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Safeway worker Gail Zacarias and her son Travis, age 4, during last month's strike in California.

AP

A May Day salute to the heroes in the 'class war zone'

We, ourselves workers and union members, salute our sisters and brothers in Decatur, Illinois now engaged in life-and-death struggles with three of the world's largest multinational corporations. Seldom have the class lines been drawn more sharply, seldom have the stakes been higher; seldom has the battle been waged with more determination.

We, like our sisters and brothers in the heart of the Illinois "Class War Zone," say no to scabs and union busting, no to arrogant corporations who

would return our nation to the "good old days" of no unions, low wages and no benefits, no to elected officials who side with capital against labor.

We honor these shock troops of the working class - auto workers on strike against Caterpillar; rubber workers on strike against Bridgestone/-Firestone, paper workers locked out by A.E. Stanley - and are mindful of our responsibility as well. We pledge our best efforts to guarantee that the struggles in Decatur - as well as those of workers everywhere - will end in victory.

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Did bombers get arms from army bases?

By Tim Wheeler

The FBI continues its search for suspects in connection with the terrorist bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City April 19 which has killed 142 people as of press time, with many more still missing. On Tuesday they arrested two men but later released them. Already in custody are Timothy McVeigh and two brothers, Terry and James Nichols, all of whom have

been linked to the Michigan Militia, a right-wing extremist paramilitary group based in Decker, Michigan.

Federal investigators were checking the munitions inventory at Fort Riley, Kansas, to see if any TNT was missing. Traces of TNT were found in McVeigh's car. With the rank of sergeant, McVeigh had served with the 1st Mechanized Infantry Division based at Fort Riley.

Capt. John Kiser, deputy

chief of public affairs at Fort Riley told *New York Newsday*, "I can tell you right now that there are no missing Army stocks or explosive components." Nevertheless, possible links between the armed militias and active duty military personnel, weapons and high explosives are a subject of probes by the federal investigators and the media.

Mark Koernke, formerly a leader of the Michigan Militia told ABC's Sam Donaldson that the militias have ready access to U.S. military bases across the country. CBS' "60 Minutes" interviewed, anonymously, two active duty Special Forces soldiers who publish a newsletter entitled "Resistance Underground" which is recruiting active duty Special Forces soldiers to the militia movement.

When federal agents raided Terry Nichol's home in Herington, Kan. they found 33 firearms, non-electronic blasting caps, a 60 millimeter anti-tank rocket, four 55-gallon plastic drums and right-wing extremist literature on the FBI siege of the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas two years ago in which several federal agents and many Davidian cultists died.

According to an affidavit read during his arraignment in

Wichita, Nichols told the FBI that he had held "numerous conversations with McVeigh on how to make bombs." Nichols and McVeigh were in business together selling Army surplus equipment at gun shows around the country. Judge Monti Belot replied incredulously, "Anti-tank rockets?"

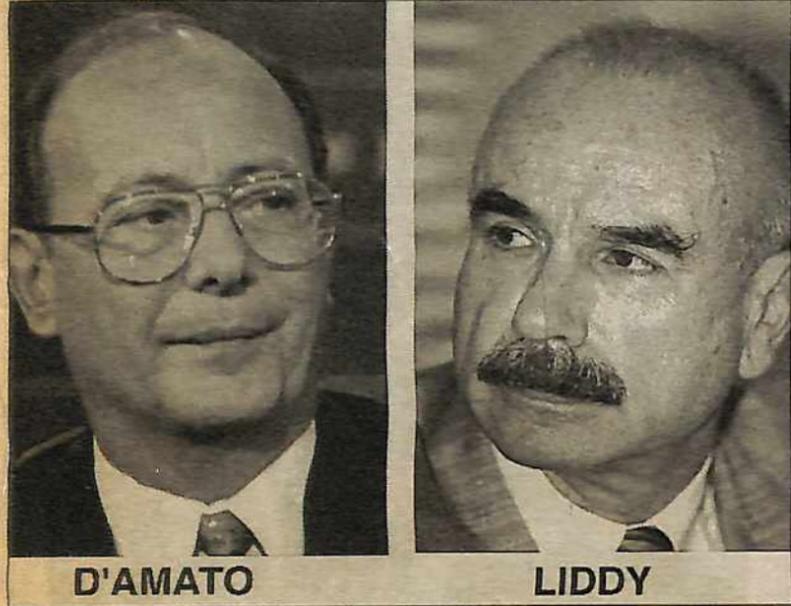
There is a long history of Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist groups obtaining missiles and high explosives from military bases. Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio) recently released a report by the Government Accounting Office on a military-wide effort to control weapons inventory. "You can't guarantee that TNT and blasting caps are immune to thieves," Glenn said.

In 1985, members of the North Carolina-based White Patriot Party (WPP) were sued by the Southern Poverty Law Center for their reign of paramilitary terror and intimidation against African Americans in North Carolina. During the trial, Robert Norman Jones testified that he sold \$50,000 worth of weapons stolen from Fort Bragg, N.C. to the WPP. It included 13 LAW anti-tank missiles, rifles, ammunition, CS riot gas, TNT, C-4 plastic explosives and Claymore mines.

That same year, agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) arrested two Green Beret soldiers at Fort Bragg who had stolen 21 blocks of C-4 explosive, 32 TNT charges, and 13 Claymore anti-personnel mines. Fort Bragg's commanders admitted they had also recovered 13,991 rounds of ammunition and hundreds of pounds of high explosives stolen from the base munitions depot.

The Senate convened hearings on the theft of military weapons. Shawn Helmer, an ammunition sergeant at Fort Lewis, Washington, testified that he loaded a pickup with five M-72 anti-tank rocket launchers and other weapons and drove them to Florida where he planned to sell them to some of Lt. Col. Oliver North's "soldiers of fortune." He was arrested by BATF agents.

Common Cause Magazine did an extensive expose of the trafficking in arms stolen from Fort Bragg. "Some of the munitions were going to be buried for future use," Linda Hunt reported. "Other munitions were used for the weapons training. The purpose of that training ... was to create a paramilitary guerrilla unit for later use in creating a white Southland."



D'AMATO

LIDDY

Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) and Gordon Liddy are shown in these file photos. Liddy is the Watergate burglar and ultra-right-wing talk-radio host who has advised listeners to shoot at the head of federal agents. But this didn't keep D'Amato from planning to honor him at a gala Republican fundraiser, until recent publicity caused D'Amato to cancel.

Sunshine and songs greet May Day in NY

By Hy Clymer

NEW YORK - Cheers and applause greeted Esther Moroze when she welcomed the crowd at New York's May Day rally. "Welcome to May Day," she said, "the day of international workers' solidarity, born right here in the USA!"

The annual event brought union, student, community and senior activists to the city's historic Union Square to celebrate the 109th anniversary of the May 1, 1886 strikes that marked a renewed struggle for the eight-hour day.

Joel Fredericson, vice chair of the Track Division of Transport Workers Union Local 100, compared Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's attack on the city's poor with the Nazi death camps of World War II. "Yes, Hitler's solution was more gruesome," he said, "but the mayor's boast that cuts in welfare will 'encourage' people to leave the city is cut of the same cloth. These cuts will kill people."

Fredericson, who represents the 2,000 men and women who maintain more than 800 miles of track in the city's subway system, said the proposed cuts in funding for mass transit will mean an increase in fares and "pose the threat of an alarming increase in accidents, delays for strap hangers and unsafe working conditions for track workers. If these cuts are allowed to stand, there will be blood on the tracks," he warned.

John Bachtell, chair of the New York district of the Communist Party, said the cuts in education, and social services for the poor are a New York version of Newt Gingrich's Contract on America. The mad budget bombers attack welfare for women and children and would have us forget the tax breaks and giveaways to the corporations and the rich - they are the real 'welfare cheats,'" he charged.

Bachtell said the city budget could not be balanced by "caving into Standard & Poor's or Moody's Industrials. "Once there had been a tax on stock market transactions. They repealed it in 1980," he said, adding that a three-tenths of 1 percent tax on the sale of stocks and bonds "would wipe out the city and state deficit overnight."

Bill Davis, a social worker in the men's TB unit of Bellevue Hospital, said New York is suffering an "epidemic of TB. Scientists say TB is caused by a bacillus but the real cause is poverty," Davis said. "We once had TB on the ropes but now it's making a comeback," he told the *World*.

Other speakers included Gloria Friedman, a retired city worker, Sonja Ostrum of Peace Action who called for cutting the military budget in order to provide money for rebuilding the nation's infrastructure, and Adanjésus Quavez, New York coordinator of the Young Communist League.

Supporters of the *People's Weekly World* distributed more than 3,000 copies of the paper and 22 people joined the CPUSA or YCL. The rally ended with a spirited rendition of *The Internationale* led by *People's Weekly World* Editor Tim Wheeler and Jarvis Tyner, political action director of the Communist Party.



Cultural Harmony, teenagers from the Henry Street Settlement, perform street theatre on May Day in New York City.

Hy Clymer

Martinez public jobs bill to be introduced

By Les Bayless

WASHINGTON — Rep. Matthew Martinez (D-Calif.) will introduce a massive jobs bill Monday that would put millions of Americans to work in jobs repairing the nation's infrastructure, according to supporters of the legislation.

"This bill is my answer to the Republican Contract with America," Martinez said recently. "The Republicans keep saying that they want Americans to get off welfare and get a job. But nothing in their much-touted Contract would create even one job."

Legislation passed by the House and awaiting Senate action would gut welfare and children's nutrition programs and replace them with non-entitlement "block grants" to the states. Congressional auditors estimate the cuts would total \$60 billion in 1996 and would be even deeper in the years to follow. GOP legislators are also primed to attack affirmative action programs meant to remedy workplace discrimination.

Martinez's Job Creation and Infrastructure Act of 1995 would assist state and local governments by providing funds for the repair and reclamation of buildings, parks, schools and hospitals. In addition, funds could be used to improve services to senior citizens, the disabled and those needing literacy training. The five-year program would authorize a total of \$250 billion in spending.

Not since New Deal

In a statement accompanying introduction of the legislation, Martinez said, "Not since the days of Franklin Roosevelt ... has this country undertaken an effort to rebuild and expand the nation's infrastructure. Sixty years later,

those roads, parks, courthouses, post offices and schools are crumbling and decaying. And yet, some of our communities continue to have the highest unemployment rate since the 1930s."

The bill would allocate an immediate \$25 billion for emergency and short term projects, and an additional \$225 billion (\$45 billion per year) for Labor Department grants to subsidize wages of newly employed workers in jobs rebuilding public facilities.

Title III of the legislation provides strong affirmative action guidelines and provisions which protect "prevailing wage" standards for construction workers.

Bringing pressure

A spokesperson for the Labor Coalition for Public Works Jobs in Los Angeles, which conceived the legislation, said that a late flurry of calls across the country produced three new sponsors for the bill last week, bringing to 16 the total number of co-sponsors.

The legislation has received endorsements from the Los Angeles City Council as well as the California Federation of Labor. Additional endorsements have come from the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and the L.A. School Board.

A second jobs bill, the Living Wage, Jobs for All Act, introduced by Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Calif.) with backing from the Congressional Black Caucus, calls for reducing the work week to 35 hours and reducing unemployment to 3 percent through enforcement of the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act.

Mobilizations

In a series of interviews across the country, the *World* has learned of a wide array of rallies

and legislative initiatives planned by jobs and social justice activists:

- "Stop the Contract - Jobs and Services, not Cuts" rallies are set for May 6 in New York, San Francisco and 38 other cities. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Baltimore City Council have endorsed the rallies.

- A coalition initiated by the Jedi Women of Salt Lake City, Utah will hold Mother's Day rallies against the Republican Contract in at least 70 cities.

- The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and the Coalition to Defend Immigrant Rights will sponsor a Mother's Day March Against the Contract on May 13. On June 17, Jobs with Justice and other organizations will sponsor a March for Jobs and Justice in downtown Chicago. Rally organizers expect between 5,000 and 10,000 people to participate.

- In Baltimore, the Jobs not Jails Coalition in Baltimore will hold a rally May 6 at the O'Donnell Heights housing project, with one of the key demands being the demand to double the minimum wage. Coalition leaders report that they've gathered 3,000 signatures on petitions calling for public works jobs.

- Washington State Jobs with Justice has organized five separate rallies demanding jobs and opposing cuts. Organized phone calls to the office of Rep. Jim McDermott convinced him to become a co-sponsor of the Martinez bill.

- In Connecticut, Communist Party activists are circulating postcards calling on President Clinton to defend affirmative action. Activists in Waterbury and New Haven are preparing resolutions in support of the Martinez bill. Over 5,000 signatures have been collected on petitions sup-

porting public works jobs.

- In New Jersey, the Coalition to Combat Racism and Other Prejudices and the NAACP met with new Rep. Frank Pallone, presenting him with hundreds of signatures in support of the Martinez bill.

Activists in San Antonio, Texas organized a May Day rally

at the statue of AFL founder Samuel Gompers calling for solidarity with workers in the Maquiladora plants in Mexico. It was officially endorsed by the state AFL-CIO. Participants later marched to the Mexican Consulate to make their demands known.

Disabled in Pennsylvania protest lack of funding



A group of disabled people block the entrance to the Governor's Reception Room at the Penn. State Capitol Building in Harrisburg, May 2. They demanded to meet with Gov. Tom Ridge and protested for funding for the disabled so that they may live on their own instead of in an institution.

May Day demonstrations unite workers everywhere

By Jim Genova

Tens of millions of workers in every country joined in marches, parades and protests to celebrate May Day this year. From Moscow to New York, Manila to Mexico City, Seoul to Havana and Warsaw to Pretoria, workers demanded shorter workweeks, jobs, peace and an end to the global corporate offensive which has destroyed millions of working people's lives.

It was one of the most militant May Days in recent years as anger over the growing global economic crisis turned to organized protest. In Mexico City, hundreds of thousands of people turned out to protest the Zedillo government's austerity budget and sell-out to the U.S. in the peso bail out scheme.

The official trade unions had canceled the annual march because they "didn't want to cause the government any embarrassment" and have the march turn into a massive anti-government protest. But the workers turned out anyhow and vented their frustration by hurling bricks at the presidential palace.

In Russia, three million marched against the anti-Communist counterrevolutionary Yeltsin government. They carried portraits of Soviet founder V.I. Lenin and giant Soviet flags, and demanded a return of socialism and the Soviet Union.

Workers mark May Day in the Philippines



Members of a militant labor federation march in downtown Manila, May 1, to commemorate May Day. Several other large rallies were held throughout the country.

Continued on page 5

WWII veteran met Soviets at Elbe River

By Tim Wheeler

John Gilman, a decorated combat veteran of World War II will never forget that day in April 1945 when his unit reached the Elbe River near the German town of Dessau and linked up with the Soviet Army, closing the pincer on Nazi Germany.

"For the first time in my life, I met Russian troops face to face," Gilman told the World. "We tossed grenades into the river: Fish stunned by the explosions floated to the top and we rounded them up. We had a big fish feast with vodka and lots of toasts."

Gilman's outfit, the 39th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army's 9th Division had



World file photo

John Gilman at Torgau in 1985.

fought all the way from the Normandy beachhead. Gilman, a machinegunner, was wounded and evacuated to Britain to recuperate. He received two Purple Hearts. The 23 year-old GI, of Jewish background, was a fervent anti-fascist and was determined to return to his unit. He did.

In the German village of Windhagan, his unit stumbled on a nest of Nazi tanks. He opened fire on one tank with his 30 caliber machine gun hitting auxiliary fuel tanks which exploded. The tank crew was forced to flee. He received the Distinguished Service Cross for gallantry in action. In another battle, Gilman knocked out a Nazi 88 MM anti-aircraft gun with his machine gun for which he received the Silver Star.

The linkup with the Soviets at the Elbe was an event that changed Gilman's life forever. "I realized that our choice was co-existence or no existence," he told me in an interview ten years ago. "We had crushed Nazism together and I decided then and there that we had to work together for peace and disarmament."

Gilman was one of many veterans of the Elbe linkup who worked to end the Cold War and to reestablish the spirit of anti-fascist unity that won the victory over fascism. He and a Polish-American cab driver from Chicago, Joe Polowsky, campaigned for regular reunions of the U.S. and Soviet troops who linked up April 25, 1945 at the Elbe River town of Torgau. Gilman chuckled and said, "In fact, our linkup was three days earlier at Dessau."

Today, Gilman's views on the meaning of that victory are unchanged even though the Soviet Union has collapsed. The Soviet people made the supreme sacrifice in saving humanity from fascist enslavement, he said.



Fred Ellis for the Daily Worker

U.S. and Soviet soldiers meet in victory in Berlin 50 years ago.

A lifelong Communist, Gilman sees the defeat of socialism as a "temporary" setback.

"I see Russians marching under the hammer and sickle banners on May Day," he told me in a phone interview from his home in Milwaukee. And during the victory parades in Red Square, May 8-10 the Soviet war veterans will also be marching under the hammer and sickle banners that symbolized the defeat of Hitler.

In both the United States and in Russia, he said, "the 50th anniversary of the defeat of Hitler fascism can be a kickoff for progressive forces - veterans, the elderly, everyone who participated in the war. But

also the younger generation, the labor movement, poor and oppressed people. We can win. We can defeat the onslaught against the people led by Newt Gingrich and his Contract on America."

Gilman said he often grieves for the plight of the Soviet war veterans who sacrificed so much. The Soviet Union lost more than 20 million people in the war.

"Capitalism has meant one thing for Russia - robbery! Now the Russian people want socialism back! I have faith that it's going to be reversed. Capitalism never gave the people anything but exploitation, poverty and war."

May Day holiday celebrated around the world

Continued from page 4

Demonstrations also took place throughout the former Soviet republics and former socialist countries of Europe reflecting the sharpening class struggle as the transnational corporations and emerging domestic capitalists try to destroy the remnants of the socialist system. Workers clashed with police in Berlin and Warsaw when the government tried to restrict the protests.

