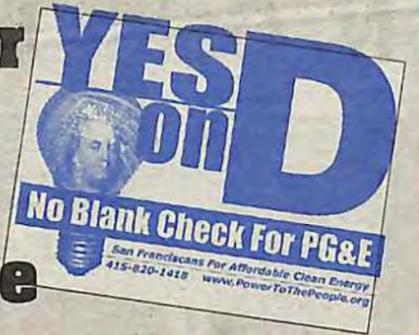


Power
to
the
people



PAGES 10-11

Turnout key in dead-heat elections



Loren Robinson, left, a student at Spelman College, and Zainab S, right, chant during a demonstration outside a Republican fundraiser for U.S. Senate candidate Saxby Chambliss, attended by President Bush, Oct. 17, in Atlanta. Hundreds gathered to protest Bush's stance on Iraq.

By Susan Webb

We are "One Vote Away" from right-wing control of all three branches of the federal government warns People For the American Way (PFAW) in a television ad being aired in states where Senate races are too close to call.

The far right is "just one vote away" from putting the likes of Trent Lott and Orrin Hatch in charge of the Senate, the group says. "Today, right-wing Republicans control the White House and House of Representatives. The 5-4 'states' rights' majority on the Supreme Court is turning back the clock ... If Republicans take the Senate in November, that last check in our federal system will be gone," referring to the Democrats one-seat majority.

Right-wing control would be "devastating for reproductive rights and privacy, environmental protection, civil rights, Social Security and Medicare, corporate accountability, health care, religious liberty, public education, workers' rights and more," PFAW continues.

With this sense of urgency, an unprecedented grassroots get-out-the-vote (GOTV) effort is underway in the days remaining before the Nov. 5 elections, with turnout seen as key to defeating the ultra-right.

In northeast Minnesota, union voters will play a critical role in helping re-elect pro-labor Sen. Paul Wellstone. The Bush administration has made no secret that it is itching to defeat Wellstone. Duluth Central Labor Council President Alan Netland told the *World* his council is running a "very good, coordinated" get-out-the-vote campaign involving all 65 union affiliates, with a membership of about 15,000. Every member is receiving a mailing from his or her union leader as well as individual phone calls. "We're making the mailings not too glossy," Netland said, "so people don't automatically pitch them out but actually read them."

The national AFL-CIO and unions including State, County and Municipal Workers (AFSCME), Clothing Workers (UNITE), Steelworkers and Mine Workers have sent in campaign workers at an "unprecedented" level, Netland said.

Continued on page 17

AFL-CIO questions war on Iraq

By Fred Gaboury

Growing grassroots opposition to President Bush's drive to war with Iraq found expression in the leadership ranks of the labor movement earlier this month when AFL-CIO President John Sweeney told members of Congress that war should not be the first option in dealing with Iraq. (See related story page 14.)

In an Oct. 7 letter to both Houses of Congress, Sweeney warned, "We must assure that war is the last option, not the first"

in resolving the Iraq question. His letter raised serious questions about the timing of President Bush's demand that Congress act quickly to give him authority to take military action against Iraq and questioned the "sudden urgency" for a decision about war and peace. Sweeney said the timing of the Congressional action "had as much to do with the political calendar as with the situation in Iraq." The letter was Sweeney's first public comment on the Iraq crisis.

Continued on page 18

ILWU vs. Taft-Hartley

3, 9

Jeb's "devious plans"

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N. Calif. PWW call: Unity against 'Bush clones'



Photos by Bobbie Rabinowitz

From left to right, representing the Coalition for Workers Rights, Clarence Thomas, ILWU Local 10 secretary-treasurer, Willie Keyes of West Oakland Neighbors and Lee Sandahl of ILWU Local 34, at the Northern California People's Weekly World/Nuestro Mundo banquet in Berkeley, Calif, Oct. 13.

By Marilyn Bechtel

BERKELEY, Calif. – In a spirited tribute, the Northern California People's Weekly World/Nuestro Mundo banquet Oct. 13 honored "the heroes and heroines of the struggle against corporate greed," and called for a big turnout against Republican "Bush-clones" in the Nov. 5 election. The banquet raised \$8,000 for the PWW fund drive.

In her opening, Berkeley Vice Mayor Maudelle Shirek spoke of the growing movements in solidarity with West Coast port workers and against war. "So there is hope," she said, "and a new movement that we must help nurture and grow."

That movement includes the bloc in Congress that voted against the Bush war resolution, and those who supported Rep. Barbara Lee's (D-Calif.) peace resolution.

The banquet honored the Coalition for Workers Rights (CWR), Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees (HERE) Locals 2 and 2850, Sacramento Living Wage Campaign and Father Bill O'Donnell, known as "labor's priest." Each received certificates from Rep. Lee, in whose district the event took place, and from Wilma Chan, majority leader in the California Assembly, as well as from PWW/Nuestro

Mundo. Eliot Kenin and the "Spirit of '29" traditional jazz band and singer/songwriter Anthony J. Smith added to the upbeat spirit.

One of the sharpest struggles is that of the dockworkers, locked out by the employers' Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) but now back to work under the virulently anti-union Taft-Hartley Act. The Coalition for Workers Rights (CWR) unites unions and organizations involved in contract and community struggles. Together with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), the AFL-CIO and other groups, the CWR co-sponsored a number of protests drawing wide public support for union rights.



From left to right, representing the Coalition for Workers Rights, Judy Goff, executive secretary-treasurer of the Alameda County Central Labor Council, Dwight McElroy, head of SEIU Local 790's public works chapter, and Alfonso Loera, head of Local 790's Port of Oakland chapter.

Clarence Thomas, secretary-treasurer of ILWU Local 10 and chair of the CWR, told the crowd the struggle is not over. "This is a matter that must be addressed by the entire labor movement," he said.

Many coalition members highlighted the struggles that brought them together. Lee Sandahl, ILWU Local 34, representing clerks, whose jobs the PMA is threatening, said the coalition is about "people who understand that this is not just a longshore fight, not just a newspaper workers' fight, it's a fight for our rights, for all of us."

Teamsters Local 70 Business Agent-Organizer Odus Hall concurred: "Any-



Ruth Holbrook and Jason Rabinowitz, representing the Sacramento Living Wage Campaign.

where that workers struggle, the Teamsters will be there."

Judy Goff, executive secretary-treasurer of the Alameda County Central Labor Council, said unity on issues of living wages, justice for workers and protection of the environment "makes a tremendous difference." She urged maximum turnout of union families and allies on Election Day.

