for “the purpose of trying to hide the fascist, anti-people violence.”

He stressed to the audience that it is the government in South Africa “that has closed off all of the avenues of peaceful struggle.” The government, he said, has encouraged or even protected the formation of “vigilante groups, assassins and death squads.”

Zinnel declared that the government strategy “cannot work because the ANC is harnessing the power of the masses to control the wealth they produce. There will be no compromise on this point.” He said that the ANC is entering the phase that will “see the recognition of the right of all the South Africans to govern themselves.”

A multinationa1 audience was at- tive and enthusiastic, chanting for the freedom of Nelson Mandela at the conclusion of the meeting. The fo- rum was sponsored by Workers World Party as part of a summer series.

The audience also heard an upbeat, two-hour presentation at a recent election campaign, Vera Spruill and Tom Scabill analyzed the recent Demo- cratic Convention and reported on the progress of the petition campaign to get the Workers World Party candidates on the ballot in New York state.
Uruguay y la lucha por una democracia popular

Por Carl Glenn
Y Santiago Manque-Milla

Uruguay es uno de los países más pequeños de Sudamérica con una población de más de 3,5 millones de habitantes. Es conocido por su cultura vibrante y su historia de resistencia contra la dictadura militar que duró desde 1973 hasta 1985. En ese período, los gobiernos militares llevaron a cabo una serie de represalias contra la población civil y los activistas político-sociales, lo que resultó en un aumento significativo de la violencia política.

Las elecciones presidenciales de 2004, en las que el candidato de izquierda, Tabaré Vázquez, ganó, marcaron un hito en la historia política del país. Esto fue posible gracias a la transparencia en el proceso electoral y a la inclusión de todos los grupos de la sociedad civil.

En el año 2015, Uruguay celebró su primer centenario de independencia. En este momento, el país se encuentra en una transición hacia un modelo de desarrollo sostenible, que busca superar las desigualdades y fomentar la igualdad de oportunidades.

En el escenario internacional, Uruguay ha sido un defensor activo de la paz y la cooperación internacional. Es miembro de la ONU y ha participado en una serie de organismos y negociaciones sobre cuestiones de interés global, como el cambio climático y la seguridad alimentaria.

En resumen, el país ha mostrado un camino de resistencia y transformación, que ha contribuido a mejorar la calidad de vida de sus habitantes y a fortalecer los principios democráticos y sociales que son fundamentales para un desarrollo sostenible.