New York held its largest May Day demonstration in recent years. The theme was the fight-back against the three-tiered attack on working people from the federal, state and city governments. Speakers called for a tax on speculative transactions on Wall Street and for a federally-funded job creation program to put people back to work.

In China the government announced that the country will now have a five day workweek. Previously, workers had labored six days a week with alternate Saturdays off.

In South Africa, supporters of the right-wing Inkatha Freedom Party attacked a May Day



World photo

John Bachtell, chair of the New York district of the Communist Party, addresses the annual May Day rally in Union Square in New York City.

celebration of the ANC and South African Communist Party which marked the one-year anniversary of the electoral defeat of apartheid.

Large demonstrations were

also held in Greece, Vietnam, North and South Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Nicaragua, Haiti, Italy, Israel, Portugal, France, Libya and many other countries. (See page 14 for photos).

Some 20th anniversary thoughts on Vietnam

"I was at a college in Atchison, Kans., and a teacher spoke to me afterwards. He told me he was a Vietnam War veteran, an officer and a career military man. He said the one thing he learned, and now passes on to his students, is that it is very important to question authority. If he had questioned back then, he said, and made moral decisions on the basis of his questioning, he would have acted much differently than he did.

"In a way, that is the lesson I learned, too, because that's when I began to question the whole theology of a supposedly just war. I had presumed that a country that went to war had a good reason for doing so. As I began to question that war, I came to the conclusion that it was very wrong.

"It should teach us that violence doesn't solve problems. We felt we had a problem in Vietnam and we tried to solve it through violence. We've done that consistently ever since ... in Grenada, in Central America, Panama, the Persian Gulf. And in every case it was wrong, and it did not ultimately solve the problem."

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Archdiocese of Detroit

"[The Vietnam War experience] is relevant in showing the shift in the balance of power that has taken place in the world, that it's no longer a time when the western nations can just run roughshod over the rest of the world. [Iraq and Desert Storm] show that we haven't learned the lesson for sure. But at least it has made us give a second thought before we sent American troops anywhere.

"[A change of policy toward Cuba] is long, long overdue. The fact that we could make friends with a nation that we were at war with, and yet we are still isolating and abusing Cuba, with which we've never been at war, really reflects on the poor judgment of the leaders of this country."

Supervisor Terence Hallinan, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Celebrating Cinco de Mayo ...

Spirit of the first Cinco de Mayo lives on

By Adan Jesus Quavez

This weekend, Cinco de Mayo will be celebrated in cities throughout Mexico and the United States. The holiday commemorates the Mexican army's defeat of invading French imperialist forces in the Mexican city of Puebla May 5, 1862.

During the five years of occupation, "Viva el cinco de Mayo" became a rallying cry for the people in support of the popularly-elected Benito Juarez, a Zapotec Indian. Juarez went on to become the most popular and progressive president of Mexico.

From its origins in a people's victory, the holiday has come to be not only a joyous day of celebration, but also a time to mobilize for struggles around the peo-

ple's issues of today. This year, among the sharpest issues for people of Mexican and other Latino origin in the United States is the struggle for full economic and civil rights for all immigrants, against the ultra-right drive to impose racist anti-immigrant measures like California's Prop. 187.

The anti-immigrant challenge raised by the right-wing Republican forces now controlling the Congress is part of their overall effort through the Contract on America, to destroy the concept of government responsibility for the poor. Under the so-called Personal Responsibility Act which would gut the system of welfare entitlements, all benefits would be stripped from immigrants - even fully documented residents. The fightback for immigrant rights is

thus an issue around which alliances can be built among broad sectors of the U.S. people.

Another challenge which can be turned back by a united struggle is the across-the-board attack on affirmative action, starting with moves to place a proposition on the California ballot in 1996 to destroy even the weak measures which have sought to redress centuries of discrimination against Mexican Americans and other Latinos, African Americans, other minorities and women.

Also under heavy attack are bilingual education programs. Those who would destroy bilingual education are introducing laws and resolutions into legislatures, school boards and city councils, in an effort to return to the days when a child speaking

Spanish in the schoolyard was subject to corporal punishment.

Latino workers, whether or not they are immigrants, are also subject to the same assaults by employers on their rights as workers, including attacks on their right to belong to a union and bargain collectively.

Mexican workers and their allies are also under fierce attack from U.S. imperialism through implementation of NAFTA and imposition of the destructive U.S. "bailout" which forced the Mexican government to cut its budget and yield all revenues from foreign oil sales.

Though the victory of Cinco de Mayo 1862 was reversed when French Emperor Napoleon III later captured the city and was "crowned King" of Mexico, it

marked a turning point for Mexican independence struggles. Within five years the French troops were forced to withdraw and Maximilian was executed. Solidarity of the French working class, who mounted a mass protest in their own country at the same time French imperialism faced armed struggle in Mexico, played a big part in the French defeat.

The spirit of the first Cinco de Mayo carries over to today's broad struggles of working people, whether Brown, Black or white. The message is clear: with a united and determined struggle, the working people of our country, and our allies in Mexico and other countries, can turn back the current wave of attacks and build a country with equal economic, social and political rights for all.

Cinco de Mayo 1995: Latino workers fight for economic, political and social equality

By Marilyn Bechtel

SAN FRANCISCO - Near the head of Sunday's gala Cinco de Mayo parade through San Francisco's Mission district were workers from the city's Day Labor Program, marching proudly with giant mockups of their hammers and shovels. Their prominent place in this festive parade dedicated to children and the future dramatized the courage and determination with which large numbers of Mexican and other Latino workers confront many difficulties.

"It's a daily struggle" for these workers, most of whom are recent immigrants, program director Marta Elena Miyar told the *World*. "Many of them are homeless,

and they also have the concern to send money back to their families and to survive here."

In addition, Miyar said, the passage of Prop. 187 has meant a lot more discrimination. She said even documented residents are refused job applications or required to produce specific documents even though 187 cannot now be enforced because of court challenges. Not only do Latinos, African Americans and Asian Americans often get the lowest paid jobs, said San Francisco Supervisor Susan Leal, but "the fact that it is now 'okay' not to be 'politically correct' - that somehow it is acceptable for people to express all kinds of outrage and hate ... really hits at people's self-respect."

Leal, also in the vanguard of the parade, spearheaded the Board of Supervisors' unanimous decision to name one of the city's principal streets for labor and civil rights leader Cesar Chavez. She said the continuing dissension in some quarters about the name change shows that "people's understanding is a lot less these days."

Occupying a leading place among organizations in the Mexican American and Latino communities striving to overcome the twin challenges of economic crisis and racial/national oppression is the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), which brings together many thousands of mainly Latino workers under the auspices of the AFL-CIO.

In a telephone interview, LCLAA National President Ralph Jimenez said the forces that pushed Prop. 187 through in California are trying the same thing in other states including Texas and Florida.

But, Jimenez emphasized, "the problem in California is not immigrants" but rather that "California has an eroding industrial base, and until that is addressed, the state is going to continue to have economic problems. Blaming immigrants, as has been done in the U.S. for the last two centuries, isn't going to solve it." He added that studies have shown immigrants actually contribute significantly more to tax revenues than they receive back in services.

Jimenez said LCLAA is fully committed to the struggle to uphold affirmative action. Affirmative action and equal opportunity employment have "created a lot of jobs for a lot of people," he said, bettering the situation of white men and women as well as people of color.

Jimenez listed voter participation as a top nationwide priority. Efforts include a stepped up program to register hundreds



Right, Marta Elena Miyar, director, San Francisco Day Laborer Program, with friends.



Marchers celebrate Cinco de Mayo in San Francisco last week.

Marilyn Bechtel

Marilyn Bechtel

following mass swearing-in ceremonies like those in Los Angeles where up to 1,500 people are sworn in at once.

LCLAA works to meet the needs of long-time residents as well as new arrivals, said San Francisco chapter president Frank Martin del Campo. "We believe that initially we have to address the needs of the most exploited of our peoples," he said, "but we cannot overlook the need to build unity between the newly arrived immigrants and the Latinos who have been here for a long time."

Martin also said LCLAA is starting a campaign "to address the issues of women and thereby draw more Latinas into our organization and enable them to take leadership roles in our organization."

International issues are also important, he said, noting that the San Francisco chapter emphasizes solidarity with Mexican workers and with the Zapatista movement in Chiapas, and with the U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange, is co-sponsoring a May Day visit to Cuba.

Labor Solidarity

Militant tactics can win strikes, lockouts

By Hy Clymer

Willie Sutton once said he robbed banks because "that's where the money is." Strikes and lockouts are a lot like that: in order to win you have to hit 'em where the money is. But the question is, "how?"

How, when employers are ready, willing and able to replace strikers with scabs? How, when employers are able to shift production damn near any place in the world in order to fill orders? How, when the law prohibits secondary boycotts? How, when employers say "take it or leave it" under threat of moving elsewhere? How - how can you hit 'em in the pocket book with all of that against you?

There are no easy answers but answers must be found because, like it or not, the old ways don't cut it anymore. The days are long gone - if they ever existed - when the battle could be won by slugging it out on the picket line. And they certainly can't be won in situations where pickets, their number limited by court order, can only shout and point their middle finger as scabs race through factory gates.

Sure, strike preparation, solidarity, determination, militancy and a fighting spirit are - and have always been - absolute prerequisites for wining battles in the never-ending war between capital and labor. But they are not enough. Neither are "Do not patronize" and "Unfair to organized labor" lists or motions of support by unions and central labor bodies, although they, too, have their place in these struggles.

And yes, there are longer-ranged

goals: common termination dates for contracts, trade union solidarity at home and abroad, contract language allowing workers to respect the picket lines of other unions, general work stoppages, labor law reform, the outlawing of scabs as permanent replacements and amalgamation of unions into federations similar to the Metal Workers Federation in Germany in order to bring more weight to the bargaining table. But what about today?

Although the record is sketchy, unions have developed campaigns that succeeded in forcing even the most recalcitrant employer to recognize that the cost of fighting unions was greater than reaching a settlement. All are worth study; each has lessons with universal application.

There was the consumer boycott that helped the Farm Workers union crack through with California grape growers in the early '70s. There was the boycott of Farah pants and the "Don't sleep with J.P. Stevens" campaigns, both led by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers, that resulted in major organizing victories. There was the Ravenswood campaign that saw the Steel Workers Union track down corporate executives to their hideouts in Europe and convince users of aluminum not to buy what scabs produced at Ravenswood Aluminum. And now there's the campaign meant to force A.E. Staley back to the bargaining table.

True, these campaigns, with the exception of Ravenswood, targeted consumer products for which there were readily available substitutes. But how do you get at a

company that makes earth-moving equipment priced at a half-million dollars a copy?

Again some lessons from the past where, for instance, the boycott of grapes and Stevens products became boycotts of Safeway and other stores that continued to buy scab grapes and hotels that used Stevens-made sheets. They did other things, too - they took the fight to the suites and succeeded in forcing directors of these outfits off the boards of financial institutions holding union pension funds.

In a somewhat different vein, there were the campaigns that forced corporations, cities and universities to sever ties with the apartheid regime in South Africa. Or what about the coordinated occupation of offices of the National Labor Relations Board across the nation a couple of years ago or the "upside the head" approach to Newt Gingrich by our friends in Atlanta and Washington?

Nor would the list be complete without mention of the 70-member delegation from the Illinois Class War Zone who brought their call for solidarity to the February meeting of the AFL-CIO Executive Council. Several common threads run through all of these campaigns: rank and file participation in mass, militant activity; civil disobedience where called for and a constant "in your face" strategy - and leaders who were willing to lead the troops into battle.

These tactics - and this strategy - made the difference during the Pittston strike when coal miners and their families sat down on highways, occupied a coal

The days are long gone - if they ever existed - when the battle could be won by slugging it out on the picket line.

processing plant and, in general, raised hell. They made the difference during the strike of transit workers in Philadelphia when pickets stood on the tracks and stopped commuter trains.

There has been a revival of these tactics as more and more unionists have come to understand the need for change. The challenge is to develop more and better mass campaigns.

The challenge, as others have said, is to create a movement with enough heat so that when the CEO goes to bed at night his last thought is of "that damn union" and when he wakes up in the morning his first thought is of "that damn union." When you think about it, there's no other way.

Illinois teachers pack capitol to save retirement, health funds

By John Pappademos

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - About 3,000 retired teachers and others concerned about the looming bankruptcy of their health insurance fund, heeding a call to action from a coalition of teacher groups, took their case directly to Illinois state legislators on April 25.

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA), the Illinois

Education Association and the Illinois Federation of Teachers organized over 50 busloads and many carloads of retired and active teachers for Retired Teachers Lobby Day, called to address the funding crisis faced by the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) Health Insurance Reserve Fund.

The TRS fund, through which the state had promised to cover 75 percent of health care premiums for retired teachers,

faces a zero balance on June 30 if no legislation is enacted to replenish it. Gov. Jim Edgar's budget for 1996 made no appropriation for the fund.

"Unless a new funding plan is enacted during this session of the Illinois General Assembly more than 32,000 retirees covered by the TRS health insurance plan will be forced to assume the full cost of the program," said Roman Miller, president of the 34,000 member IRTA. Miller said that meant quadrupling the cost of medical care for retired teachers.

Many Illinois teacher retirees earned no Social Security credits during their years of teaching in the public schools and thus are not eligible for Medicare. Teacher retirees, most of whose pensions are less than \$2,000 per month - one-fourth receive less than \$1,000 - face increases from \$90 to \$347 per month if the health insurance program becomes insolvent. Key factors in the crisis include the state's underfunding of TRS, the increased numbers of retirees, rising health care costs and the elimination by many school districts of their own retiree health insurance programs.

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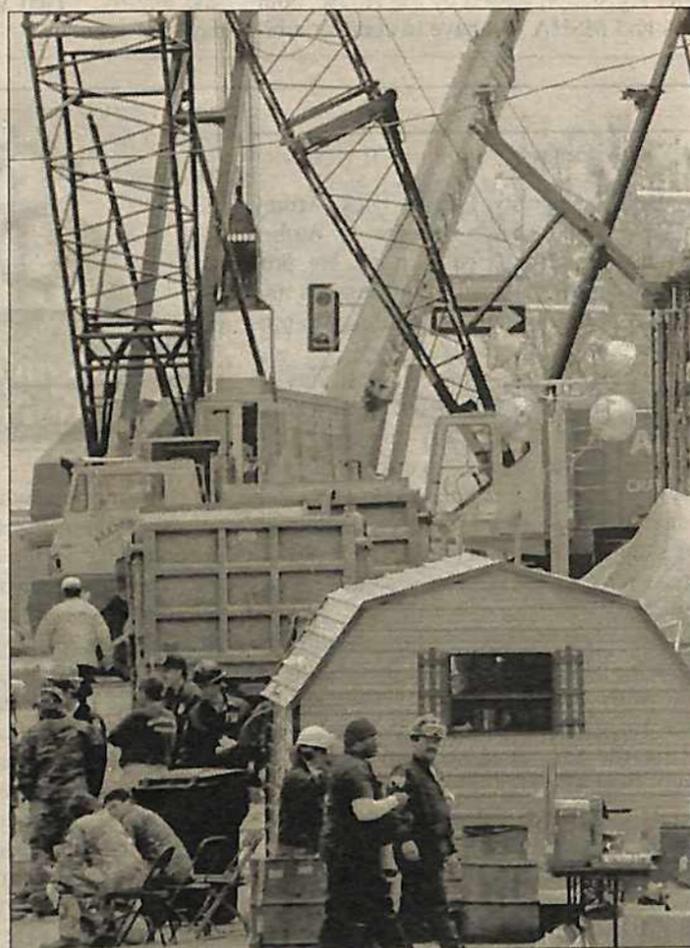
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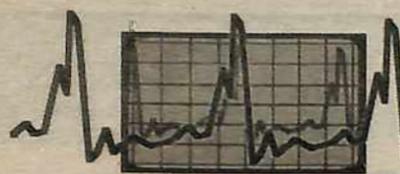
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Working in the aftermath of terror



Workers and equipment share the same crowded block-long area in front of the destroyed Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, May 1.



The Economy In CRISIS

Pittsburgh unionists say 'Damn the Contract!'

By Denise Winebrenner

PITTSBURGH — From picket lines and soup lines, those who lay their heads on pillows and those who lie down under the bridges spanning this city's three rivers, workers from the front lines of the economic crisis condemned the Contract on America in hearings held here April 28.

Over 30 speakers testified before members of the western Pennsylvania congressional delegation and representatives from the offices of Sens. Arlen Specter and Rick Santorum. They demanded congressional action to defend the working class. Organized by the Citizen's Budget Campaign, a local coalition dedicated to slashing the military budget to save lives of "Rust Bowl" residents, the hearing was the first to directly confront the region's congressmen.

Noting that April 28 marked Worker's Memorial Day, Rod Mushnok, Pennsylvania legislative director for the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), brought the dramatic impact of the 1969 Federal Mine Health and Safety Act (MSHA) to the attention of the legislators. In the 25 years prior to enactment of the bill, over 12,000 coal miners died in the mines. By comparison, in the 25 years since the act's passage 2,763 coal miners died on the job.

The UMWA called for the strengthening of both MSHA and OSHA. "Under the banner of regulatory reform, the House of Representatives has placed, and the Senate is considering, new hurdles in the path of new health and safety standards," Mushnok said. "Under legislation passed by the House, both OSHA and MSHA will have to conduct arbi-

One sick, injured or dead worker is one too many.