Dwight McElroy, head of SEIU Local 790's public works chapter; Karen Pickett, Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment; Jennifer Krill, Rainforest Action Network; and Willie Keyes, West Oakland Neighbors, also spoke for the CWR.

Alfonso Loera, head of Local 790's Port of Oakland Chapter, said, "Unity in action is our code word. We don't have the PMA's \$200 million or the \$85 billion of the hotshots behind Bush. We have something more precious – the 265 million men, women and children who comprise the working people of America, and nobody can buy that!"

Calling this moment "a turning point in history," Juan Lopez, long-time community activist and chair of the Northern California Communist Party, cited the Bush administration's "declaration of war" on the ILWU and the entire labor movement, and the administration's adoption of a dangerous new doctrine of "pre-emptive, first strike, unilateral military action, including with nuclear weapons." He added, "This redoubles the importance of a massive voter turnout on Nov. 5 against the extreme right."

As they received certificates of appreciation, HERE Locals 2 and 2850 members described the great organizing victory at San Francis-

co's downtown Marriott, after two decades of effort, and of ongoing struggles. Local 2's Ramon Guevara declared, "We will not be content with what we've gained" until the others win. He cited the struggle at the Marriott at Fisherman's Wharf. Daryl White, who works there, also spoke of the Marriott Struggle. (Since the banquet, the workers there won a contract in parity with long-unionized San Francisco hotels.)

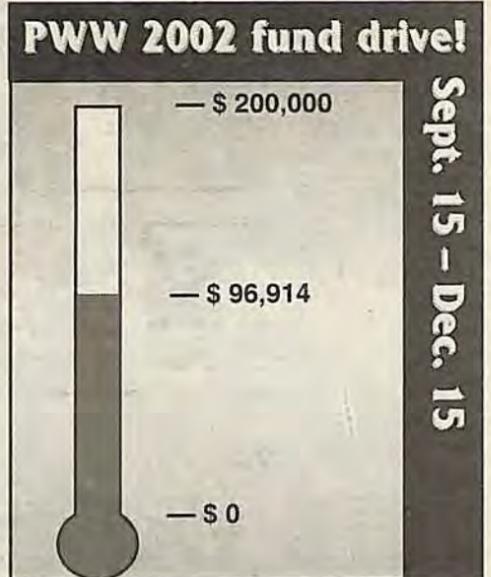
Local 2850 member Fidel Arroio, a cook at the Claremont Hotel, told of management "scare tactics" to weaken the union. "But," he said, "we will fight harder to have justice at the Claremont and all other hotels." Arroio urged everyone to join the Claremont boycott movement.

Father Bill O'Donnell, honored in absentia, is currently serving a six-month sentence for non-violent civil disobedience in last November's protest against the School of the Americas (SOA) in Ft. Benning, Ga. Accepting his certificates were Judy and Charles Liteky, leaders of SOA Watch West. They urged support for the upcoming Ft. Benning protest, Nov. 15-17.

In accepting for the Sacramento Living Wage Campaign, steering committee member Ruth Holbrook emphasized the importance of a living wage. "The coalition has over 80 different groups," she said, "and we see our work continuing after winning a living wage."

The PWW/Nuestro Mundo editorial board honored correspondent Herb Kaye with a special certificate for his lifelong dedication to labor's cause.

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ACLU presses 'Safe and Free' campaign

By Tim Wheeler

WASHINGTON – The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is mobilizing its 53 chapters and 300,000 members in a campaign to keep the nation "Safe and Free" from attacks on constitutional rights by the Bush administration.

The campaign includes broadcast of a television commercial, litigation and mass organizing and lobbying in defense of the Bill of Rights. While stressing the ACLU's abhorrence of terrorism the campaign also stresses its revulsion at those who exploit terrorism to undermine liberty.

ACLU Executive Director Anthony Romero announced the \$3.5 million campaign Oct. 18, warning that George W. Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft have used the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to seize sweeping powers of mass detention, spying and surveillance.

Romero singled out Ashcroft's USA Patriot Act as the centerpiece of the assault on the Bill of Rights. "This law, rushed through Congress in the immediate aftermath of

Sept. 11, is responsible for altering our nation's immigration laws, expanding the government's ability to spy on citizens, and increasing the capacity for unreasonable searches and seizures," he said.

It has included detention of more than 8,000 people, mostly Arabs and people of color, "on little or no evidence of wrongdoing," Romero added.

Ashcroft kept these people, the overwhelming majority of whom were innocent of any connection to terrorism, imprisoned at secret locations, even refusing to divulge their names.

Romero introduced several people who had been caught up in Ashcroft's dragnet: Sister Virgine Lawinger of Wisconsin Peace Action, barred from boarding a plane and questioned about her plans to attend a Washington protest against the School of the Americas; Danny Muller of Voices in the Wilderness, to whom a postal clerk refused to sell stamps when Muller asked that they not include a likeness of the U.S. flag; A.J. Brown, interrogated by the Secret Service, because some-

one reported she had a poster critical of George W. Bush in her college dorm.

"Without an immediate and powerful public outcry on behalf of liberty, the administration's calculated attempts to limit our constitutional rights and liberties could change the definition of freedom in America," Romero concluded.

Laura Murphy, director of the ACLU Washington office, said the first priority of the Safe and Free project is to reverse

Ashcroft's decision to "rewrite guidelines that limit the ability of the FBI to engage in domestic spying."

Those guidelines were imposed in the mid-1970s when hearings before Sen. Frank Church's Select Committee on Intelligence exposed the FBI's COINTELPRO "dirty tricks" campaign to destroy Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others who publicly disagreed with government policies.

Continued on page 18

Nov. 5: A referendum on Bush policies

By Sam Webb

Commentary

These are not ordinary times. And Nov. 5 – Election Day – is no ordinary day.

This election more than any in recent memory offers voters an unparalleled opportunity to strike a blow against the extreme right and for peace, progress and sanity.

Its outcome will be a referendum on the policies of the Bush administration.

On one side of the struggle is gathered organized labor, the racially and nationally oppressed peoples, women and other democratic forces, and on the other, the Bush administration and its reactionary supporters.

Not for a long time has an administration been so aggressive, militarist and eager to go to war, so deaf to the crying need for jobs and health care, so contemptuous of the rights of African Americans, Mexican Americans and other racially and nationally oppressed peoples, so scornful of women and immigrants, so ready to dispense with our democratic traditions, so callous towards the environment, so hell-bent on turning our public schools over to private corporations, and so determined to raid the collapsing pension system – and all the while looting the public treasury and protecting corporate profits and corporate thieves.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Bush administration and its right-wing counterparts in Congress present a clear and imminent danger to everything that we as a

people hold dear and consider just. They constitute a menace to our nation's well being and the well being of our world.