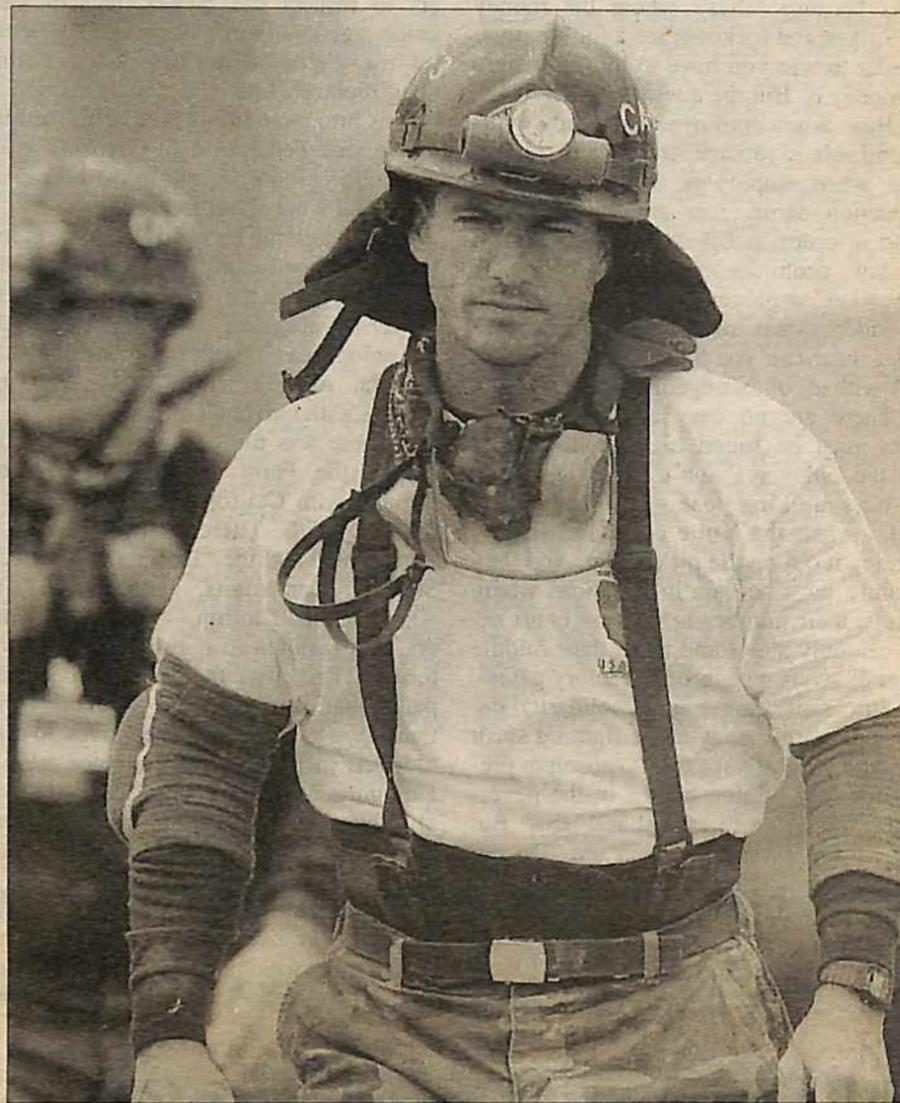
—Rod Mushnok
United Mine Workers

trary cost/benefit analysis to prove that saving lives and limbs and health is worth the price."

Mushnok said if the Gingrich agenda is enacted, ventilation standards, which prevent explosions in the mines, will be snuffed out. The Contract would halt efforts to eliminate Black Lung disease. Mushnok said legislation is pending that would merge OSHA and MSHA and destroy the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. "The UMWA firmly believes that one sick, injured or dead worker is one too many."

UMWA District 5 President Jim Smith said that "in that first 100 days everybody was going around thinking that something dramatic had happened. But in that first 100 days not one bill passed that would create one job with decent wages, that would raise the standard of living of American workers, that improved access to health care, that would reduce the trade deficit, that would improve the educational opportunities," he said angrily. "That tells you what that 100 days has done."

Rescue in Oklahoma City: The shift over, the job continues



A weary member of Task Force 3 of the San Mateo, Calif. rescue organization trudges from the work site after finishing his overnight shift at the federal building in Oklahoma City May 1. After 11 days, rescuers continued to hold out a slim hope of finding more survivors, although officials admit "it would take a miracle."

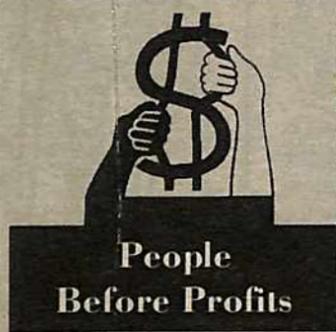
By Victor Perlo

House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas) sponsors a scheme to further shift taxation from rich to poor. He proposes a single flat rate on individuals and 15 percent on business, instead of the present corporate income tax.

Robert Eisner, professor emeritus of economics at Northwestern University, calculates that to be really "revenue neutral" the flat tax would have to be 23 percent (*Wall Street Journal*, 4/11). The catch is that the tax would be levied only on wage and salary income. Interest, dividends, rent, business profits would be exempt.

Eisner calculates that it would increase taxes over the present income tax on those with incomes up to \$100,000; reduce taxes for those with higher incomes — reducing the tax on those with annual incomes over \$200,000 to 12.7 percent.

Armey claims that the tax on business would catch the money now yield the dividends and interest. On the contrary, it would leave more money for dividends and interest because it would not be a tax on profits. It would be set up as a tax on consumption — either a direct sales tax or value added tax. That's the most regressive kind of tax, falling mainly on workers, who have to spend their entire income



The flat tax swindle

on consumption; while capitalists can save much of their income for investment or speculation.

The Communist Party proposes strong measures — slashing all income taxes on incomes up to \$50,000 and raising the peak rate on high incomes to 90 percent; raising the corporate tax rate to a flat 50 percent, while closing all the loopholes of the rich and their corporations.

The Republicans — and most Democrats — in addition to reactionary tax plans, propose slashing spending for welfare, social and cultural programs, housing and infrastructure. That is going on right now at all levels of government and Congress to apt to make it much worse.

Meanwhile, the capitalist parties treat the military budget as a sacred cow, although its nominal purpose — to meet the "threat" from the USSR — no longer exists.

That's where huge economies can be made.

Present plans, however, call for higher spending in 1999 than in 1986, including a 47 percent rise in the procurement budget over a five-year period. Add to that that the fact the U.S. is promoting military material exports and that it is by far the world's largest exporter of arms. That's why Lockheed, Martin, McDonnell Douglas, Northrop Grumman and other war profiteers are raking it in, and their top executives are getting double digit millions in salaries, bonuses and stock options; and their stocks reaching new highs on the stock market.

The overall Pentagon plan calls for sustaining military forces capable of fighting two nearly simultaneous major regional conflicts, and "continuing the Cold War pattern of almost continuous 'forward

presence' of U.S. armed forces around the globe."

President Clinton gives complete support to this plan. Cutting through his double speak, he voices the determination of the "sole superpower" to promote capitalism everywhere and attack any country he defines as "bad," with any weapon — including those with nuclear warheads.

The Center for Defense Information (CDI), while providing valuable information on the Pentagon's budget, implicitly accepts the strategic goals of the military brass, asking only, "Can we do it smarter?" — with one force for a major regional conflict and one lighter "intervention force," allowing for some time to elapse between major wars (CDI Defense Monitor, No. 3, 1995). For this "more economical" version of an aggressive imperialist strategy, the CDI would cut the 1996 military budget by only \$12 billion, with somewhat wider cuts to follow.

Acceptance of Pentagon strategic goals and arguing against them only on technical grounds is really capitulation to the big military spenders and the certainty of more wars. The Communist Party program — of cutting military spending by at least one-half, abolishing the CIA and related agencies, closing foreign bases, destroying weapons of mass destruction and pledging "no first use" of nuclear weapons — is the way to go.



ACROSS THE COUNTRY

San Franciscans celebrate life of César Chávez

N. California Bureau

SAN FRANCISCO — Colorful flags and banners filled César Chávez Street here April 24 as hundreds of members and supporters of the United Farm Workers celebrated the life of the UFW founder and civil rights leader by marching across town on the street recently named for him.

The march and festive rally at La Raza Park were among many commemorations of Chávez' life throughout the country on the second anniversary of

his death. Among other labor bodies represented in the march were the Machinists, Teamsters, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, Communications Workers of America, Service Employees International Union and the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement.

Addressing the crowd at La Raza Park, Dolores Huerta, co-founder and first vice president of the UFW, said it is vital to "bring justice to all workers of San Francisco." She stressed the special problems facing Latino workers

as a result of the attacks on immigrants by Gov. Pete Wilson, Newt Gingrich and others. "César Chávez always told us that if we keep struggling, we will win," Huerta said.

Huerta expressed great concern over provisions in the Contract on America that would deprive documented immigrants of access to more than 60 social benefit programs, including MediCal and other health programs and the WIC nutrition program for women and children. If the bill passes the Senate, people will have to be citizens even to

attend school, she warned.

Speaking with the *World*, Huerta urged people to join the campaign by the Farmworkers and other to flood the mailboxes of California senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer with postcards demanding defeat of the measure. She also called for messages to President Clinton demanding he veto the bill if it passes the Senate.

The proposed bill would deprive documented immigrants of more than 60 programs, including MediCal and other medical assistance, the WIC nutrition program for women and children, and public education.

Meanwhile, in California, undocumented immigrants' access to public benefits and services is already under severe attack following passage of Prop. 187 last November. But many unions have pledged that their members will never carry out the measure even if it survives court challenges which currently bar implementation.

"Your ability to change Army Street to César Chávez Street is an example of non-violent change," said Fr. Bill O'Donnell, pastor of Berkeley's St. Joseph the Worker Church. But "symbols have to be rooted in reality, and reality for the Farmworkers is a contract," he said, referring to ongoing



Marilyn Bechtel

UFW leader Dolores Huerta is hugged by a supporter.



Marilyn Bechtel

Members and friends of the United Farm Workers celebrate the life of César Chávez, April 24 in San Francisco.

struggles to secure contracts for large numbers of mushroom, grape and other farm workers whose employers strongly resist signing contracts although the workers have voted for the union.

NYC women fired for speaking Spanish

Special to the World

NEW YORK — Two Latino women in New York have filed employment discrimination cases charging they were fired from their jobs for speaking Spanish.

One of the women, Iraida Calderon, 31, a Puerto Rican, had worked as a secretary for three years for Damon House of New York, a Brooklyn-based residential drug rehabilitation program that has a large number of Latino clients. Calderon said she was terminated in September, shortly after being informed that she could no longer speak Spanish with her co-workers or while interviewing people requesting social-service benefits.

"I was speaking Spanish with the secretary and our supervisor saw us and told us, 'If you keep speaking Spanish, you may not get your raise,'" Calderon said.

The other woman, Joanne Santana, 22, a Dominican immigrant, says she was terminated in February after being written up by a supervisor who had warned her not to speak Spanish with her co-workers at Healthfirst, a health-main-

tenance organization for Medicaid recipients, where Santana worked as a marketing representative.

Both women filed charges with the federal Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, which has regulations outlawing English-only rules in most workplace situations. They are being represented by lawyers from the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund.

"It is an outrage to think that workers today are hired because of their ability to speak Spanish, yet are fired for conversing with a co-worker in the same language," said Juan A. Figueroa, president and general counsel of the fund.

Santana, who had worked at Healthfirst for only five months, said at a news conference yesterday, "If my bilingual skills are an asset to Healthfirst in securing business, then how can they justify firing me for speaking Spanish?"

"This is a clear attack on the Latino community," Figueroa said, "and we will fight this discriminatory practice in the employment all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary."

Atomic City balks at peace statue

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) — Standing on a grassy median at the edge of town, Ginger Welch can look past the plateau and see the snowcapped mountains that isolate the birthplace of the atomic bomb.

Welch said the median, which serves as a gateway to the Atomic City 30 miles northwest of Santa Fe, would have been a perfect setting for a peace statue suggested five years ago by Albuquerque elementary school pupils. Instead, the idea generated controversy and hard feelings and the County Council this year rejected it.

"A lot of people opposed to it may have felt that somehow this was being placed here as a punishment," said Welch, a councilor.

The statue, a bronze globe, found a home anyway, at the Albuquerque Museum. It will be dedicated in August — the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima in Japan. An estimated \$45,000 was donated for the globe, which is now being cast.

Caroline Gassner, the Arroyo Del Oso Elementary School teacher whose students

came up with the idea, hopes the globe can also be used as a traveling monument for peace. So do students.

"We want people to know this is still an innocent idea," said Dana Kaplan, 14. "We're not trying to malign anybody or incriminate anybody."

The scenic town of 12,000 tucked away in the Jemez Mountains still struggles with its legacy as a key contributor to the Atomic Age and it remains a focal point for protests against nuclear weapons.

Councilor Morey Pongratz, a space scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory since 1975, believes the statue would stigmatize the city and that the money could be better spent.

"Money spent on a statue detracts from money spent on the true injustices of the world," Pongratz said. Welch disagrees.

"Those children ... were making a very definite statement about wanting peace," she said. "And where better to do this than at the place where the nuclear age was born?"



ACROSS THE COUNTRY

How NM passed a resolution against Prop. 187

The following is an interview by Emil Shaw with Ysaura Bernal Enriquez and Eduardo Hernández Chávez, coordinators of the N.M. Coalition Against Proposition 187.

Q. How did you get the New Mexico Legislature to pass a joint resolution against Prop. 187?

A. Our coalition got started in the last weeks of November 1994. The passage of Prop. 187 in California began to affect the lives of Mexicanos throughout Arizona and New Mexico. Reports were coming in of indiscriminate harassment of people by INS agents and of discrimination against Mexicanos in towns just north of the border.

We first spoke with State Senate leader Manny Aragon, who, while being in full support of legislative action, advised us to lobby the rest of the legislature to obtain support. We found immediate support from State Repre-

sentative Patsy Trujillo of Santa Fe and State Senator Tom Benavidez from Albuquerque.

Q. What was the response to your lobbying efforts?

A. We found that legislators saw an anti-187 resolution as being a step forward for several reasons. New Mexico prides itself on being multi-cultural and anything that goes counter to this idea might hurt the tourist industry. The legislators also felt that a Prop. 187 in New Mexico could be the cause of ethnic tensions. They wanted to make a statement to the rest of the country.

Q. What were some of the highlights of the campaign?

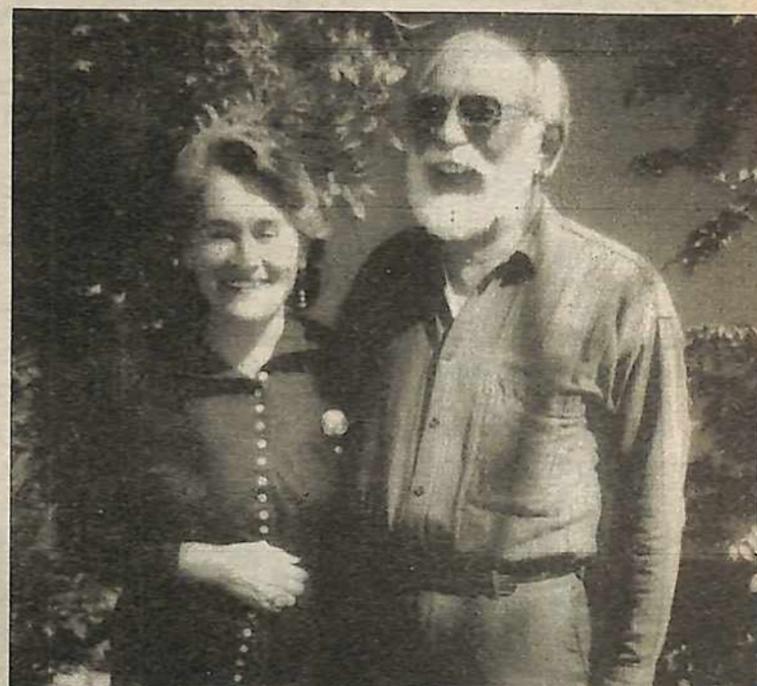
A. We found a strong response among high school and college students. In preparation for a rally in February, both University of New Mexico and high school students took it upon themselves to

get the message out to every high school in the city. Hundreds of informational packets were sent out to interested groups throughout the city.

We spoke to groups throughout Albuquerque, and as a result, nearly 1,000 people marched in Albuquerque on Feb. 5. As the resolution was about to be introduced in Santa Fe, on short notice, close to 80 people made a final effort in rallying and lobbying. On March 18, as the legislature was about to close, the resolution passed both houses by a large margin.

Q. What about follow-up?

A. We are getting calls from and speaking to immigration and human rights groups throughout the country. For more information call us at (505) 256-1523.



Anti-187 activists Ysaura Bernal Enriquez and Eduardo Hernández Chávez.

Oklahoma children pitch in after bomb killings



Children and a teacher from the Head Start program in Spencer, Okla., look through the fence surrounding the command center near the bombed-out federal building in Oklahoma City May 1. The group donated 80 gallons of water to supply the children affected by the right-wing terrorist attack.

Poor children must wait for new chicken pox vaccine

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Children whose parents can afford it will be among the first to receive the country's first-ever chicken pox vaccine, which was shipped out yesterday.

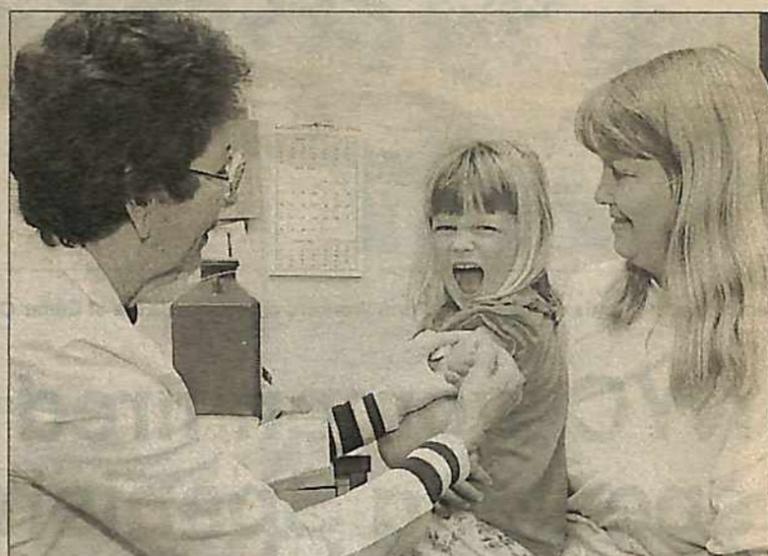
But poorer children whose parents can't afford to pay a private physician for the shot are going to have to wait — perhaps until early next year.