The future of our country turns, to no small degree, on which party ends up with control of Congress on the evening of Nov. 5.

Bush and his advisors appreciate this fact, and are calibrating everything they do towards regaining control of the Senate and adding to their majority in the House. Labor and its allies must approach these elections with no less determination.

With less than two weeks before the polls open, political pundits are calling the election a dead heat. Thus, between now and Nov. 5, a full national mobilization of voters is imperative. A crusading spirit must infuse the ranks of the people's movement. To squander this opportunity would be a tragic mistake. People's rights, livelihoods and lives are at stake.

This sounds ominous, and it is. But at the same time it should be an incentive for everyone to engage the battle to defeat right-wing Congressional candidates on Election Day. Such a victory won't guarantee that the flood tide of economic insecurity, democratic denial and senseless death and destruction stemming from the policies of the Bush administration will be immediately reversed. But it would represent a first and important step in that direction.

All out for Nov. 5!

Sam Webb is national chairman of the Communist Party and can be reached at swebb@cpusa.org

Protesting police brutality

Protesters demonstrating against police brutality march down Temple Street enroute to Parker Center police headquarters Oct. 22, in downtown Los Angeles. Marchers converged on LAPD headquarters to demand an end to police brutality, such as the beating of a Black youth by Inglewood officers, as one of a series of rallies scheduled on a national day of protest.

AP



ILWU to Bush:

We won't let you take waterfront from us

By Evelina Alarcon

LOS ANGELES – International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) President James Spinosa and AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Richard Trumka both spoke at the Oct. 22 general membership meeting of ILWU Local 13 where nearly 2,000 members packed the union hall to hear reports on developments in their battle with their employers, the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA).

The message delivered by the two leaders and Ramon Ponce de Leon, president of Local 13, the largest West Coast ILWU local, was loud and clear, "Stand united, we are going to fight, and we are going to win!"

Spinosa said the goal of the employers association "is to destroy what we have enjoyed since 1934 and we are not going to let them do it. We've gone beyond traditional collective bargaining over contract demands. They want to destroy our union and take control of the waterfront. Corporate America with all its greed is at our doorstep."

Spinosa said President Bush was part of the PMA game plan to break the union. "They have the media, the president, and the courts set up to get us." He added that by invoking the Taft-Hartley Act, PMA was setting the stage to

bankrupt the union.

Spinosa said the situation required the ILWU to "think outside the box and outsmart the ship owners. We have to shift into a different mode," he said. "Our mode has to be 'You are not going to take this waterfront away from us.'"

Spinosa called on the rank and file to "do their job" in the fight for a decent contract. "You've gotta do your job and not allow the PMA to beat us in court. Stay on the job. They can't beat us if we stay on the job because we are protecting our job."

Trumka, former president of the United Mine Workers, told how that union had fought back when hit with the Taft-Hartley Act. "We struck for 118 days and we won because we stuck together. We know two things for sure. First, the PMA and shippers will try to conquer us by dividing us. Second, as long as we reject their scheming and stand together – we will win."

Trumka commended the ILWU membership for their courage and commitment. "You are making history instead of becoming history," he said to cheers, adding that the federation pledged its "support, expertise, respect and solidarity today, tomorrow and as long as it takes."

Trumka blasted President Bush for interfering in collec-

tive bargaining and stressed significance of the ILWU battle for the rest of labor. "Bush knows that if he can bring this union down, the rest will be easy. But when this union stands him down – and you will – Bush will think twice about taking on another union."

Trumka emphasized the importance of the November elections and congratulated the ILWU for sending 35 members to five states to participate in electoral campaigns. "This election will determine who will control all three branches of the federal government; it will decide whether Bush can interfere in negotiations or not. You are showing incredible solidarity by sending your members across the country while you face this battle on the waterfront."

The meeting ended after Dave Arian, public relations chair for the negotiating committee, explained the union's strategy for next stage of the fight and Rob Remar, ILWU legal counsel, explained the workings of the Taft-Hartley Act and its implications for the union. Spinosa, Trumka and the other officers were given a standing ovation when they left the stage at the end of the meeting.

This story is excerpted from an article in *The Dispatcher*. The author can be reached at evnalarcon@aol.com



National Clips

Working families tell candidates: No more business as usual

With the Nov. 5 elections almost two weeks away, thousands of Labor 2002 volunteers came together Oct. 18 weekend at more than 100 events and election activities across the country. Their mission: to spread the word about where candidates stand on corporate accountability and other working family issues.

With precinct walks, leafleting and phone-banking, union activists set out on the AFL-CIO's National Days of Action on corporate accountability to demand that candidates stand against corporate greed and for working families on such issues as good jobs, quality education and affordable health care and prescription drugs.

Volunteer phone bankers will make millions of calls before Election Day. "We need to elect labor people to these offices who will pay attention to working people and retirees," said Dion Guthrie, business manager and president of Electrical Workers Local 1501. Guthrie, who is running for county council in Harford County, Md., joined precinct walkers and discussed recent corporate scandals. "Thank God I've got a union pension," he said, "but the losses in my 401(k) will mean I work another five years."



Between Dallas and Fort Worth, a billboard with film star Edward James Olmos declares: "What changes when Latinos vote? Everything!"

Texas' fate is in Latino hands

Since early in the election cycle, pundits and analysts have speculated about the growing importance of Latino voters in Texas. Most recently, the polls listed in big corporate newspapers say that Tony Sanchez is lagging behind the incumbent Republican in the governor's race, but many explain that they cannot accurately predict the Latino vote.

Gerardo Contreras, coordinator for the Labor Committee for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) in North Texas, reports that LCLAA and other organizations did a splendid job of registering new Latino voters. The San Antonio newspaper reported that one-fifth of Texas voters have Spanish surnames, 300,000 more people than had been projected earlier!

Another positive trend is the increased commitment of union people to the campaigns. Dallas AFL-CIO members made over 100,000 yard signs, for example.

In Texas, turnout is the key to winning in November. Contreras has a lot of confidence: "Everywhere, there's going to be a big difference, because the Latino vote is coming on real strong."

PHOENIX: Farmworkers lead voter registration drive

Arizona farmworkers have been registering thousands of new voters from Phoenix to many rural communities throughout the state. "This is the first year that we see such interest in the elections," said Juvencio Valenzuela, United Farmworkers of America (UFW) spokesperson, who is heading the registration drive.

Cecilia Hidalgo, UFW field organizer,

said, "This is a key year. We need to get the people to vote to change the state of Arizona. We need to be united."

Voter registration will play a key factor in the upcoming gubernatorial race between Democrat Janet Napolitano and ultraconservative Matt Salmon, which pollsters say is close to call.

Hidalgo believes that the unprecedented interest and response in registration is related to Democrat Alfredo Gutierrez' run for governor. Gutierrez received 20 percent of the vote in the primary, campaigning against the "right-to-work (for less)" clause and the death penalty.

The farmworkers are also working for a paid state holiday to honor Cesar Chavez. In an age of increasing tension and violence between countries, Hidalgo reminds people of Cesar Chavez' message of peaceful change and nonviolence. "With so much talk of war, what are we teaching our kids but violence? Cesar Chavez fought for the dignity of all the people, the same level for everybody, the right to go to college or a university, and the possibility of running for president."

PHILADELPHIA: Activist runs for state rep.

Philadelphia community activist Ernst Ford is a candidate for State Representative

on the Green Party ticket and many in his Kensington neighborhood believe he will win.

A racially and ethnically diverse area, Kensington is an historic neighborhood confronting problems like high rates of unemployment, poverty, abandoned houses and homelessness.

Ford is a block captain and knows the problems of his community, including the Live Stop Program to get unlicensed and uninsured motorists off the street. Thousands of cars have been confiscated by the police and auctioned off, which has an adverse effect on working people. "The city is taking away poor people's cars because they can't afford the high cost of insurance. We must demand cheaper car insurance and cheaper public transportation," said Ford.

"I don't have all the solutions, but I'm willing to work with the people in my district to bring about the results we need," he added. Ford has led marches against drugs, police misconduct and declining living conditions. Born in Haiti, Ford has lived in Philadelphia for over 12 years.

BALTIMORE: NAACP says no 'first-strike' on Iraq

The NAACP Board of Directors adopted unanimously a resolution stating "the President of the United States has not made a conclusive case for the use of deadly force in the case of Iraq." The resolution stated the "NAACP expresses its opposition to armed conflict against the country of Iraq without our exercising all options, including but not limited to United Nations arms inspections."

It also expressed concern at the disproportionate rates at which "African-American and other minority youth and young adults are enrolled into military" service.

The youth board members sponsored the resolution. NAACP college chapters will host town hall meetings on campuses "to gauge and express student sentiment regarding armed conflict with the country of Iraq."

BOSTON: Demands for peace continue

Over 600 marched, October 20, opposing the Bush administration's pending attack on Iraq. Organized by Boston Mobilization, the "Walk for Peace" called for a multilateral approach and negotiations to resolve the crisis with Iraq.

The United Methodist Church issued a scathing attack on Bush's war plans. The attack on Iraq, according to the church report, is "without any justification according to the teachings of Christ." Bush is a member of the United Methodist Church.

SANTA CRUZ, Calif.: Campus rallies against Iraq war

Over 700 students and faculty gathered on UC Santa Cruz campus earlier this month to protest Bush's threats of a new war in Iraq.

The "budding" student group Standing United for Peace (SUP) organized the rally.

Six-hundred students signed letters against the war. The stack was delivered to the University Chancellor's mailbox. Many students signed the "Not in Our Name" pledge, a pledge of resistance prepared by leading artists and intellectuals. Over 400 students signed up to get more information from or help out with SUP.

Layla Razavi, a 19-year-old politics major, said "I'm really impressed that the movement has gathered so much support, not just in Santa Cruz, but across the country. But we must build our power quickly in order to, not just protest the war, but prevent it."

TUCSON: 1,500 rally against Bush's war

The sea of signs called for "No War on Iraq" as more than 1,500 people took to the streets, Oct. 19, in what was the largest peace demonstration here since Viet Nam.

Signs, speakers, marchers, singers, dancers, artists all reflected the twin themes of stopping war in Iraq and using our resources, instead, to meet needs here at home.

Racism has increased with the Bush administration's war drive, as evidenced by increased vigilante activity on the U.S.-Mexico



Claudia Gomez, of the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, speaks in San Francisco, Oct. 15, after immigrant advocacy groups met with the office of Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.). Immigration activists in 12 states are rallying and lobbying congressional representatives in an election-season effort to generate support for legalization of undocumented workers and for other issues.



Protesters from "No Blood for Oil," a coalition against the possible invasion of Iraq, stage a brief sit-in in front of the United States Mission to the United Nations, Oct. 21, where the five permanent members of the UN Security Council were meeting on the Iraqi crisis.

border, coupled with the increased militarization there.

The march and rally was sponsored by 27 different community, religious, peace, student, civil rights and labor groups.

The unity of the people was quite evident; from the speakers to the crowd, it was a reflection of the rich cultural and ethnic diversity that makes up our region.

Four more peace actions are planned including an American Friends Service Committee-sponsored truckload of food delivery to Congressional offices with the demand, "Feed, don't bomb Iraq!"

WASHINGTON, D.C.: High Court supports juvenile death penalty

The Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision refused to hear an appeal challenging executions of people who were younger than 18 when they committed their crimes. Writing for the four dissenting judges, (Justices Souter, Bader-Ginsburg, Breyer and himself) Justice Stevens said, "The practice of executing such offenders is a relic of the past and is inconsistent with evolving standards of decency in a civilized society. We should put an end to this shameful practice."

HOUSTON: Immigrant workers demand justice

Hundreds of workers marched Oct. 20, demanding an end to harassment and intimidation under the guise of "fighting terrorism." At the rally, workers hoisted flags from Mexico, El Salvador and Guatemala. Their signs, in Spanish, read "Immigration and terrorism are not the same thing."

"We want (President) Bush and Congress to recognize that immigrants are a benefit to this country," Bernardo Fallas, spokesman for the Central American Response Center (CRECEN), said.

In September, 143 workers were indicted and 64 arrested at Bush Intercontinental Airport for allegedly using false identification. "We understand the need for national security," Fallas continued, "but those food servers are not a threat to national security."

ATLANTA: Delta announces more lay-offs

Delta announced 7,000 - 8,000 workers will lose their jobs over the next 6 months. In 2001, the airline slashed 10,000 jobs, which sent the local economy into a tailspin. Delta employs 68,000 workers across the country, 30,000 in Greater Atlanta. The announcement follows one by American Airlines where 7,000 workers will lose their jobs.

National Clips are compiled by Denise Winebrenner Edwards. If you have a story for national clips send it to pww@pww.org. Contributors to this week's clips are Terrie Albano, Joe Bernick, Rosita Johnson, James Jordan, Jim Lane, Ron Roeders and Anukene Warda.