And some health professionals who run free health clinics are asking why. "It should be made available to everybody at the same time," said Carolyn Kowalski, a senior nurse with Jersey City's Division of Health's free Immunization Clinic.

Varivax, the vaccine manufactured by Merck & Co., is recommended for children ages 1 and older and adults who have never had chicken pox. Most doses of the injectable vaccine are being sent to private physicians, who should receive it in the next month or so.

But free, state-funded health clinics and immunization programs probably won't receive it until December or January, said State Department Health spokeswoman Amanda MacDonald. These programs purchase the vaccine in bulk with federal money and at a lower price, MacDonald said. The federal government is slowed because it must first get bids on the vaccine, although Merck is the only manufacturer.

Private physicians pay \$39 for each dose of the vaccine, Bradley said, but Kowalski said that price won't include the doctor visit, and that some parents have told her that doctors



Katrina Aldrin, 5, of Turlock, Calif., would probably have preferred to wait for her booster shot. Stanislaus County public health nurse Beni Stevens administers the life-saving medication while Connie Aldrin, the child's mother, watches.

are charging up to \$80 for some immunizations, not including the visit.

"Most of the people (we see) have two or three children," she said. "We get a lot of people in here who really can't afford it."

Four million Americans, mostly children, get chicken pox each year. In the vast majority of cases, children develop irritating, itchy bumps and miss about a week of school. But the disease can be deadly, killing up to 100 people annually and hospitalizing 9,300. Complications range from encephalitis to the so-called "flesh-eating bacteria," which can enter the body through chicken pox lesions. Chicken

pox is most dangerous to infants, adults and people with weakened immune systems.

"In the ideal situation, it would be wonderful, naturally, if we had it available," said Judy Flynn, director of Bayonne Hospital's Family Health Center, which gives free immunizations. She said clients are already asking when it will be available.

Too many children aren't even being immunized for other diseases, Kowalski said. President Clinton's pledge to immunize all children has run into many bureaucratic snags. "It's still not really in effect," she said.

Excerpted from the Jersey Journal, Hudson County, N.J.

AT THE FRONT IN THE CLASS WAR ZONE

FEATURE SECTION

In early April, I visited the Class War Zone in Illinois where thousands of workers are standing up to three powerful transnational corporations: 13,000 members of the United Auto Workers are on strike against U.S.-owned Caterpillar since June, thousands of members of the United Rubber Workers on strike against Japanese-owned Bridgestone/Firestone since July and 750 workers locked out by the British-owned Tate & Lyle, PLC since June 1993.

While there I visited picket lines, spent time in the "war room" of the Staley Campaign for Justice and talked to union leaders and rank and file members. I hope that the stories on this and the following pages succeed in conveying the determination, militancy, solidarity and creativity of these workers.

- Hy Clymer



'Cooperation' scam led to union-busting

DECATUR - Paul Easley has worked for Bridgestone/Firestone (B/F) for more than 28 years. He and some 4,000 members of the United Rubber Workers (URW) in five states have been on strike against the Japanese-owned multinational tire company since July 12.

"This strike will not be over for three generations," he said, shielding his face from the heat of the fire barrel. "I'll tell my kids and they'll tell their kids." Easley is particularly bitter because he "fell for this labor/management cooperation. I even became a leader of a Process Improvement Team."

Roger Walker is one of the some 1,200 members of URW Local 713 who fought it all the way. "I knew the title 'associate' didn't mean anything. We were still workers and they were still the company," he said.

Walker was one of those who marched the 45 miles from Decatur to Springfield last November. "We went there to demand that Gov. Jim Edgar and the state legislature do something about often illegal actions of B/F and the city's removal of picket shacks along the state highway fronting the B/F plant."

When Edgar refused to see them, 300 workers and their families from B/F, Caterpillar and A.E. Staley Co. sat down in the Capitol Building. Before the group left, 31 of them, including Walker, his wife and father, Charles, were arrested.

"My father said he had never been in



Members of United Rubber Workers Local 713 picket Bridgestone/Firestone plant in Decatur, Illinois.

World photo by Hy Clymer

jail. He saw this as his last chance and decided to make a stand," the younger Walker said proudly.

In the past the union and the industry have engaged in "pattern bargaining" - breaking through with one company and then using that settlement as a pattern with the others. Although Firestone was never easy to deal with, negotiations became more difficult when Firestone became Bridgestone/Firestone in 1988 and, in one fell swoop, became the world's second

largest tire maker.

When industry contracts expired in 1994, B/F attempted to weld an industry-wide united front to take on the URW. When that failed B/F decided to go it alone rather than settle on terms negotiated with Goodyear Tire and Rubber.

"B/F submitted a list of demands that we just couldn't accept," Randy Gordon said as he ticked off what he sees as the five worst: increased co-payment on insurance, "buying" the fourth and fifth week of vaca-

tion, reducing paid holidays from 11 to seven, 12-hour shifts and a non-stop production schedule.

Gordon, the youngish vice president of Local 713, was particularly forceful in rejecting B/F demands for a new seniority clause. "It would allow 'company sucks' to be promoted over equally-qualified senior workers," he said.

Nor was B/F's bad faith bargaining limited to demanding unacceptable concessions. "They didn't even present their demands in a face-to-face bargaining meeting - they faxed them to us," Gordon said. Later, B/F rejected Labor Secretary Robert Reich's request for a meeting, a position reversed only after intervention by a group of U.S. senators.

Leonard Smith builds tires - one every three minutes - working with steam pressures in excess of 75 pounds per square inch and temperatures above 350 degrees Fahrenheit. "When we were doing the work we had a scrap rate of about 1 percent," he said. Then pointing to an 18-wheeler filled to overflowing with scrap tires destined for the incinerator, he said, "Sixty percent of the tires made by scabs are scrap."

A recent *Wall Street Journal* article said B/F's union-busting is costing \$10 million a month. A bargaining session with B/F was scheduled for May 3. "We can only hope that we can settle this mess," Gordon said.

Solidarity, support maintains Cat morale

AURORA, Ill. - "Don't let anyone tell you that balmy spring weather comes to this part of Illinois in April, because it doesn't," Mike Minalga, a picket at the Caterpillar gate in Aurora, said as he blew on his hands. "That's why we keep the kitchen open, so people can have a hot drink and a 'sweet.'"

Coffee, tea and donuts are available 24 hours a day at the kitchen in the rear of the hall at Auto Workers Local 145, less than a block from the plant gate where pickets, their number limited by court injunction to six per shift, wave signs, point fingers and shout at the scabs racing through the gate.

A city cop sits across the street and inside the gate "rent-a-cops," equipped

with video equipment and listening devices, monitor the hundred or so union members who stand several hundred feet away from the gate lending moral support to the pickets and their voices to the shouts of "Scab!" And standing along side them, a contingent from the Chicago chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women who regularly make the hour-long drive to join the picket line.

Minalga, married and the father of two children, is one of the some 13,500 auto workers who have been on strike against Cat since June 21. The fight with Cat began in the fall of 1991 when UAW members in Cat plants scattered from York, Pa. to Denver, Colo. refused to accept a substandard contract.

When Cat threatened to permanently replace strikers with scabs in the spring of 1992, UAW members returned to work with the clear understanding that Cat would resume good faith negotiations. There followed a year-long "work to rule" campaign, refusal to work overtime and several work stoppages.

More than 100 strikers were suspended or discharged and more unfair labor practices were filed with the National Labor Relations Board, bringing the total to 149. Minalga, voicing the sentiment of most of his fellow pickets, said the NLRB administrative law judge had been "judgin' for two years and he's still judgin'."

Continued on page 19

A VISIT TO THE 'WAR ROOM'



Locked-out Staley workers and supporters on the march.

World file photo

The people fighting for you in Illinois' Class War Zone

By Hy Clymer

IF DECATUR IS THE CENTER OF the "Illinois Class War Zone" where workers are engaged in life-or-death struggles with Caterpillar, Bridgestone/Firestone and the A.E. Staley Company, then the office of the Staley Campaign for Justice can be called a "war room."

Red pins dot maps showing locations of support committees and trips made by Staley "road warriors." A half-dozen desks crowd the hall and homemade shelves, filled with T-shirts, jackets and literature, line one wall. Phones ring constantly and the counter on the copy machine registers 464,000.

Ethel Fergusson commands the computer equipment in a tiny office at the rear. "We have the best union data base except at AFL-CIO headquarters," she says, proudly.

Staley, a subsidiary of Tate & Lyle PLC of London, locked out the 750 members of Paper Workers Local 7837 on June 27, 1993.

"They had replacements standing by," executive board member Gary Lamb said. "At 3:30 a.m. we were escorted out of the plant. When the next shift reported for work the gates were locked."

Long before the lockout, Staley workers were forced to develop manuals explaining their jobs. Outsiders came to observe how jobs were done, a clear indication to Lamb that "things were going to get rough when the contract expired. When the time came, they just took over our stations and told us to leave."

Lamb is a "dispatcher," responsible for coordinating trips by the local's road warriors, the 50 or more union members who have crisscrossed the country and the Atlantic in a campaign aimed at hitting Staley where its money is.

The day we talked, Lamb was desperately trying to find a replacement for a road warrior who had become ill in Wichita, Kansas. "He'll go. I'll rent him a car. He can make the trip in eight hours," he said, heaving a sigh of relief.

That problem solved, Lamb turned to the next, booking a trip to Seattle for Mike Griffin,

now 50 and a Vietnam vet who served four years in the Marine Corps. Griffin, the son and grandson of Illinois coal miners, is presently on the Decatur Trades and Labor Assembly executive board. Each time he hung up the phone Griffin would smile and say in a loud voice, "Ain't this fun?!"

Griffin learned early in life "which class of people" he belonged to. "Among my clearest childhood memories is the sound of the disaster whistle at the Peabody mine," he said. "We'd go to the mine and wait for news of whose father, whose husband, whose son had been killed. The families of miners - my class of people - would stand outside in the snow and cold while families of management people were sitting inside where it was warm and dry. That was a dear lesson," he said bitterly, adding that the experience helped him "understand what the labor movement is all about."

For Griffin the Staley struggle is a simple matter of "us" against "them" - workers everywhere against transnational corporations like Tate & Lyle. "They're out to break the unions, pure and simple," said Griffin, who earned \$14.30 an hour as a mill wright when the lockout began. "Although the specifics may differ from company to company, the intent is the same - more production from less workers working longer hours for less money. It's as simple as that."

Griffin scoffed at company claims of "global competition. T&L has wiped out its competition by buying up 17 competitors. In every instance they moved to attack existing wages and working conditions, forcing strikes if they thought it necessary," he said. "Their philosophy seems to be that it's better to take on the union head-to-head than to nibble a little here and a little there over time."

And that's what happened at Staley when the contract expired Sept. 30, 1992: The company terminated payroll deduction of union dues. When the local voted overwhelmingly to reject its "last, best and final offer," the company began to impose its terms. In March, Staley imposed what the union describes as "the most dreadful aspect of its proposal - mandatory 12-hour rotational work-shifts."

A campaign of harassment followed and, on June 15, 1993, the day shift conducted a mass safety meeting, effectively shutting down operations. When workers refused to sign indi-

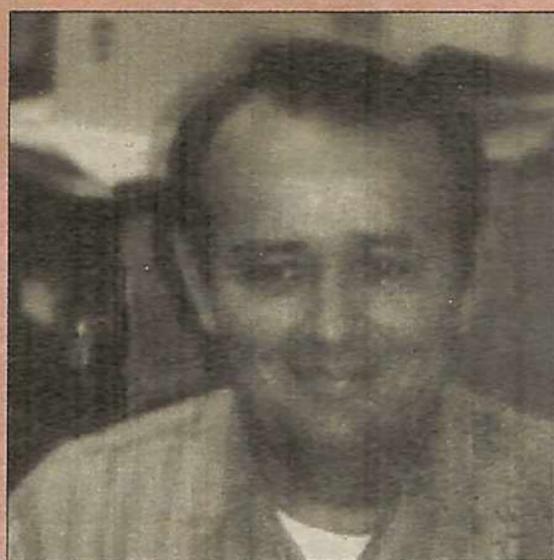


photo: Jerry Fergusson

"The intent is the same - more production from less workers ... longer hours for less money. It's as simple as that."

Mike Griffin

vidual contracts agreeing to the company's terms - a demand later withdrawn - the gates were locked 10 days later and Staley announced that workers' health insurance would be terminated.

Lorrell Patterson, whose motto has always been "fight the bastards," is one of the some 60 African American members of Local 7837. A single parent, she hired in three-and-a-half years before the lockout. She drives a school bus in order to make ends meet. "It's \$6.95 an hour for 22 hours a week," she said. "But, with the \$60/week from the union it's enough to get by."

As Patterson sees it, the Staley fight and the other strikes in Decatur are more than a struggle between individual companies and their workers. "No matter what your personal situation is, if you work for a living you're part of the working class and these battles are your battles," she said. "Look what they're doing at Cat and Firestone. It's the same fight."

Each worker in the wet-milling industry creates more than a half million dollars in added value annually. Nearly half of T&L profits are sweated from the hides of workers in Staley's U.S. plants. "These companies didn't make all that money off of 'dumb workers,'" Patterson said, "and they didn't make it by being nice to people, either."

Barry Williams heads the Adopt-A-Family Committee of the Campaign for Justice. In that capacity he has the main responsibility for providing financial and other assistance to families of Local 7837 members. He also logs the checks sent to the Campaign and money collected by road warriors.

Williams declined to divulge numbers, saying only, "We've saved the homes of several

photo: Hy Clymer

"No matter what your personal situation is, if you work for a living you're part of the working class and these battles are your battles. It's the same fight."

Lorrell Patterson



families." He did say, however, that the Campaign for Justice netted more than \$30,000 in the first two months of 1995.

But foreclosures weren't Williams' first concern. "Our number one priority was raising the money to guarantee prescription drugs for families who needed them. Remember - the company cut off our medical insurance right after they locked us out," he said, as he showed me the list of families who had been helped during the 22-month lockout.

Art Dhermy has become an expert at "digging up the dirt" on Staley. Griffin describes him as a "thorn in the side" of Decatur city officials who have a long record of pro-company support, including unleashing Decatur police and allowing them to beat and gas demonstrators before the Staley plant last June.

Staley is one of the several companies operating in Decatur's Enterprise Zone, an area where employers, after promising to create jobs, are given tax abatements for up to 20 years. According to Dhermy, "Massive property value write-downs and enterprise zone tax abatements granted to A.E. Staley Company are impoverishing local schools, community colleges, parks and other public services." Dhermy says Staley's write-downs and abatements cost local governments more than a half million dollars in 1993.

Dhermy's analysis also found that employment at Staley had declined by nearly 50 percent since 1993, despite tax breaks that were supposed to reward job creation. "Staley uses 25 percent of all water used in the city while paying only about 13 percent of the total bill."

But most of all, Dhermy delights in telling about the "work-to-rule" campaign in the months prior to the lockout. "I feel that I got even a little bit for what they did to my aunt who was bayoneted by a national guardsman during a coal strike years ago," he said, his voice hardening.

Dhermy said most of the workers had been in the plant for 20 years or so and the supervisors only three or four. "When they told us to do something we'd question them - not whether or not the order was right, but whether or not they were *sure* it was right," he said, his words coming from between smiling lips.

"Once they were sure that they were sure and sure that we were sure that they were sure, we'd ask them to put it in writing so that everyone could be sure that everyone else was sure. Then we'd follow the written order to the letter. It didn't take long before these guys were so confused they didn't know which end was up. The best way to put it is that we let their ignorance come out through our work," he said.

When asked how the campaign was organized, Dhermy said. "The National Labor

Relations Board has ruled that work-to-rule campaigns are a legal, concerted activity and, as such, are 'protected' activity. So we worked through the union and, at other times, through word of mouth. As anybody who works in a factory knows, there are ways of doing things."

The weekend before going to Decatur I asked George Becker, president of the Steel Workers Union, what it takes to win a strike these days. After thinking a moment he summarized it in a few words, "We've got to build a movement with enough heat so that when the boss goes to bed at night his last thought is about 'that damn union' and when he wakes up in the morning his first thought is 'another day of hell from that damn union.'"

The crew in the war room of the A.E. Staley Campaign for Justice may not have succeeded yet, but they sure are trying. And they are sure that, with the help of others, they will surely win.

"Massive property value write-downs and abatements are impoverishing local schools, colleges, parks and other services."

Art Dhermy



photo: Jerry Fargusson

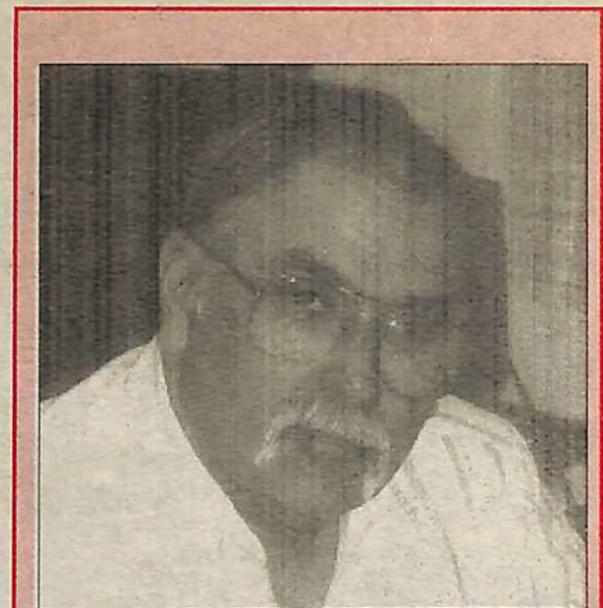


photo: Jerry Fargusson

"When the time came, they just took over our stations and told us to leave."