Youth march for educational justice

By Rosita Johnson

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The October 26th Youth March for Educational Justice brought nearly 2,000 high school students from across the state to the Capitol steps here, Oct. 22, demanding adequate and equitable funding. The march was organized by Good Schools PA. The crowd came from as far west as Pittsburgh and Wilkesburg, as far east as Philadelphia.

In front of the State Office building in Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Student Union held a 9 a.m. press conference attended by several hundred students before they boarded buses for Harrisburg. Speaking of funding inequities, Jacob Winterstein, a student, asked, "Are students in Lower Merion Township worth twice as much as students in Philadelphia? Why does Lower Merion spend \$14,400 per student and Philadelphia spend only \$7,500 per student?"

Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-Pa.) told the students that they deserve smaller classes, qualified teachers and current textbooks. "Stand up for your future. Tell the next governor and legislature that Philadelphia students and all Pennsylvania students need fair funding," he said.

A student, Selamwit Tewelde, reminded

the students that they had accomplished a victory, not one high school had been privatized. "Bush and Gov. Schweiker say they will leave no child behind. They talk the talk but they need to walk the walk and put the money where their mouth is. Why does Pennsylvania spend \$35,000 per prisoner but only \$3,500 per student?" she asked. "We must be confident and keep on organizing."

At the Harrisburg rally, Tim Potts decried "school choice" as a model where students are seen as products and parents as consumers. "Schools are not factories," said Potts.

A Harrisburg student called for more funds and caring teachers and administrators. A student from Armstrong County, a rural area where the average yearly income is \$16,000, called for a new equitable funding system — not based on property tax, because people were losing their homes.

Helen Gym, from Philadelphia Asian Americans United, called for justice. "One billion dollars a day goes to the military," Gym said. "There is enough money — the problem is how it's allocated. Everyone must be educated. Another world is possible."

The students then marched around the Capitol, with marching bands and two giant puppets representing Rendell and Fisher, the

candidates for governor. Huge signs read, "All Kids Are Created Equal But Their Schools Are Not."

Tim Stevens, from the Pittsburgh NAACP, said, "The ticket to liberation is equal opportunity to quality education." Stevens said he was proud of Good Schools PA but gave the state a D- for the kind of education it provides its students. Like others, he called attention to the funding gap be-

tween the best schools in wealthy districts and the thousands of other classrooms and the lack of money for preschool.

At the end of the rally the legislators came outside to speak with the students from their districts. Many sent their aides. "We will be back. This is only the beginning," said the students.

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Prescription drugs:

Spinmeisters at work

By Fred Gaboury

In a blatant attempt to hijack debate on domestic issues now that he has congressional approval for waging war against Iraq, President Bush has embarked on a desperate campaign to maintain control of the House of Representatives and capture control of the Senate in the Nov. 5 elections.

A key element in that campaign is an effort to portray the White House and GOP candidates as champions of senior citizens in their battle with drug manufacturers over the high price of prescription drugs.

In a Rose Garden ceremony staged barely two weeks before election, Bush proposed new rules that will make it harder for pharmaceutical companies to block introduction of low-cost generics. Bush also proposed new rules that, he claimed, will curb frivolous — better put, "fraudulent" — drug company patents used to extend their monopoly beyond their present

20-year limit.

However, a recent survey of brand-name drugs whose patents are close to expiring shows that none of the more than 20 "block buster" drugs whose patents are set to expire between now and 2006 would be affected by these changes. Bush also claims his proposal will save consumers some \$3 billion annually.

Reliable estimates say much tougher legislation passed by the Senate would save consumers at least \$6 billion. A bill co-sponsored by Charles Schumer of New York and John McCain of Arizona, would allow manufacturers of generic drugs faster access to the market by eliminating frivolous patents and would give generic companies greater certainty that they won't be sued after coming to market. The bill would also tighten a loophole that allows brand-name companies to pay generic competitors not to bring their drugs to market promptly.

Continued on page 17

Kids need health care



Students, El Paso Mayor Ray Caballero, right at podium, and others, including State Sens. Elliot Shapleigh and Norma Chavez, lead a rally Oct. 17, in El Paso, Texas, to protest cuts in children's health insurance money. Almost one in two kids in El Paso go without health insurance.

Young communists prepare for convention

By Abdul-Aziz Hassan

NEW YORK — For the past seven months, members of the Young Communist League USA (YCL) have been traveling around the country, organizing cultural events, doing election work, and forging alliances with youth organizers, all in preparation for the 7th National YCL Convention. The convention will be held in Chicago Nov. 22-24.

The YCL is very active in the youth and student movement, from organizing for peace to working on local elections. The convention is where young people can participate and strategize in workshops on many issues such as youth and labor solidarity, peace, voting rights, racism and oppression, sexual education, culture and media outreach, and other issues that affect young people and our struggles.

The convention will engage in a local Chicago action focusing on how priorities like housing are pushed aside by the Bush administration's push for war. Young people and youth organizations have been playing leading roles in the movements against war, especially around Iraq. Representatives from the

National Youth and Student Peace Coalition have been invited. The YCL was an initiator of this coalition that helped bring 100,000 people to Washington, D.C., on April 20 against the war abroad and at home.

YCL members from at least 20 states will be attending, as will youth and student leaders from around the world. Guest organizations will be hosting various workshops at the convention.

Grassroots work done by YCL clubs across the nation will be spotlighted. New campus and community clubs have developed in the past few months, including at Stanford University, Wesleyan, Borough of Manhattan Community College and University of North Texas among others across the nation.

At the convention the YCL will reaffirm itself by electing new leadership and beginning new campaigns, all to adapt to the new and changing political situation.

These young people, dedicated to fighting for social and economic justice, will help change the direction of our country. For more details on the YCL's 7th National Convention, visit www.yclusa.org.

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Labor, community fight anti-bilingual drive

By José A. Cruz

BOSTON — "We don't need a California business magnate to come to Massachusetts and tell us how to educate our children," Kathleen Kelly, president of the Massachusetts Federation of Teachers, said, expressing the sentiments of a coalition opposed to Question 2, an anti-bilingual education referendum on the November ballot.

The drive to end bilingual education is being financed by Ron Unz, the Silicon Valley millionaire who also funded anti-bilingual education referendums in California and Arizona.

The Massachusetts Committee for Fairness to Children and Teachers (FACT), composed of teachers, parents, labor unions, public officials and community groups united in the effort to turn back the

anti-bilingual education referendum on the November ballot, says that Unz' new initiative in Massachusetts is more draconian than the previous referendums in California and Arizona.

If it passes, the new law would provide for one year of English immersion, after which students would be mainstreamed into regular classes. The proposed new law would also allow for teachers and other school officials to be sued if they implement any form of bilingual education to help non-English speaking or limited English proficiency students to learn any school subject in their own language.

Kelly noted that in California, "After one year of English immersion, only 7.8 percent of the bilingual students were certified as fluent."

Continued on page 18

7th National Convention Young Communist League, USA

Chicago, Illinois :: November 22-24

- ★ Meet guests from around the world
- ★ Engage in political debate
- ★ Concerts, Poetry, and Parties
- ★ Explore the history of Chicago's labor movement



INTERNATIONAL

Reporter's notebook:

Occupation hurts both Palestinians, Israelis

The following is excerpted from a recent e-mail sent to friends and family from PWW/Mundo reporter and Communist Party Vice Chairwoman Judith Le Blanc.

RAMALLAH – The meeting with President Arafat in the "compound" here, which had been under a 10-day siege by the Israeli army, dramatized what the Sharon regime's goal was. They set out to ignite a conflict that would have caused an assassination of Arafat. The damage left the Palestinian National Authority headquarters destroyed.

Everyone you meet speaks of how beautiful the city once was. Now bombed buildings stand next to half built buildings with people trying to go on living under the occupation. The city has been under a 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. curfew with parts of the city closed off periodically.

The constant curfews and seizures of villages has destroyed the economy of the West Bank and Gaza strip, and 75 percent of the people are living under the poverty line. People cannot work regularly, children can't go to school regularly and they live with an incredible sense of uncertainty. The curfews and restriction of travel have caused the deaths of many. Not only from shootings, but many die from common illnesses because they cannot reach hospitals for treatment or medicines.

Now there is a movement growing to send children to school despite curfews. Some might ask why would Palestinian families put their children in danger. They say their children want a way to resist the occupation. They have seen the people humiliated at checkpoints and they want the world to know that they want to live in peace.

One small example, on Sunday I was in a restaurant here. Families were eating, children playing in a corner on a trampoline. Suddenly and quietly, the men began to leave the tables, including our hosts. I decided to follow them up to the street. The Israeli

army had blocked off one end of the street and soldiers were lining up. They were preparing to enter a home to capture a "wanted" man.

Children from the neighborhood had been playing in the street. I saw two little girls begin to cry hysterically, pointing at the soldiers. Their brothers were at the other end of the street. They were afraid to run and stood paralyzed as the soldiers got out of the trucks. I will never forget the look on their faces. I realized they live with this fear every day.

Bush's remarks after his meeting with Sharon about the need for "reform of the PA" will give a green light to step up the military actions on the West Bank and Gaza. Bringing an end to the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is the only way for peace to be negotiated.



A Palestinian woman argues with an Israeli soldier after her son was detained by Israeli soldiers after they checked his ID in the West Bank city of Hebron Oct. 18.

In our meetings here we heard about the efforts of all the political forces, including the People's Party of Palestine, to organize for the right to vote. They say no election can be held under occupation.

In just one day, 1,200 Palestinians were arrested for traveling in restricted areas. Now estimates are that 10,000 Palestinians are being held for this kind of charge. So when Bush and Sharon demand reform, they demand it from the end of a barrel of a gun!

In the past few days I went to Haifa, Israel a northern industrial city in which Arabs and Jewish people live together. I met with students from Haifa University, which has the highest Arab student enrollment in the university system.

I also met with the deputy mayor of the city, an Arab and a communist, who told me of their struggles for education of the children of Haifa and how the military interferes in the name of security. The occupation hurts the people of the West Bank and Gaza, as well as the people of Israel!

There are two Arabs out of 34 municipal council members. (Both are Communists! SMILE.) The struggle for the civil rights for Arab citizens of Israel (20 percent of the population) is inspiring. I will be writing an article on this city when I return.

I also met with leaders of the Histadut, the Israeli labor federation. They are in the midst of a national strike of 150,000 workers, public and private, for cost of living increases which the government is refusing due to the war. The labor movement is trying to make the connection that the economic crisis the working people face is due to the government cutting social programs to shift money to the military ... sound familiar?! Their determination is solid, and they may expand the strike to close the ports and airport.

Today I am going to Bethlehem. Yesterday the town was shut down by the army. So I hope to enter today. In the next two days, I



Zid Abujamush, a Palestinian boy, helps his mother and grandmother pick ripe olives near the West Bank town of Aqraba, Oct. 17. Many Palestinians who are harvesting this season complain bitterly about Jewish settlers who've built outposts on hilltops, and who they say regularly disrupt work crucial to the survival of the local economy and culture.

will be going with Israeli doctors into the West Bank on a solidarity action and also with Israelis – Jewish and Arabs – to the olive groves where settlers killed a Palestinian farmer last week. The group will form a human shield to protect the farmers during the harvest.

So I hope everybody is working hard against the war in Iraq and mobilizing for the elections to send a message to Bush.

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Cuban urges trade, freedom for 'Miami 5'

By Rosita Johnson

PHILADELPHIA – Dagoberto Rodrigues, chief of the Cuban Interest Section in the U.S., spoke

here at the University of Pennsylvania, Oct. 7. Rodrigues is a former journalist with an extensive career in foreign service. He spoke about the advances Cuba has made

since 1959 in education and health care. "Our infant mortality rate was 6.2 per 1,000 live births in 2001 and 800,000 Cubans have college degrees," said Rodrigues. He also described the hardships Cuba endured in the 1990s when the USSR and other European socialist countries collapsed and Cuba lost 80 percent of its trade.

The U.S. government expected Cuba to collapse and a U.S. document called for the intensification of the blockade and sanctions to hurt Cuba's economy and bring starvation to its people in order to overthrow the government by any means. "If the Cold War is over, then why does the U.S. continue the blockade and sanctions?" asked Rodrigues. "The U.S. blames Cuba for nationalizing U.S. companies. Cuba says end the blockade and we can discuss it. Other countries have received compensation and 167 countries oppose the blockade," said Rodrigues. He also said that Cuba has proposed agreements for U.S. cooperation in fighting drug trafficking, illegal immigration and terrorism but the Bush admin-

istration has not responded.

When information on terrorist groups in Miami was given to the FBI, the informants were jailed and charged as spies while the terrorist groups remain free. The jury of the "Cuban Five" was threatened, and the request to change the venue was denied.