Gary Lamb

INTERNATIONAL

Right wing revises history on V-E Day anniversary

By William Pomeroy

LONDON — The celebration of the 50th anniversary of V-E Day, the victory in Europe of the Allied forces over fascist Germany, has been distorted and misrepresented since the collapse of the Soviet Union and other socialist states. In Germany a flood of false claims about the Nazi surrender on May 8, 1945 and about what brought it about has arisen in recent years.

Most ominous is the trend of a debate that has grown in Germany, emanating from its western regions. It is a debate over the nature and aspects of the rise of Hitler and Nazism. Promoted by right-wing historians and groups, its intention is to absolve Germany of guilt and to minimize its defeat.

One such effort is a positioning of the events of the 1930s and 1940s in a very lengthy historical context in which the Nazi period appears as brief, coupling this with an equating of Hitler with Stalin.

The main attempt from the right is to attack the official Allied view that May 8, 1945 marked the liberation of Germany from Nazism. Early in April a statement and petition signed by many right-wing and extremist figures was published in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* asserting that on May 8 Germany was not just liberated but destroyed, and calling for May 8 to be a day of mourning over the division of Germany that followed and the expulsion of millions of Germans from eastern Europe.

This drive to negate the significance of a 50th anniversary celebration is paralleled by the behavior of

the (West) German authorities in endeavoring to obliterate the anti-fascist role of the German Communists as well the socialist system they built in East Germany.

In April a celebration was held in Buchenwald of the liberation of that concentration camp in April 1945. The advancing U.S. army entered Buchenwald, but prior to their arrival a revolt of the prisoners stormed the watchtowers and guarded points and liberated the camp. It was led by a tightly-knit Communist organization among the prisoners which had gained control over the camp's inner administration.

The Buchenwald uprising has been well-known as one of many examples of resistance organized by the German Communists.

At the ceremony, attended by 1,000 former prisoners and some U.S. veterans of the liberation, a Jewish Communist former prisoner, Emil Carlebach, delivered a powerful speech in which he said, "The people who made Buchenwald possible are still respected leaders of German industry. They sit on economic advisory councils of parties which claim to be democratic. They don't raise their hands in the Hitler salute anymore, but only to grab cash from their blood-soaked dividends. And what of the officers and gentlemen who bombed villages and towns? They built up the new Wehrmacht and now they draw their pensions and wear with pride their Hitler medals."

The 50th anniversary of the victory over fascism is but a milestone in the continuing struggle to liberate the world from all forms of aggression and oppression.

Camp survivor wins right to speak at celebrations

By Klaus Steiniger

BERLIN — After a public outcry, the President of the College for Technical and Economic Sciences in Berlin-Karlshorst, Professor Knigge, reversed an earlier decision which barred one of the most outstanding anti-fascist resistance fighters of Europe from speaking on campus on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the liberation from Hitler's bloody dictatorship.

Emil Carlebach, first vice president of the International Committee of Former Prisoners in the Camp of Concentration of Buchenwald — a Communist — wanted to deliver a speech in the Berlin suburb of Karlshorst, where Hitler's generals signed the unconditional surrender document in May 1945.

The college is leasing rooms to a variety of appliers on strictly commercial conditions, also to the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS). In the case of Carlebach, his Party, the German Communist Party, submitted the contract draft it had received from the college administration two weeks ahead of time. But the president of the institution declared, without any further explanation, that an event with Emil Carlebach on the campus would be undesirable. Carlebach spent more than eight years in Nazi death camps.

The German Communist Party publicized the decision and led a mass protest against this decision. The institution was forced to reverse the decision and Carlebach will speak on the anniversary of the liberation of Germany from Hitler fascism.

May Day 1995: Workers around the world celebrate, protest



AP photos
 May Day 1995 was celebrated by millions of people the world over. On every continent and in every country workers marched and protested against the global economic crisis which has ravaged working people's lives. Clockwise, from top left: hundreds of thousands of Mexican workers protest against government austerity, despite cancellation of official May Day ceremonies; Vietnamese celebrate the unification of their country; Cubans march for the revolution; tens of thousands march in Moscow; students and workers protest in South Korea; tens of thousands celebrated in Greece.

INTERNATIONAL

*Celebrating the 50th anniversary
of the defeat of Nazi Germany – May 8, 1945 - 1995*



World file photos + AP
Images of the war against fascism, clockwise from upper left: Allied soldiers and concentration camp survivors greet each other at Dachau in 1945; A Soviet soldier hoists the Red Flag over the Reichstag building in Berlin on May 8, 1945; two women workers in the U.S. raise their fists for victory; Holocaust survivors and relatives remember at ceremonies in London earlier this week; victorious Soviet troops down captured standards of the Nazi army before the Kremlin in Moscow on May 9, 1945.

50th Anniversary of victory over fascism, militarism

The following is a statement issued by the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of V-E Day (May 8, 1945).

The WFTU joins the working people and trade unions and all democratic forces in the world in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the victory over fascism and militarism.

The Second World War, with all the horrors it caused, was the most destructive global conflagration in the history of humankind. Directly affecting eighty percent of the world's population, this war resulted in the loss of over 50 million lives, with another 35 million wounded or maimed for life. That tragedy, which Hitler and his big business backers brought to the world, should never be allowed to be repeated.

Thanks to the tireless efforts and huge sacrifices made by peoples and the working class within the resistance movement, civilization was saved and fascism prevented, from casting its dark

shadow over the world. A decisive contribution to the victory was made by the armed forces of the Soviet Union and those of the Allies, fighting along a broad front extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific.

The WFTU pays homage to the heroism and sacrifices of the millions who rallied under the flag of anti-fascist democratic unity, made the victory over fascism and militarism possible, and created the conditions for peace by establishing the United Nations.

The victory for democracy brought by the anti-fascist people's unity directly contributed to the liquidation of colonialism and the successes of the struggles for national liberation and social progress.

On the eve of the 21st century, it is abundantly clear that the agenda for the next century is essentially a social agenda. There can be no end to the present crisis and instability without dealing seriously with the accumulation of the social problems. Therefore, a lot of jointly organized activity should be undertaken by

the trade unions and other NGOs to find a reliable basis to advance this social agenda – as against the agenda of the extreme right of fomenting social disruption through racism and xenophobia.

This should mean, above all, earnest efforts to rebuild the anti-fascist democratic unity which laid the basis for victory 50 years ago, in order to win the victory over poverty and destitution and uphold the human rights of all the citizens of our planet. People's participation in development, the true essence of democracy, should become a fact of life.

The WFTU believes that the great lessons of the past half-century are that unity and cooperation in the world trade movement can stimulate its role in promoting the much-needed action for social progress and the well-being of workers and peoples. It is in this spirit that the WFTU intends to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the victory over fascism and militarism, welcoming the many initiatives already undertaken by its member organizations.

Israel: V-E Day a national holiday

By Hans Lebrecht

TEL-AVIV — A motion presented to the Knesset by the Democratic Hadash Front for Peace and Equality to celebrate the 50th anniversary in Israel as a paid work-free national holiday was unanimously adopted by Israel's parliament.

The motion was presented by the Communist Member of Knesset (MK) Tamar Gozansky, also on behalf of Hadash MKs Hashem Mahameed and Salah Salim. During the debate on the motion, a delegation of the Association of Anti-fascists and Victims of Nazism in Israel was present.

"The year 1995 is marked by the 50th anniversary of the great victory over Nazi Germany, the defeat of German fascism and Japanese imperial militarism, of the liberation of the peoples of Europe and the world from the danger of fascist enslavement – a victory that opened the way to a democratic development and national liberation of many peoples from colonialist oppression,"

Gozansky stated.

This anniversary has timely significance because of the not yet ended struggle against revived fascism, racism and xenophobia, a struggle which lies in the heart of all democratic minded people, she said.

Besides the memory for the many millions of victims of Nazi barbarism, the memory of the heroic resistance against fascism in Germany itself, and especially for the fighters against Nazi Germany in the ranks of the allied armies, the Partisans, the Ghetto fighters, the underground forces in the countries occupied by Nazi hordes, should be honored as well.

MK Gozansky reminded the audience that the Nazi command when they invaded the Soviet Union was: "Communists and Jews step forward." For the Nazis, the inhuman thesis of a German-Aryan master race and the aim to annihilate "Untermenschen" of "lesser races," the Jews, Roma and Sinti Gypsies, Slavs and others, was directly opposed to the humanist Communist ideology.

EDITORIALS

Foxes and hen houses

The Justice Department has decided not to prosecute Qubilah Shabazz, daughter of Malcolm X, on charges of conspiracy to murder Louis Farrakhan. Resting on the testimony of a professional FBI stoop-pigeon, Michael K. Fitzpatrick, this case was a stinking can of worms.

Fitzpatrick had been Shabazz's high school classmate and he played on widespread suspicions that Farrakhan had a role in the assassination of her father to lure her into the murder scheme. The Justice Department admits that Fitzpatrick was paid \$45,000 for his services as an informer against Shabazz.

Fitzpatrick's record as an FBI spy reached back decades. He was recruited by the FBI after being implicated in a 1970 bombing in New York City for which he served no prison time. He infiltrated an anti-apartheid committee in Albany, New York, where he advocated blowing up public utilities.

Vera Michelson, chair of the committee, was arrested on the basis of Fitzpatrick's lies that she had firearms stored in her home. The committee won a \$47,000 civil lawsuit against the city for the FBI frameup. Fitzpatrick infiltrated a Maoist youth group and practiced paramilitary warfare in the woods of upstate New York.

This sordid mess should be remembered when considering proposals for more FBI infiltration to combat terrorism. Many FBI infiltrators have turned out to be agent provocateurs in the mold of Michael Fitzpatrick - incorrigible liars who attempt to instigate violence as part of the FBI's efforts to discredit the movements of the people and to sow chaos and divisions in the movement's ranks. That is the history of the FBI's COINTEL-PRO which remains on the books today.

The FBI's main target is progressive organizations that reject terrorism on principle. It would be folly, indeed, to rely on FBI infiltrators as a line of defense against terrorism.

Helms vs. the people

On May 3, the Cuban people opened a nationwide discussions on a bill introduced into the U.S. Congress by Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and Representative Dan Burton (R-Ind.). It calls for U.S. retaliation against other nations which trade with Cuba. It also calls for the repatriation to U.S. citizens of all assets nationalized at the time of the Cuban revolution in 1959.

This discussion in every Cuban town and workplace is democracy in action. It stands in stark

contrast with House Speaker Newt Gingrich's "Contract on America," which was hatched in smoke-filled rooms on Capitol Hill with the advice and consent of the rich and well connected. Gingrich's "Contract" is a noose around the necks of the American people. The Burton and Helms bill is a noose around the necks of the Cuban people. Those who seek to cut school lunches and Medicare for the elderly at home would cut trade that delivers dried milk, medical supplies, fuel and other necessities to the Cuban people.

How dare the U.S. dictate the trade policies of other sovereign nations! The 30-year-plus U.S. blockade of Cuba has brought shame and growing isolation for the U.S. Cuba's trade is flourishing and even some U.S. corporate executives are beginning to grumble that the U.S. is "missing the trade boat" because of this senseless policy of economic and political blockade.

Next week Helms, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will open hearings on his bill. Call your Senators at (202) 224-3121. Tell them, "End the Embargo! Cuba trade would bring jobs and peace to our hemisphere! Stop the aggression against Cuba and it's elected government. NO to the Contact on America! NO to the Contract on Cuba!"

LETTERS

Reading PWW is a joy

I truly enjoy the *People's Weekly World*. You are exactly right, there is no other newspaper like the *PWW*. I do enjoy reading each article and I also attempt to read the Spanish. I am especially looking forward to more reports from Mike Davidow on the return of socialism to the Russian Republic, and I hope to read of socialist programs in East Germany as well as the rest of Germany. If God wills it, I hope to (soon) be listed as a member of the Communist Party USA.

John W. Hardwick
Alexandria, Va.

Don't slap SLAPP

Included in the Republican Contract Section 9 of "the Right to Common Sense Legal Reforms" is the SLAPP - "Strategic Lawsuit Against Political Participation." A Minnesota lawsuit concerning pollution of wet lands and a Michigan lawsuit instigated by the Canadian Mining Corp., Great Lakes Minerals, LTD concerning pollution were thrown out of the courts by the judge's rulings that SLAPP suits are viola-

tions of the First Amendment right to free speech.

New Mexico now has a classic example of a SLAPP suit instigated by Joab/NUMEX of El Paso, Texas against the South West Organizing Project because of its opposition to the corporation's history of polluting and exploitation of Mexican border minority communities.

As a 74-year-old student of history and a life-long advocate of citizen participation in government, I am alarmed that citizens concerned about the environment and economic justice are harassed in an attempt to deny them their legal rights to free speech.

Theresa Davidson
Santa Fe, NM

Sent congress a message

I want you to know how much I appreciate your article "Stand Up For Cuba." I sent a copy to Pat Williams, the only representative of Montana in the House of Representatives.

Betty Duimovich
Great Falls, MT

Thanks for a treasure

The March 4 *People's Weekly World* had a particularly wonderful surprise. There, spread across the whole center section, was our dearly-loved old friend, Meridel Le Sueur. As our relationship lengthened and deepened, we gradually began to realize what a great icon of progressive literature she was, and what a woman of steel she was.

In the last two or three years she was unable to reciprocate our greetings to her, and we were just starting to get a little fearful about her when lo! like Haley's Comet that streaked twice across her life in 1910 and 1985, she came streaking across our lives again through Tim Wheeler's incom-

parable article, "Luminous with Age, the seasons of Meridel Le Sueur." And it really takes the genius of a writer like Tim Wheeler to display the vast beauty of Meridel Le Sueur in the somewhat limited confines of two pages. But he has done exactly that, while simultaneously bringing us all up to date on just where Meridel is at now. We intend to save many copies of his wonderful article. It is a priceless treasure and resource.

Harold Heller
Mill Valley, Calif.

Socialism the road to harmony

Americans' roots are from every nation on the earth. Many of our people came with progressive, revolutionary and socialist ideals.

Capitalism and its drive to plunder the land and rape its natural resources is contrary to the socialist ideals of living in harmony with nature and providing fair housing and jobs for everybody. Socialism also calls for social equality for all, regardless of race, color or sex. Capitalism's greatest threat is socialism, because socialism is really for the people and by the people.

Socialism has participated in the struggle for unity of Black, Brown and white working classes and has promoted civil rights, women's rights and equality. It has called for social justice for all - jobs for everybody, housing for everybody.

Capitalism has put our people on the streets, freezing on park benches, eating in soup lines. It has allowed drugs to come into our country and make our minorities drug addicts. It then sticks them in prisons (slave camps) where prison guards (slave drivers) strip them of their identity and never rehabilitate them.

So, capitalism must be destroyed and looked upon as our enemy. The United States must become a socialist country to

really enjoy true equality and justice, racial harmony and full human rights.

Ishmale Williams,
Founder & director of Homeless
Citizens of the U.S.A. c/o Garrett Station,
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Workers in the U.S. demand labor law reform, protection of their right to organize, speedy recognition of unions and the right to a living wage."

From a leaflet distributed
at a May Day rally
in San Antonio
endorsed by the Texas State
AFL-CIO and many
of its affiliates.

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If you ask me . . .

Oklahoma bombing is more than 'extremism'

By Tim Wheeler

A poet once said April is the cruelest month. This year to look at the dogwoods blooming you wouldn't think so, but the dead and injured in the Oklahoma City bomb blast April 19 prove it to be so. This attack changed the country forever. It was a turning point that has forced us to look within our borders for the sources of violence and hatred in our country.

The fact that Arabs or Muslims were immediately targeted as suspects proves just how determined some people are to scapegoat "foreigners" while clinging to delusions that the U.S. is the "last best hope of mankind." What a shock that the prime suspect turned out to be a blond, crew-cut, much-decorated veteran of the Persian Gulf War.

Now it turns out that federal investigators are probing whether TNT used in the bomb was taken from the weapons depot at Fort Riley, Kansas, headquarters of the U.S. Army's First Division, dubbed the "Big Red One."

The monstrous crime was committed amid a national debate on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the U.S. pullout from Saigon. Former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara tearfully admits that the U.S. was "wrong, terribly wrong" to wage the Vietnam War. His book admits that he and other top officials knew, early on, that the war was "unwinnable." Yet the U.S. government, under both Democratic and Republican administrations, went on bombing, machine-gunning and napalming for nine more years - 58,135 dead GIs, 150,000 GIs wounded, and an estimated three million Vietnamese dead and wounded.

Remember Lt. William Calley who commanded the platoon on a search and destroy mission to the village of My Lai? Later, photos showed a mass grave filled with the bodies of unarmed women, children and men executed on Calley's orders. The carnage in My Lai is little different from the carnage in Oklahoma City.

Those who seek to obscure the lessons of My Lai and Oklahoma City talk of violence of both the "left" and "right." The *New York Times* lapsed into this knee-jerk red-baiting in an editorial that tried to make the comparison with the early 1970s Greenwich Village bomb blast that killed a group of "Weathermen."

Hogwash! Anyone who remembers those years knows that the source of any violence in the peace and civil rights movements was provocateurs planted by the FBI as part of their infamous COINTELPRO and "Operation Chaos" dirty tricks. The leadership of both these great movements were entirely consistent in advocating and practicing non-violent resistance to war and racism.

My family participated in scores of anti-war marches and rallies during those years. I remember one - it must have been about 1970 because our daughter Susan was still an infant. I was on assignment for the *World*, covering the speakers at the front of the rally on the west side of the U.S. Capitol. My wife Joyce and the children were sitting with friends on the grass, listening to speeches and folksingers.

Suddenly, without warning, the police lobbed tear gas grenades into the midst of this huge, peaceful crowd. A cloud of choking tear gas engulfed the people. Joyce covered the baby's face with a blanket and raced up Capitol Hill. A friend grabbed my other two kids and her own two children and raced behind her. The attack was completely unprovoked and brought home to me that Richard Nixon's "enemies list" included not only the children he was napalming in Vietnam but my own children as well.

There will be a strenuous effort by the media and other reactionary forces to limit responsibility for the monstrous bombing in Oklahoma to crazed extremists - the "lone assassin" syndrome. That will be the coverup. But the people are drawing deeper lessons. They blame the incendiary,

hateful rhetoric of House Speaker Newt Gingrich and his "Contract on America." And they remember white supremacist and union-baiter Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) when, a few months ago, he warned President Clinton not visit North Carolina - a barely veiled incitement to assassination. The white supremacist paramilitary weirdos who play at war in the Michigan woods are small-frys, aided and abetted by Gingrich, Helms and their right-wing corporate cronies.

It is extremist violence to force five million children off welfare. It is extremist violence when police in Decatur, Ill., at the behest of union-busting corporations attack workers with pepper gas as they sit on the ground protesting A.E. Staley's lockout. It is extremist violence to conduct a war of racist conquest in Southeast Asia and in so many other areas around the globe.

But the source of this violence is not "left and right." It is from the pro-corporate, anti-worker, racist and anti-Semitic right wing in our country. The actual perpetrators of violence - the "extremists" - take their ideological, and in many cases financial, lead from the corporate suites and the halls of Congress. Indeed, the left stands in fundamental opposition to everything the right wing is about.

McNamara has been reviled by the *New York Times* for his belated confession. President Lyndon Johnson and Secretary of State Dean Rusk went to their graves with their lips sealed - which gratified the *Times*, still obsessed with covering up the imperialist origins of that war. We will be closer to cleansing our nation of violence when those who supported the war in Vietnam, as well as the war against the working class and people at home, admit that they, too, are "terribly wrong."

Tim Wheeler is editor of the People's Weekly World.

Shut your mouth, Newt - you're driving me nuts

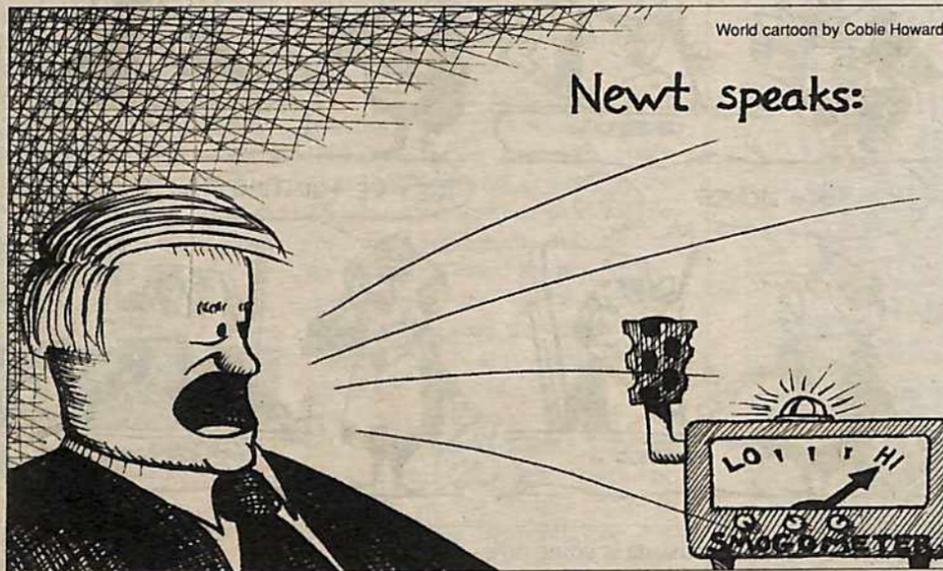
By Bernard Livingston

After weeks of hearing pundits pontificate on Newt Gingrich's "Contract," I decided to turn my radio off for the duration. What finally did me in was some economist warning that raising taxes would drive Merrill Lynch out of New York City.

"Good! And take Paine Webber and all the other stock hustlers along with you!" I shouted. "People need stock exchanges to build things like bees need them to construct a honeycomb! I mean, did God need Goldman Sachs to issue stocks in order to produce the manna which saved the Israelites in their flight from Pharaoh?"

"Are you nuts?" I could hear Alan Greenspan reply down at the Federal Reserve. Greenspan is the wizard who raises interest rates to keep the economy down. This capitalist insanity, in a time of hunger and unemployment, keeps farmers from raising more crops to feed hungry people and businesses from putting them to work. Such is the "magic" of the free market.

But his psychotic program does raise something: profits - profits for those hustlers who raise such hell shouting buy/sell orders at the commodity exchange. And that, I guess, is why Greenspan doesn't think his program is insane. "Without stocks and bonds," he would say, "how would corporations have raised capital to



create the technology that raised astronaut Neil Armstrong all the way to the moon?"

To which I'd respond, "Did the USSR need Merrill Lynch in order to raise Yuri Gagarin into orbit in the world's pioneer space flight? Did it need Goldman Sachs to produce the military that destroyed Hitler? Did it need a stock exchange to build back from the War's devastation, while maintaining full employment, free health care, free education and child care?"

Capital can be raised, as it is under

socialism, with society setting aside a certain amount of the social profit for reinvestment in equipment and technology - and dispense with junk bonds, hostile takeovers, derivatives and other brilliant inventions of the capitalist system. Then, instead of getting killed while crossing through traffic anxiously scanning the newspaper for the final Wall Street prices, people can relax and have fun watching the ball game.

"Are you nuts?" I could hear Greenspan saying again. To which I would re-

ply: only if you think capitalism is sane.

Speaking of nuts, Newt Gingrich insists that people-helping government programs (not the military, mind you) must be cut down to size. If he's so intent on cutting things down to size, let him start with his buddy Ross Perot's \$3.5 billion, and a few others like him.

Then there's all this talk, especially by Gingrich, about closing the budget gap. Who is Newt Gingrich to close a budget gap? He can hardly close that huge gap in his face known as his mouth for more than a second.

In addition, there's the business of reducing taxes you hear so much about in the "Contract." Reducing taxes? Don't they know that there are 35 million Americans who have no taxes to reduce? That's because they live under the poverty level and don't have enough income to tax.

But there are also five to ten million people in our country who live far enough above the poverty level to even surpass the luxury level, including Gingrich with his \$4.5 million book advance. So yes, let's cut things - starting with the incomes of luxury-level people. And let's do it in a way that will make Newt squirm: raise their taxes!

Bernard Livingston lives in New York.

If you ask me . . .

WWII and the home front – a story of us and them

By Pat Barile

"I've got a plan, Joe. I've got a plan – I've got a plan for every fighting man. You fight for me and I'll fight for you and we'll all work together when the fighting is through."

This is the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II – the war against fascism. With all the ink spilled and videotape used to mark the anniversary, it's a sure bet there will be hardly a word uttered in the corporate media to discuss the war from the perspective of class. Yet, a true understanding is impossible without it.

The ditty which opens this article is a stanza from a song of that period entitled, "Citizen CIO." It typified the will, spirit and political maturity of the masses.

The CIO (Congress of Industrial Organization) was the militant, fighting, progressive arm of the working class. Its presence and involvement in the war effort made the vital difference in the war mobilization and America's contribution to the victorious outcome of the anti-Hitler, anti-fascist war of annihilation. That's what the record shows.

"Citizen CIO" demonstrated not only the indomitable and fighting optimism of the people, it also showed far-sighted

thinking about the process of reconstruction and building a better America after the war. It was a vision of America moving forward based on a new "Economic Bill of Rights" as well as the "Four Freedoms" – freedom from fear, from want, from repression, from war.

Led by the CIO, labor imposed upon itself a no-strike pledge and a wage freeze for the duration of the war. Workers labored long hours on every conceivable kind of job, putting out the implements of war. Food and fuel rationing, housing shortages and a host of other discomforts and sacrifices were endured.

The most important sacrifice of all was the 13 million men and women who left home and family, took gun in hand and went to war. All had a vision of a new and better America without the capitalist depression that ushered in the War.

A hallmark of the CIO was also its ongoing fight for equality in hiring and on the shop floor for African Americans, women and everyone seeking work. It set up fair practices committees whose task was to lead struggles for equal opportunity. "Jim Crow Must Go!" was the battle cry.

The success of the CIO in establishing

itself as an important ideological, political and organizational arm of the working class and people's movement did not sit well with General Motors, General Electric, Ford, DuPont and the rest of the war profiteers. U.S. finance capital and industrial monopolies were openly sympathetic to Hitler's ideas. To the working class the CIO meant a fighting union; to the bosses it stood for "Communist-inspired organization." And while the working class had its post-war plans, so did the bosses.

Labor emerged from the war very strong. While the war bailed out the capitalist system by pulling it out of the Great Depression, it also brought the working class and people's movements closer together. It profited the bosses, but it also united the people.

In 1946 the CIO unions – particularly the United Steel Workers, the United Auto Workers and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers – conducted a wave of strikes for wage and other gains to begin making up for the 45 percent loss in buying power from the wartime wage-freeze.

The strikes were militant, united and victorious. So was the second round of strikes in 1947. These events shook up the

monopolies. In response, they opened up a full-scale anti-Communist offensive – at home against the Communist Party USA, coupled with the anti-Soviet offensive abroad. To kick off the anti-Communist hysteria, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce published and distributed 15 million copies of a pamphlet spreading the Big Lie that the CIO was under the control of the Communists, and that the country was about to be "sold out" to the Soviet Union. This offensive was a lever used successfully to split the CIO, giving rise to McCarthyism and the Cold War.

The CIO and working class took many hard blows during those years, aided by the betrayal of then-CIO President Phil Murray and other leaders who capitulated. The working class is paying dearly for it to this day. At the same time, the return to the ideology, organization and spirit of the CIO in the labor movement today – seen most clearly in trade union forms such as Jobs with Justice and the Industrial Union Department – bodes well for the future.

Pat Barile, former CIO union leader, is a member of the Communist Party USA's labor commission.

Class consciousness makes a 'World' of difference

By Kevin Hornbuckle

As an elected fighter for the working class, many compliments come my way for the political stances I take. But none compare in quality to some of the responses I get when distributing the *People's Weekly World*. Some recent examples tell the story.

The woman sitting on the bus stop bench looked sad. "Copy of the *People's Weekly World* today?" I asked in a cheerful tone. "I don't know," she responded as she looked up from the dirty sidewalk that had held her empty gaze for a long time. "What's it about?"

I handed her a copy to look over and the headline answered her question: "Census Bureau reports – rich get richer, poor get poorer." She read it aloud.

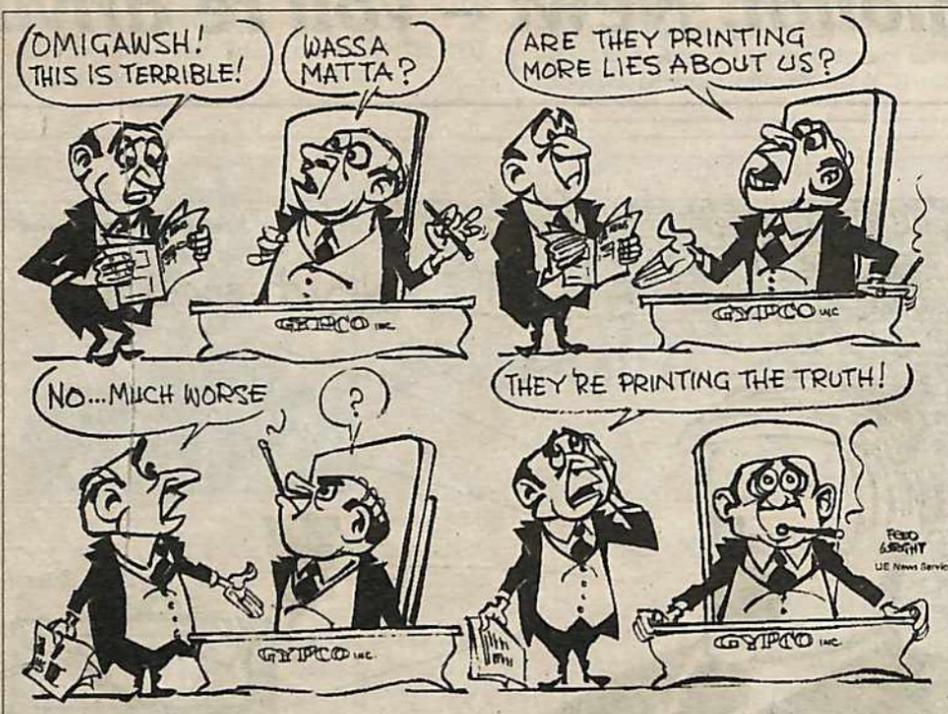
"That's the truth. I'm from Louisiana. Moved here five weeks ago because someone said there were jobs. Me and my son are staying in a shelter. There are no jobs. My son is 7 years old and we're homeless."

What's the right thing to say in a situation like this? The kindness and human strength in the woman's manner made me want to utter, "Damn capitalists; they steal people's lives from them."

"A job should be a human right," I said as plainly as I could. The woman agreed and asked me how much the paper costs. "For you it's free today."

"No," she protested, "It says here 50 cents, so I'm gonna give it to you. People need to know how bad poverty is. I'll pass this one around at the shelter."

A tear came to my eye in observation of the basic human dignity that can and will form the foundation of revolutionary fights for social justice. With an extra dose of motivation, I continued distributing this people's paper in downtown Eugene, Oregon. I wonder how the woman



from Louisiana is doing now.

Another day at the bus stop, I'd just broken a short run of rejections by giving a copy of the paper to a woman who'd never read one before. "You'll probably see me down here again," I told her. "I'll ask you how you liked it."

Moving on, I approached a fellow a few benches down. "Would you like a copy of the *People's Weekly World*?"

"Well, lemme see one." As he studied the cover, I waited patiently, wondering what his obvious curiosity suggested about his political ideas.

After a minute he looked up and asked, "Is this some kind of right-wing propaganda? It says here Com-

munist Party on the rise."

Taken aback, I quickly answered that the *World* is for fighting injustice, not causing it. "That story is about how the Communist Party is growing fast. It's not a warning. It's a proud announcement."

"That's good it's growing. Oh yeah! You're Kevin Hornbuckle the city councilor. I didn't recognize you. Sure I'll take a paper. I've read this before."

He took out a dollar and handed it to me. "This is for me and the woman over there you gave one to."

Capitalist society is alienating and alienated. So it is the duty of Communists and other partisans of the working class to speak to the people and for the people's issues. For elected officials there is always pressure to do just the opposite. The door to the Downtown Athletic Club is always open where you can rub elbows with the businessmen who run the town. Racquetball, weight lifting, deal making.

But if you're a homeless person you get your exercise by carrying everything you own on your back. And if you're a Communist city councilor, you get your exercise – physical and intellectual – by bringing the tools of class struggle to the people. That's the *People's Weekly World*.

I think back to the person who, nine years ago, gave me my first copy of this paper. Does he know that for me it has made all the difference in the world? Maybe. The sure thing is that the raising of class consciousness carries from one person to the next just as sure as truth, despite the efforts of the capitalist system to bury it, will win out.

Kevin Hornbuckle is a city councilor in Eugene, Oregon.

Cat strikers maintain morale

Continued from page 11

The present strike began when Cat refused to deal with its illegal discharges and unfair labor practices, and abruptly walked out of a negotiating meeting.

The Local 145 strike kitchen in the rear of the union hall does more than provided "coffee and." Bea Ward, the spouse of a Cat striker, and Pat Thorpen, herself a machine operator at Cat with 21 years seniority, oversee a crew of volunteers who provide meals for the hundred or so union members pulling picket duty everyday. "We feed them well," Rick Olesen said, as he diced a large onion. "And our chili is the best there is. Why don't you ask for the recipe?"

A well-stocked clothes rack, a literature table

and shelves with filled T-shirts. One of the the most popular - the one I bought - says, "This is Caterpillar. America starts outside the fence." "Honest to God, that's what a Cat supervisor told us in a bargaining meeting, the arrogant SOB," a striker said.

The walls are plastered with announcements and news clippings, while a special board, adorned with copies of buttons produced during the strike, hangs on the wall next to the kitchen. One of them, "It has to be a war zone - They have the guns," alludes to the Cat foreman who was caught attempting to carry a gun into the plant.

Caterpillar is the world's largest manufacturer of earth moving equipment, with factories scattered around the globe. Its largest tractor, the 770 horsepower D-11, weighs in at 250,000 pounds and sells for a million bucks a pop.

"Things fall apart ... and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned."
-W. B. Yeats

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A man of great courage
and passionate humanity.

Friend of the former Soviet Union
and all the former socialist countries.
Friend of socialist Cuba.

Unwavering activist for world peace
and social justice for the whole world.

Shortly before his death,
Hester made this plea:

**"The Berlin Wall must not be torn down.
It must remain as a symbol of the horror
and brutal humanity of fasclsm."**

Lydia S. Karhu

WHAT'S ON WHAT'S ON

NEW YORK, NY:

Sun., May 7 - 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. "Meet Our Press: Writers and Editors of the *People's Weekly World*." You are cordially invited to meet Tim Wheeler, *PWW* editor; José Palacios, *Nuestro Mundo* editor; Jim Genova, international affairs editor; and Rich Giovanoni, sports columnist. Tim Wheeler will report on his recent visit to eastern Germany and on the 50th anniversary of the defeat of fascism. **Goddard-Riverside Community Center**, 593 Columbus Ave. (at 88th St.) Light refreshments and surprise entertainment. Admission free. Sponsored by: The West Side Friends of the *People's Weekly World*. Call (212) 924-2523 for info.

BOSTON, MA:

Sun., May 7 - 6 p.m. "A May Day Dinner Celebration" at the Claddagh Restaurant, 113 Dartmouth St. Special Guest: **Sam Webb**, Secretary, National Labor Commission of the Communist Party USA. **\$20 per person** (\$15 for unemployed) Sponsored by and payable to: Friends of the *PWW*, 550 Massachusetts, 2nd floor Cambridge, MA 02139.