"We only want Cuba's independence, sovereignty and dignity to be respected," said Rodrigues. Because relations with Cuba are not normalized, Rodrigues was limited by the State Department on the time he can spend at meetings. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a question-and-answer session, which included the following questions:

Question: Has Castro changed his ideas? Is he setting up a peaceful transition to end the blockade? Could the Roman Catholic Church help settle the conflict?

Rodrigues: Cuba has been in transition since 1959. It is the U.S. that has the power to end the blockade, not Cuba. Cuba is much more than President Castro. Many young, educated, skilled people

are the power of Cuba. Cuba's goal is and has been economic and social equality. We want to develop a new kind of human being.

Question: Latin American banks are in crisis. What guidance does Cuba have for young people?

Rodrigues: The 13th Congress of the Continental Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Students will take place Nov. 29-Dec. 3 in Guadalajara, Mexico. Cuba is sending a 600-person delegation of writers, poets and cultural figures.

Rodrigues told the crowd that he looks forward to the day when the United States and Cuba will have normal relationships.

Steve Eckardt, coordinator of the Philadelphia Cuba Solidarity Coalition said, "The U.S. still refuses to recognize Cuba and it hurts us here in Philadelphia. Chuchu Valdez, the great jazz artist, was scheduled to play a concert here but at the last minute his entrance to the U.S. was denied."

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Cuban elections

Cuban President Fidel Castro places his vote in the ballot box on Oct. 20, in his old neighborhood of Vedado in Havana, Cuba. Millions of Cubans went to the polls to chose new municipal officials.

AP

INTERNATIONAL

Israelis protest show trial of Palestinian

By Hans Lebrecht

TEL-AVIV – Marwan Barghouti, the leader of El-Fatah – the Palestinian Liberation Organization's (PLO) majority party chaired by Yasser Arafat – is being convicted and sentenced to death by a small group of hysterical people. Barghouti, arrested in April by the Israeli occupation regime, faces numerous charges, including murder. He was brought with shackled hands and feet to the district court here, Oct. 3.

The hysteria surrounding Barghouti reflects the mood among a broad section of the Israeli public, brainwashed day-in-day-out by the government-manipulated media. Barghouti is the first case of a defendant charged with alleged terrorist offences to be tried by a civil court of justice. Barghouti, an elected member of a legal parliament – the Palestinian Legislative Council – being forced to stand trial at a civil court in Tel-Aviv, is illegal and outrageous, Barghouti's defense lawyers said.

Barghouti is well-known in the Israeli peace movement, having attended common Israeli-Palestinian peace meetings or protest actions against the Israeli occupation. In addition to his native Arab tongue, he speaks Hebrew fluently, which he learned while incarcerated during the first Intifada (1987-93).

Many Israeli friends of Barghouti, sympathizers, peace activists and left-wing personalities, arrived in the early morning hours, in order to be the first to secure seats at the courtroom. Well-known public figures, like Uri Avnery, his wife Rachel (both Laureates of the alter-

native Nobel Peace Prize), Adam Keller of the Gush-Shalom peace bloc, and at least two Knesset parliamentarians, as well as Israeli and foreign correspondents, waited to attend the session.

However, following a closed meeting of security officers and at least one secretary representing Sharon, the court's security guards and police officers forcefully pushed the waiting crowd away from the entrance to the court room, allowing in only a few selected press teams, and an organized group of "terror victims" relatives. Before any others could enter, it was announced, "The courtroom is fully occupied, no more seats left."

Avnery and others pointed out that the group of relatives selected to enter are known to be close to the radical right-wing, some even close to the outlawed, but very active, fascist KAKH (Kahane-lives) party. Other relatives of terror victims, known to have solidarity relationships with their Palestinian counterparts, were not allowed into the courtroom.

Next, the whole world witnessed over their TV screens tumultuous courtroom scenes staged by the rightwing next-of-kin or those who acted as such. They shouted and terrorized Barghouti with threats. Outside, the courtroom protests against the selection process were hardly seen by the TV viewers.

"If this was a taste of what kind of trial Barghouti will get, good night to Israel's democracy," a protestor remarked.

One of the sensational highlights of the day was learning that one of Barghouti's defense attorneys is

Shamai Leibovitz, the Jewish orthodox grandson of the late Professor Yeshaiyahu Leibovitz, editor-in-chief of the Encyclopedia Judaica. Leibovitz was a fiery protester, even up to his nineties, against the 1967 occupation of Arab territories, the racist persecution of the Palestinian people, as well as a whistle blower against the danger from the Jewish fundamentalist power encroachment in the state. Shamai stated he was treading in the footsteps of his late grandfather by taking part in Barghouti's defense.

After the session, Barghouti's defense attorneys, headed by the East Jerusalem Palestinian lawyer Jawad Boulus, told the outdoor crowd that the Israeli civil court has no jurisdiction to handle a case against a citizen and resident of occupied Palestine. This was against international law, as well as the 1949 Geneva Fourth Convention dealing with the protection of the civilian population of a territory occupied by a foreign power. Israel is a co-signatory to that Convention.

Moreover, it contravenes the agreements signed between Israel and the PLO, and the PNA (national authority) respectively, the defense team maintains. Further, the whole charge sheet is a framed-up masterpiece, which has no basis whatsoever in reality. This will be the main defense line when the trial begins, Boulus said.

The court session Oct. 3 was an organized rehearsal of a right-wing spectacle, a taste of what kind of show trial this will be.

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International notes

Italy: General strike for workers' rights

Over 1 million workers and their supporters took to the streets in 120 Italian cities and towns Oct. 18. The year's second general strike was called by the country's largest union federation, the left-led CGIL, to protest government plans to weaken labor rights, as well as cuts in health and education budgets.

Over 250,000 marched in Milan, and 150,000 in Rome.

Air, rail and public transit services were sharply curtailed; most schools and many banks were closed.

The CGIL strongly opposes the government plan to amend the 1970 labor law to make it easier for firms to lay off workers – a move it says threatens hundreds of thousands of jobs. In recent weeks Italian companies have announced over 20,000 layoffs.

Since the first general strike last April, the number of smaller strikes and work stoppages in Italy has risen nearly 500 percent over the same period last year.

Colombia: Public workers need support

Public Service International (PSI), the international federation of public service workers, sent a letter of protest to the Colombian government after the military occupied the premises of EMCALI on Sept. 30 and attacked PSI-affiliated trade unionists the next day. Five workers suffered serious burns and asphyxia as a result of the attacks with explosives and tear gas bombs.