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PEOPLE'S CULTURE

My coming of age: Conscience vs. betrayal in Vietnam era

By Les Bayless
Washington Correspondent

Reading Robert McNamara's book, "In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam," got me thinking about the war and what I was doing at the time. I think 1964 is as good a place to start as any.

Despite living to the ripe old age of 91, I don't think Grandma Hill ever got over seeing my picture on the front page of the *Charleston Gazette* with a caption something like, "Nitro boy arrested in White House sit-in."

In a small West Virginia town, that was *news* – comparable to the time Lew Burdette, the famous Milwaukee pitcher, got into trouble and they changed Lew Burdette Avenue back to First Avenue. I guess we – Lew and I – brought infamy to Nitro, 10 miles down-river from Charleston.

I was arrested during a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) protest of the murder of Whitney Young, Jr., in Alabama. We had marched to the White House, carrying a symbolic coffin, donated by a local funeral home.

When we set the coffin down, the police cordoned off the area and pushed us back about 20 feet. What led to me getting arrested was the way the cops treated Lester McKinney, the march organizer. After escorting us to the White House they arrested Lester for "littering."

I broke through the police cordon and sat down in front of the coffin. It was my first protest march and everybody back home just knew that I was headed for trouble. I was 17, an age few of us know "what we want to be." Seventeen is the age when the young struggle for identity. Mine was shaped by the events of that year and what was to follow.

I finished high school in 1965 and entered junior college that fall. I wasn't crazy about school but it beat working for a living and going to school meant I could live at home and avoid adult responsibilities.

But not every young man had such luxuries, especially in 1965, which saw a dramatic change in U.S. involvement in the war in Vietnam: By then thousands of combat troops supplemented the 16,000 "American advisors" already there and a draft was reinstated because there were not enough volunteers to fight.

By 1967, over 400,000 U.S. troops were in Vietnam. U.S. pilots were flying 200 "sorties" a day over North Vietnam, bombing with an indiscriminate fury.

On October 21, 1967, some 50,000 demonstrators converged on Washington to protest the war. Following a rally at the Lincoln Memorial, they marched to the Pentagon, the headquarters of the military brass and the office of Robert McNamara. I got there about 10 p.m.

By the time I arrived – I had told Dad I wanted the car for a date – 20,000 protesters had formed a line completely circling the giant building, where they faced thousands of bayonet-equipped troops. Participants sang songs and impromptu speakers implored the troops to join the protest.

"The war is not your responsibility. Don't listen to your commanders who'll turn you against us and send you off to die. We're on your side," speakers explained.

The speeches had an effect. Cheers rose from the crowd. Rumors spread that several paratroopers had laid down their rifles and come over to the side of the demonstrators. Around midnight, press cameras were told to move out of the area. A hush fell as the crowd sensed the violence that was to come.



Anti-war protesters surround the Pentagon in 1967.

World file photo

Shortly after midnight the attack came. Soldiers moved into the crowd, knocking people back with rifle butts as marshals moved in and made mass arrests. Bloodied protesters, many seriously injured, were carried away. The line moved back as the troops established a new "beach head."

I escaped unharmed. Order had been restored – but at a price. Standing there, watching from close range as people were mercilessly beaten, left an impression that a lifetime has not erased. I suspect that thousands feel the same way.

For my generation, Vietnam was a coming of age. It crystallized our economic, political and social criticisms of a system that made war abroad while ignoring human needs at home.

Vietnam was a small country forming the eastern boundary of Indochina which was colonized by the French in the late 19th Century. Ho Chi Minh, the "George Washington" of Vietnam, began a liberation struggle to free the country from French rule in the 1920s.

After the Japanese surrender in 1945, Ho declared Vietnam an independent country. The war of liberation continued and, in 1954, following French defeat at Dienbienphu, a settlement partitioned Vietnam, with elections to unify the country set for 1956. Ostensibly a sovereign country, South Vietnam asked for U.S. military and economic aid to stave off total collapse and the election was never held. Fighting resumed in 1956.

Although much of the world viewed the government of South Vietnam as a puppet regime – and

correctly so – U.S. officials, including McNamara, cited the "domino theory" as justification for U.S. involvement. We were told the "loss" of Vietnam would have far-reaching "geopolitical consequences" and be a moral and political victory for the Soviet Union and China. We were told that Vietnam, a poor rural country with no air force or navy, was of "strategic importance" to U.S. interests.

As McNamara now admits, he later concluded the "theory" was wrong – but refused to go public. Many of us in the peace movement knew it was both wrong and immoral – only we did not keep silent. I was one of those and that difference changed my life forever.

The right wing smeared the antiwar movement, saying it was controlled by "communists." We were duped, they said, by strategists in Moscow or "Red China."

Anyone who knew anything about Indochina knew that was a lie. For a generation steeped in World War II movies, being lied to was quite a revelation. The dominant political ideology of the period was anticommunism. Was that a lie, too?

Since we were being called "Reds," maybe we were and it wasn't so bad after all. Most of all, we were "against" what the government was "for."

In 1988 I dropped out of school, about the time the "Viet Cong" (the South Vietnamese liberation army) launched the Tet Offensive against major southern cities. After years of telling the public that there was "progress" – that there was "light at the end of

the tunnel" – McNamara was forced to admit that the war was far from over.

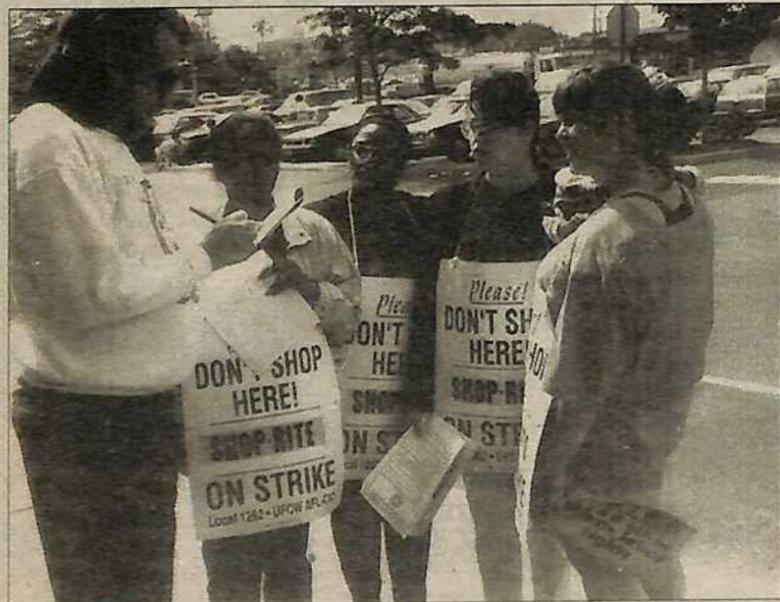
That year I got my first draft notice. I had decided to go and become a medic. But it was not to be. I failed the damn physical. By the time my case was to be reviewed six months later I had changed my mind. Hell no, I would not go!

I don't know why I did it, even to this day. But I think it had something to do with taking a stand. Leaving the country or seeking another deferment didn't seem fair. Guys I knew had to go. They were getting shot at and dying. If I didn't believe in the war, why should I get a break? Most of them didn't believe in it, either.

In January, 1969 I refused induction. That morning we passed out leaflets in front of the induction center. I never took that second physical. Two weeks later the FBI arrested me and I wound up at the old D.C. jail. After returning late to my cell one evening, I was jumped by six guards, worked over and spent a week in solitary confinement with no light and a dietary supplement instead of solid food.

I was released shortly after that on "personal recognizance," promising not to commit any other crimes until my trial. I lied.

After leaving the Johnson administration, McNamara went on to other things. So did I. I was arrested on May 21, 1969, for destroying 15,000 selective service files. I was sentenced to nine years in federal prison for destruction of government property and conspiracy and was released in May, 1973.



World file photo

Bayless covers a story for the World.

PEOPLE'S CULTURE

A common, corporate enemy in the "Class War Zone"



World file photo

Police spray "pepper gas" on peaceful locked-out union members whose backs are turned.

By Tim Wheeler

ST LOUIS, MO. — Friends of the *People's Weekly World* presented one of three Hershel Walker Peace & Justice Awards to LaborVision, a twice-monthly program on cable TV's public access channel here that eloquently tells labor's "untold story."

The award was presented April 22 to LaborVision founder and producer Rose Feurer during the fifth annual breakfast named for the late Hershel Walker, a leader of the Communist Party and a beloved fighter for equality and peace. Other recipients included the Rev. Ronald Packnett, chair of the Black Leadership Roundtable in St. Louis, and William "Red" Davis, a leader of the Communist Party USA.

LaborVision produced a video based on interviews with Red Davis titled "Reflections of a Lifetime in Labor" about his legendary exploits as an organizer of Mississippi riverboat workers for the National Maritime Union. They also produced two gripping videos about the two-year struggle of 750 workers at A.E. Staley's corn sweetener refinery in Decatur, Illinois. The videos are titled "Deadly Corn" and "Struggle in the Heartland."

Labor of love

Feurer told the crowd that the 30 people connected with LaborVision are unpaid volunteers, active trade unionists with no previous filmmaking experience. They use the cable company's public access studio cameras and editing equipment to produce the superbly filmed and edited program.

At last count, Feurer said,

7,700 copies of "Deadly Corn" and "Struggle in the Heartland" have been distributed — mostly copied and recopied by rank and file workers and local unions across the country.

They started shooting "Deadly Corn" while the Staley workers, members of Local 837 Allied Industrial Workers (now the United Paper Workers International Union), were engaged in a "work-to-rule" protest against hazardous conditions in the plant which makes corn sweeteners, syrup and starch.

The growing anger came to a head when James Beals died while cleaning a reactor vessel. Deadly propylene oxide gushed into the reactor from the neighboring reactor which was still in operation suffocating Beals. Previously, both reactors were shut down for cleaning.

But when British-owned Tate & Lyle bought the plant, a campaign of cost-cutting and speedup was launched with rotating 12 hour shifts and cutbacks in wages, benefits, and safety practices. Tate & Lyle also owns Domino Sugar, which is the target of a nationwide boycott in solidarity with the now locked-out Staley workers.

Making the connection

The video traces the "powerful web of corporate alliances" that the Staley workers are battling. Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), a neighbor down the road, is an agribusiness giant with \$8.5 billion in assets, presumably a corn sweetener competitor. But the video reveals that ADM, through a London subsidiary, actually owns a controlling interest in Tate & Lyle. The video shows ADM's 20 inch pipeline from its plant to

the Staley plant "to provide products to Staley in case of a strike or lockout."

ADM Chief Executive Dwayne O. Andreas, who lives in Decatur, is "the biggest contributor of so-called 'soft' money to both the Republican and Democratic parties," the video states. When the Watergate burglars were caught inside Democratic Party headquarters in 1972, their pockets were stuffed with cash later traced to Andreas.

Another strand of the web is State Farm Insurance of Bloomington, Minn., which owns a big share of both Caterpillar and Tate & Lyle. It proves that all the striking and locked-out workers in Decatur — Staley, Caterpillar and now the Bridgestone-Firestone rubber workers — face a common enemy with interlocking corporate directorates, billions in assets and a shared agenda of unionbusting and profiteering.

Documenting police violence

"Struggle in the Heartland" contains footage of a June 4, 1994 march by 5,000 trade unionists in solidarity with both the Staley and the Caterpillar strikers. It culminates in a sitdown protest blocking Staley's plant gate. Jack Spiegel, a veteran Shoe Worker organizer in Chicago, tells LaborVision, that if he is arrested it will be his 28th time, reaching back to the unemployed struggles of the 1930s and protests against the Vietnam War during the 1970s.

"Only workers understand the struggles of other workers," Spiegel said. Labor, he said, must "start becoming militant. Without struggle we're going to get no

"Deadly Corn"

28 minutes

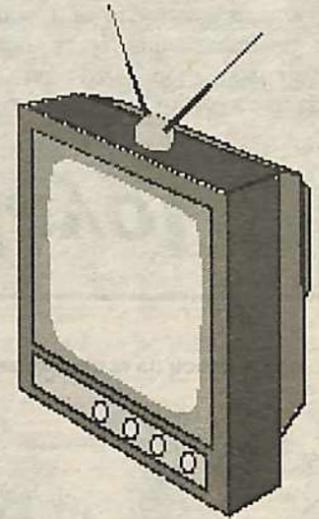
"Struggle in the Heartland"

18 minutes

Videos produced by

Rose Feurer,

LABORVISION



place." Moments later, he is arrested. So is Larry Solomon, president of United Auto Workers Local 751, representing the striking Cat workers, and Dave Watts, president of Local 837 at Staley.

Three weeks later, June 25, workers staged another sit-down blocking the big hopper trucks that deliver corn to the Staley plant. Without warning, the police, in black SWAT uniforms pulled out pepper gas canisters and sprayed the workers point blank in the face as they sat on the roadway. The video shows workers rolling on the ground in agony from the burning pepper in their eyes, face, and lungs.

"The police had three cameramen video-taping the incident and we were able to obtain that footage proving this attack was completely unprovoked," Feurer

told the audience. It appears in "Struggle in the Heartland" in slow motion while folk singer Anne Feeney sings, "There's a war on the workers!"

The war escalates

Less than a month later, Japanese-owned Bridgestone-Firestone provoked a nationwide strike, including a walkout of workers at its Decatur plant. Again, strikebreakers were brought in, bringing to three the labor struggles in the "Illinois Class War Zone."

To purchase these videos, write: LaborVision, P.O. Box 63234, St. Louis, MO. 63163. Enclose a \$10 check or money order for "Deadly Corn," \$8 for "Struggle in the Heartland."

Fund drive continues

May Day is the spark that mobilizes our readers to celebrate heroes of the working class. The Herschel Walker May Day Breakfast in St. Louis April 22 focuses on one such hero — "Red" Davis. For years Davis distributed the *People's Weekly World*, helped build circulation and raised money to keep it going.

This year, he went all out and upped his contribution to \$1,000. In his usual modest way, the check arrived unheralded. But at the *World*, where we know how much this means to the \$400,000 Fund Drive, a cheer went up.

Davis joins nearly two dozen who have contributed \$500 or more. Charles Gibadlo heads the list with a \$2,000 contribution. To these friends, and to everyone who has contributed, we give our heartfelt thanks.

To date, readers have contributed \$66,000 — a substantial sum, but, at six weeks into the drive, below the \$100,000 mark which would put us on schedule. Let's nurture the May Day spark through the entire month and use it to bring us quickly to 25 percent of our goal.

Audrey West,

Celebrando Cinco de Mayo 1995

En lucha contra crisis y discriminación

Por Marilyn Bechtel

A la cabeza del desfile por el Cinco de Mayo por el Distrito Mision de San Francisco habían trabajadores del Programa Laboral de la Ciudad, marchando orgullosamente con gigantescas figuras de martillos y palas. Su prominente lugar en esta festiva jornada dedicada a los niños y al futuro, dramatizó el coraje y la determinación con que grandes números latinos, en su mayor parte mexicanos en esta región confrontan muchas dificultades.

"Es una lucha diaria" para estos trabajadores, la mayoría de los cuales son inmigrantes recientemente llegados, dijo al Mundo la directora del programa Marta Elena Miyar. "Muchos de ellos no tienen casa, y también se preocupan por mandar dinero a sus familias y por sobrevivir aquí".

Además, dijo Miyar, la aprobación de la Proposición 187 ha significado mucha más discriminación. Dijo que incluso a los residentes documentados se les ha negado solicitudes de trabajo o se les ha exigido que presenten documentos específicos a pesar de que la Proposición 187 no puede ser enforzada aún debido a los retos que confronta en la corte.

No solamente los latinos, los afroamericanos y los asiático-americanos tienen en la mayoría de veces los trabajos peor pagados, dijo la Supervisora de San Francisco Susan Leal, sino "que el hecho de que es 'correcto' ahora no ser 'políticamente correcto' - que de alguna manera es aceptable que la gente exprese toda clase de odio".

Leal, también a la vanguardia del desfile, fue la que dirigió los

esfuerzos de la Junta de Supervisores para darle el nombre del dirigente laboral y de derechos César Chávez a una de las principales vías arterias de la ciudad.

Ocupa un papel prominente entre las organizaciones en las comunidades latinas enfrascadas en la lucha para superar el doble fardo de la crisis económica y la opresión racial y nacional, el Concejo Laboral para el Avance Latinoamericano (LCLAA, siglas del inglés), que reúne a varios miles de trabajadores latinos bajo los auspicios de la AFL-CIO.

En una entrevista telefónica, el presidente nacional de LCLAA Ralph Jiménez dijo que las fuerzas que promovieron la Proposición 187 en California están intentado hacer lo mismo en otros estados incluidos en Texas y Florida.

Pero, enfatizó Jiménez, "el problema en California no son los inmigrantes" sino más bien "California tiene una base industrial en erosión, y hasta que eso no sea atendido, el estado va a continuar teniendo problemas económicos. Culpar a los inmigrantes, como se ha hecho en Estados Unidos en los dos últimos siglos, no va a resolverlo".

Agregó el dirigente que hay estudios que han demostrado que los inmigrantes antes contribuyen en grande con más ingresos por concepto de impuestos que los que ellos reciben en servicios.

Jiménez dijo que la LCLAA está comprometida por completo a la lucha para preservar la acción afirmativa. La acción afirmativa y la oportunidad igual de empleo han

"creado muchos trabajos para mucha gente", dijo, mejorando la situación de hombres y mujeres tanto blancos como de color.

Jiménez mencionó la participación de los votantes como una prioridad a nivel nacional. Los esfuerzos incluyen un programa acelerado para inscribir a centenares en actos de juramentar bandera. La de Los Angeles, por ejemplo, son importantes porque a veces hasta 1.500 personas juran bandera en una solo día.

LCLAA trabaja por asistir en

sus necesidades a los residentes de larga data, así como a los recién llegados, dijo el presidente del capítulo de San Francisco Martín del Campo. "Nosotros creemos que inicialmente tenemos que atender las necesidades de la gente más explotada", dijo. "Pero no podemos pasar por alto la necesidad de construir la unidad entre los inmigrantes recién llegados y los latinos que han estado aquí por largo tiempo".

Del Campo dijo también que la LCLAA está comenzando una

campana "para atender los problemas de la mujer y así atraer más latinas a nuestra organización habilitándolas a que asuman posiciones de dirección en nuestra organización".

Los asuntos internacionales son también de importancia, dijo del Campo, anotando que el capítulo de San Francisco que dirige enfatiza la solidaridad con los trabajadores mexicanos y con el movimiento zapatista en Chiapas, así como el auspicio de visitas a Cuba.



Foto Marilyn Bechtel

Aspecto del desfile por el Cinco de Mayo a lo largo de la Avenida César Chávez, bautizada en honor al líder de los derechos civiles fenecido en 1993.

¡Viva el espíritu del Cinco de Mayo!

Por Adanjesús Quávez

Este fin de semana se conmemora el Cinco de Mayo en México y en ciudades de Estados Unidos habitadas por grandes números de mexicanos. La fecha conmemora la derrota del ejército mexicano a las fuerzas invasoras imperialistas franceses en la ciudad de Puebla, el 5 de mayo de 1862.

Desde sus orígenes, la fecha ha sido no solo un día pleno de alegre celebración, sino también un momento para movilizar las luchas en todo el país sobre los problemas de hoy. Este año, entre los temas más agudos para el pueblo mexicano y otros grupos latinos que viven en Estados Unidos es la lucha por sus plenos derechos civiles y económicos, contra la campaña impuesta por las medidas racistas medidas antiinmigrantes como la Proposición 187 de California.

El desafío antiinmigrante traído por las fuerzas de la derecha republicana que hoy controlan el Congreso es parte de todo el esfuerzo del "Contrato con Estados Unidos", para destruir el concepto de la responsabilidad del gobierno hacia los sectores pobres de la sociedad. Bajo la llamada Acta de Responsabilidad Personal, que acabaría

con el sistema de derechos de asistencia social, todos los beneficios serían eliminados para los inmigrantes—aun para los que tienen sus documentos. La lucha por los derechos de los inmigrantes es por lo tanto un asunto alrededor del cual se deben construir alianzas con amplios sectores del pueblo de Estados Unidos.

Otro desafío que puede ser derrotado por una lucha unida es el ataque contra la acción afirmativa, que comienza con los intentos de entrar una propuesta en la papeleta de California en 1996 para destruir las débiles medidas que han buscado revestir siglos de discriminación contra las comunidades latinas, afroamericanas y de otras nacionalidades y culturas.

Bajo fuerte embestida se encuentran ahora los programas de educación bilingüe. Los que quieren destruir la educación bilingüe se encuentran fabricando leyes y resoluciones en legislaturas, juntas escolares en un esfuerzo por retornar a los días en que un niño que hablara español en el patio escolar era objeto de castigo corporal.

Los trabajadores latinos, sean o no inmigrantes, están sujetos hoy a los mismos ataques sobre sus derechos como trabajadores por parte de los patronos, incluido su derecho a pertenecer a un sindicato y a la negociación colectiva.

Los trabajadores mexicanos y sus aliados están también bajo fiero ataque por parte del imperialismo norteamericano por medio de la implementación del Tratado de Libre Comercio y la imposición de los destructivos "préstamos" que han forzado al gobierno mexicano a recortar su presupuesto y ceder las ganancias por la venta de petróleo al exterior.

Aunque la victoria del Cinco de Mayo se tornó en revés cuando el Emperador Napoleón III capturó después cinco ciudades y fue coronado como "Rey de México", esto marcó un punto de viraje para las luchas de independencia de México. En cinco años las tropas francesas fueron forzadas a retirarse y Maximiliano fue ejecutado. La solidaridad de la clase trabajadora francesa, que montó una protesta masiva en su propio país, jugó un papel importante en la derrota a Francia.

El espíritu del primer Cinco de Mayo nos trae hoy a las amplias luchas de la clase trabajadora, negra, blanca o de otro color. El mensaje es claro: con una lucha unida y decidida, la clase trabajadora de este país, y nuestros aliados en México y otros países, podremos poner en retirada la ola de ataques y construir un país con igualdad económica, social y derechos políticos para todos.

Propuesta de Helms: El colmo de la arrogancia

La siguiente es una versión adaptada del discurso de Ricardo Alarcón, Presidente de la Asamblea Nacional de Cuba, durante la conmemoración del 34 aniversario de la derrota de la invasión de Playa Girón, patrocinada por el gobierno de Estados Unidos. Alarcón se encontraba en Nueva York encabezando la delegación cubana a la reunión de asuntos de inmigración entre Cuba y EE.UU.

Estamos conmemorando este aniversario de la primera acción militar del imperialismo que terminó en la derrota en este continente, del fracaso de la invasión a Cuba en momentos en que alguna gente planea otra invasión a Cuba....

Yo no sé cuántas personas en Estados Unidos han tenido la oportunidad de leer ese documento [la propuesta del Senador Jesse Helms, destinada a reforzar el bloqueo a Cuba]. Para los que lo hayan hecho, habrán visto que ahora, quitándose todos los tapujos, quitándose toda la hipocresía que durante mucho tiempo mucha gente desde acá ha usado para atacar a la revolución cubana, ahora dicen claramente lo que todos los revolucionarios cubanos sabíamos desde el principio, lo que todos los patriotas cubanos conocíamos desde siempre; es algo muy sencillo: que frente a nuestro pueblo, frente a su revolución que resiste, que se mantiene, que se desarrolla pese a todos los problemas hay una sola alternativa: O salvamos nuestra revolución o Cuba regresaría irremisiblemente al pasado. Pero durante mucho tiempo han estado gastando millones y millones de dólares diciendo que los que ellos buscan en Cuba es hacer algunos cambios, que esto no sea así sino así, o que esto no sea de esta forma sino de esta otra. Y ahora en un proyecto de ley que ha sido presentado oficialmente al senado y la cámara de representantes de este país, en blanco y negro, en letra imprenta, para que todo el mundo pueda saberlo, ahí se dice claramente que el bloqueo será reforzado; que para reforzarlo van a perseguir a todas las empresas, a todos los países, a todas las instituciones en todo el mundo que mantengan o pretendan mantener vínculos económicos y comerciales con Cuba. Es decir van a tratar de hacer el bloqueo todavía más intenso, todavía mucho más fuerte.

Lo primero que había que preguntarse es por qué cinco años después de haber desaparecido el campo socialista, por qué tres años después de haber aprobado la llamada ley Torricelli que fortaleció el bloqueo, lo hizo más duro, hizo que cesaran los vínculos económicos entre Cuba y todas las empresa norteamericanas radicadas fuera de Estados Unidos, por qué tienen que seguir apretando todavía.

La respuesta es muy sencilla. Porque hasta ahora han fracasado, porque hasta ahora a pesar de Cuba hoy no cuenta con ningún aliado, con ningún país que le dé respaldo financiero, a pesar de que se nos cayeron todos los mercados, a pesar de que se nos creó una situación que, habría que ver si algún otro país hubiera sido capaz de resistir, lo cierto es que estamos ahí, existiendo, y que por mucho que les duela,

nuestros problemas de hoy que siguen grandes, que siguen siendo complejos, que siguen siendo difíciles, pero si los comparamos con los que teníamos hace dos años, o hace un año, o hace seis meses, hay que reconocer que estamos poco a poco, trabajosamente, dificultosamente saliendo de la crisis, marchando hacia arriba, podemos decirlo sin ufarnos excesivamente, sin ningún triunfalismo que terminamos un año 94 que, no en todos los aspectos de la economía del país, ni siquiera en todos los aspectos importantes, porque desgraciadamente lo que se refiere a la producción azucarera el país está en una crisis que no podrá superar este año pero confiamos que comenzará a remontarla a partir de la próxima zafra, la zafra del próximo año.

Si consideran que tienen que castigar a los que comercian con Cuba, la razón es muy sencilla. Es que a pesar de todas las presiones que contra ellos han hecho hasta ahora hay gente que sigue comerciando con Cuba. Si consideran que tienen que castigar a los que están dispuestos a invertir asociándose con el estado cubano en nuestro país, sencillamente tienen que castigarlo más porque hasta ahora no han logrado impedir que haya gente en este mundo dispuesta a hacerlo.

Pero la propuesta de ley no se queda ahí. Dice de modo muy claro para que lo pueda entender todo el que la lea, que ese el bloqueo reforzado, intensificado continuaría hasta que lograra derrotar a la revolución, y una vez que la revolución hubiera sido liquidada, el bloqueo continuaría, no lo van a levantar, según esa ley no lo levantarían ni después que se acabara la revolución. Seguiría el bloqueo incluso después que la revolución hubiera sido derrotada y que viniera lo que ellos llaman el período de transición. Ese período de transición sería bajo el bloqueo, ese período de transición debería conducir a la que llaman el gobierno democrático en Cuba. Y ustedes se preguntarán, ¿bueno ya en ese momento se acabó el bloqueo? Según la ley Helms, tampoco se acaba el bloqueo en ese momento. ¿Cuándo se terminaría el bloqueo según ellos, según ese proyecto, según eso que están proponiendo los legisladores de este país para que los conviertan en una ley obligatoria para el gobierno norteamericano? Según ellos, el día que el presidente de Estados Unidos certifique al Congreso que se ha restaurado en Cuba la democracia. Restaurar en

Cuba la democracia, según la ley, no sería solamente restablecer lo que ellos llaman la economía de mercado, no sería solamente reintroducir en nuestro país toda esa farsa, toda esa hipocresía, toda esa corrupción que en el mundo occidental llaman democracia representativa, eso no bastaría, porque eso tendría que haber sido introducido, según la ley, en período de transición. El presidente de Estados Unidos tendría que certificar al Congreso que las propiedades, los bienes de los nacionales norteamericanos que fueron nacionalizados por Cuba al principio de la revolución habrían sido devueltos a sus antiguos propietarios.

Pero además, la ley Helms modifica el concepto de qué cosa es o era un propietario norteamericano.



Foto AP
Miles de cubanos conmemoraron en Día Internacional de los Trabajadores con su tradicional concentración en la Plaza de la Revolución. Similares manifestaciones tendrán lugar por toda Cuba próximamente en protesta contra el endurecimiento del bloqueo de Estados Unidos contra la isla caribeña.

La ley Helms dice nada más y nada menos, que a partir de ahora, cuando se hable de ciudadanos de Estados Unidos cuyas propiedades hay que devolver, no se tratará solamente de aquellos que eran ciudadanos norteamericanos al triunfo de la revolución en Cuba, sino también hay que incluir dentro de esa categoría a todos aquellos que hoy son ciudadanos de Estados Unidos pero que no lo eran cuando fueron nacionalizadas sus propiedades en Cuba. Cualquier cubano que tenga suficiente edad puede tener en su mente de inmediato un montón de nombres de ciudadanos norteamericanos de hoy que no lo eran cuando se escaparon con Batista en su avión el 1ro de enero, que no lo eran cuando se fugaron de nuestro país llevándose millones de dólares que le robaron al tesoro público, y a partir de ahí a todos los que se fueron yendo. ¿Pero que quiere decir esto? Esto quiere decir nada más y nada menos que lo que le ofrece la contrarrevolución al pueblo cubano, ya sin hipocresía, ya sin ambages, dicho claramente en un proyecto de ley, es muy sencillo, no solo acabar con la revolución, sino devolverle a cada uno de esos individuos que robaron que malversaron, que explotaron, que oprimieron a nuestro pueblo las propiedades que la revolución en su acción justiciera puso en manos del pueblo.

Imaginar que eso pueda realmente realizarse requiere mucha más imaginación que la que tuvieron los que pretendieron invadir a Cuba hace 34 años, que se imaginaban que los iban a recibir con aplausos. Porque imaginarse que una pueda ser capaz de privar de sus casas de sus escuelas, de sus hospitales, de sus círculos sociales o infantiles a 11 millones de cubanos tiene que estar rematadamente loco. Y por supuesto eso no se logra con votos en el Congreso, eso hay que ir a buscarlos allá, eso hay que ir

a pelearlo allá.

Bueno en nuestra sociedad que se supone que es menos democrática, yo quiero anunciarles que a partir del 3 de mayo, nosotros si vamos a discutir esta ley fábrica por fábrica, provincia por provincia, escuela por escuela, palmo a palmo de nuestra tierra. Nosotros creemos en la democracia, y la democracia es la autoridad del pueblo, el ejercicio del poder por el pueblo. Que hagan ellos eso. Que lleven ese proyecto de ley a los trabajadores, a la gente humilde. En realidad pudieron hacerlo antes con unos cuantos proyectos que han ido pasando uno detrás de otro por el Congreso para quitarles el almuerzo escolar, la asistencia social, para quitarles una serie de beneficios sociales que se los van arrebatando a un pueblo con el cual nadie cuenta.

En primer lugar tienen que acabar con la revolución. Y en el supuesto caso que logran algún día—yo estoy convencido que no lo van a lograr pero imaginemos que ocurriera eso—no solamente sería pelear con nuestras fuerzas armadas, con nuestras milicias, con nuestro partido, con los revolucionarios, sino que después van a tener que ir a arrancarles a cada cubano su casa, su finca, su hospital, su escuela. Y este pueblo que ya aprendió unas cuantas cosas, va a defender todo eso en algunos lugares será con machetes, en otros será con palos, en otros será con las uñas, pero no debe quedar la duda de que realmente aquello que dijo Maceo hace mucho tiempo, se le convertiría en una realidad: El que intente apoderarse de Cuba solo recogerá el polvo de su suelo anegado en sangre, si no perece en la lucha.

Y yo diría con todo el respeto para el Titán de Bronce que el que intente hacerlo perecerá en la lucha, perecerá en el polvo y en la sangre, pero no se apoderará de Cuba.

CUBA

Habla Ricardo Alarcón

Página 23

NUESTRO MUNDO

SEMANA DEL 6 DE MAYO DE 1995

Proyecto Martínez a la Cámara

Por Les Bayless

El Representante Matthew Martínez introducirá un proyecto de ley por trabajos en el Congreso que pondría a millones de trabajadores en Estados Unidos a trabajar en la reparación de la decaída infraestructura, de acuerdo a los que respaldan la pieza legislativa.

"Esta propuesta es mi respuesta al republicano 'Contrato con Estados Unidos', dijo Martínez recientemente. "Los republicanos mantienen diciendo que ellos quieren que los estadounidenses se salgan del bienestar social y consigan un trabajo. Pero nada en el tan cantado contrato, crearía un solo trabajo.

Las propuestas republicanas que han sido aprobadas en la Cámara de Representantes y aguardan la acción del Senado acabarían con los programas de bien estar social y de estampillas de alimentos y reemplazarían esos privilegios con "bloques de subenciones" a los estados.

Los auditores congresionales han estimado que los recortes tienen un total de

\$60.000 millones sólo en 1996. Los republicanos también se dirigen a atacar los programas de acción afirmativa creado para remediar la discriminación en el centro de trabajo.

El proyecto de Martínez, conocido con el código de H.R.-1405, asistiría a los gobiernos estatales y locales proveyéndoles fondos para la reparación de edificios, parques, escuelas y hospitales. Además los fondos podrían utilizarse para mejorar los servicios a los ancianos, los incapacitados y los que necesitan alfabetización. El programa autorizaría el gasto de \$250.000 millones para su funcionamiento.

Martínez dijo que, "Desde los días de Franklyn Delano Roosevelt este país no ha tomado un esfuerzo para reconstruir y expandir la infraestructura de la nación. Sesenta años después esos caminos, parques, cortes, oficinas de correo y escuelas se están derrumbando y decayendo. Y así, algunas de nuestras comunidades continúan teniendo el más alto índice de desempleo desde 1930.

El proyecto asignaría inmediata-

mente \$25.000 millones para proyectos de emergencia a corto plazo y unos \$225.000 millones adicionales en subsidios para el Departamento de Trabajo para sueldos de los nuevos trabajadores empleados en sectores públicos.

El Título III de la legislación provee fuertes guías de acción afirmativa y provisiones que protegen los salarios que actualmente prevalecen para los trabajadores de la construcción.

Un portavoz de la Coalición Laboral por Obras Públicas en Los Angeles, que concibió la legislación, dijo que un gran número de llamadas en todo el país ha producido tres nuevos co auspiciadores de la propuesta en la última semana. Hasta el 3 de mayo, las fuentes decían que habían ya 16 coaupiciadores de la legislación.

La coalición ha recibido respaldos del Concejo Municipal de Los Angeles y de la Federación Laboral de California.

En una serie de entrevistas con activistas en todo el país, el Mundo conoció que una cantidad de manifestaciones e iniciativas legislativas por trabajos y con-

tra el contrato republicano están en marcha.

En Nueva York, San Francisco y otras 38 ciudades la Campaña Nacional del Pueblo organizará las actividades. La portavoz para la campaña dijo que las principales demandas de las acciones serán las de "Parar el contrato" y "Trabajos, servicios, no recortes".

La Junta de Supervisores de San Francisco y el Concejo Municipal de Baltimore han dado su endoso a las manifestaciones.

Entre otras ciudades que se movilizarán están, San Antonio, Texas; Salt Lake City, Utah; Chicago, Baltimore. También en los estados de Connecticut, Nueva Jersey y Washington, se producirán acciones en apoyo a la legislación de Martínez.

Algunas de las iniciativas populares para hacer patente el apoyo a la legislación incluyen audiencias en varios cuerpos gubernamentales de ciudades, pueblos, y campañas de cartas y postale masivamente firmadas a ser enviadas los miembros del Congreso.

PRIMERO DE MAYO EN EL MUNDO



GRECIA



MEXICO



RUSIA

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