SINTRAEMCALI represents workers at the state-owned EMCALI, which provides water, electricity and telecommunications services for Cali, a city of 2.5 million. The union has been engaged in a long struggle to prevent the company from being privatized. Last January the union reached agreement with the municipal and national governments



The statue of Emanuele Filiberto di Savoia towers over thousands of people gathered in Turin's central San Carlo Square, Italy, Oct. 18, during an eight-hour CGIL (Italian General Confederation of Labor) union general strike.

to keep the company public.

But after his election, President Alvaro Uribe Velez sent troops to break up the union's meetings and occupy the company's premises.

PSI called on the Colombian government to halt military attacks on the workers, withdraw military and police personnel from the company premises, and respect the January 2002 agreement.

Kenya: Teachers gain int'l solidarity

Kenya's teachers, on strike since Sept. 23 over broken promises of salary increases, received crucial international support this week. The South African Democratic Teachers Union and Congress of South African Trade Unions are joining with other international labor organizations to urge Kenya's government to honor a 1997 agreement to double teachers' pay.

The current action is the third national teachers strike aimed at pressing the government to implement the increase. Since it began, teachers have been subjected to government intimidation, harassment and threats. In addition, the Education Minister is trying to revoke the 1997 agreement – a move blocked last week by the Supreme Court – and has suspended the collection of union dues.

Belgium: Int'l unionists denounce McDonald's

An international seminar on McDonald's labor practices, held in Brussels last week, found that the fast food giant uses minimum standards in setting wage, health and safety practices, and uses anti-union methods including isolating, harassing and dismissing employees who support unions.

The symposium, attended by union activists from Argentina, Belgium, Germany,

Hong Kong, Italy, the Philippines, The Netherlands, the USA and Russia, found that in some countries the size and influence of the company's operations is depressing wages and working conditions throughout the restaurant sector.

On the meeting's last day, participants demonstrated at a McDonald's in Brussels, before presenting their findings to a special hearing with the President of the European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

The seminar participants concluded that McDonald's could and should "engage in social dialogue" with trade unions in all countries where it operates. They agreed that as a company employing many workers in many countries, McDonald's should establish relations with the IUF, the international organization of workers in the restaurant sector.

Israel: 100,000 workers strike

More than 100,000 city and regional workers laid down their tools, Oct. 12, while another 80,000 civil servants, as well as the non-medical staff at government-run hospitals, started a slow-down strike. The unions, affiliated to the General Histadrut Trade Union Federation, have sanctioned both strike actions.

The strikers' main demand is a substantial raise in cost-of-living index and no cuts to social benefits such as pensions, child allowances and unemployment. The government treasury and employers said the cuts have to be made because of the crisis on the world market and the enormous increase in military and security expenses.

The unions said cost-of-living increments, which by law should be adjusted to the consumer price index, were not adjusted for over two years, thereby lowering workers' income. In most major cities, strikers held demonstrations and vigils in front of government offices and entrance gates of national enterprises.

Calif. Bar Association says:

Amend Patriot Act to uphold rights

Special to the World

In an outspoken affirmation of constitutional rights and due process, the California Bar Association's Conference of Delegates last week called on the state's members of Congress to support amending the USA Patriot Act to uphold fundamental constitutional rights.

In a resolution passed Oct. 13 by an overwhelming vote, delegates called on the members of Congress to act "in light of the fundamental precept that in times of crisis, it is imperative that the government respect constitutional rights and procedural due process, even as it protects life, property and

national security."

California lawyers, the resolution said, "have a major role in upholding constitutional and human rights, at all times, including those times when those rights appear to be in conflict with efforts made in the pursuit of national defense."

The resolution specifically supported the American Bar Association's August resolutions, which urged protection for the rights of immigration detainees. The ABA resolutions called for disclosure of names, detention facilities and charges against detainees and insuring their immediate access to attorneys and family members. Other concerns included prompt charging of detainees and

their prompt release when charges are not brought, and making removal hearings public unless a valid reason exists to close them.

The California resolution also supported the ABA's position that the Bush administration's November 2001 Military Order regarding "detention, treatment and trial of certain non-citizens in the war against terrorism" should not apply to U.S. citizens and others lawfully present in the U.S.

The delegates said that indefinite detention should not be permitted, and trial and appeal procedures

should be governed by the Uniform Military Code of Justice. They called for prompt notice of charges, representation by counsel of choice, and adequate time and facilities to prepare for trial procedures. Other calls included the assistance of an interpreter and the privilege against self-incrimination.

The California Bar Association delegates also called on the president and Congress to address risks to constitutional rights, including spying on privileged communications between detainees and their attorneys, selec-

tively targeting persons from Middle Eastern and South Asian countries for interviews and deportation without reasonable cause, secret searches of homes and offices, infiltration and spying on domestic religious and political organizations. The resolution also warned about subpoenaing personal records from libraries and forcing the libraries to keep the subpoenas secret, and implementing the Terrorism Information and Prevention System (TIPS), which encourages Americans to spy on others in the United States.



'Pataki, resign'

Sau Kwan, left, and Betty Uyu, are arrested by Albany Police, Oct. 15, during a rally in Albany to demand Gov. George Pataki resign for the poor treatment workers have received from the State Workers' Compensation Board. JoAnn Lum of the National Campaign Against Sweatshops accused Pataki of allowing insurance companies to drag out cases for years. The Board admits that 196,388 workers are waiting for the state to process their claims.

Azteca Foods workers struggle for justice

By Mark Alberg

CHICAGO – About 30 Jobs with Justice activists, including a half dozen or more striking Azteca Foods workers, distributed informational leaflets at two large supermarkets, Dominick's and Jewel, here, recently in support of the workers in their struggle to win a fair union contract. The action was part of a nationally coordinated, 10-city campaign to pressure Azteca Foods owner Arthur Velasquez to negotiate a fair contract with the union.

Azteca is a large tortilla factory on the south side of Chicago, with estimated revenues of over \$30 million per year. Its tortillas and chips are sold in large grocery chains across the country. Azteca workers won an NLRB election to form a union with United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers (UE) Local 1159 last April, and have been in contract negotiations with the company since May 14.

Azteca workers want improved wages, benefits and working conditions, a fair pension, union security and dignity on the job.

The company has instead come to the table with a set of proposals that would cut wages and benefits, gut seniority rights and expand the use of temporary workers. The workers report that company foremen have become increasingly belligerent and abusive to the workers, the majority of whom are Mexican immigrants.

Because of the company's refusal to seriously consider the workers' demands, plans are being considered for a boycott of Azteca Food products, along with a series of new demonstrations at grocery stores in several states and a widening, multi-state campaign aimed at stopping Azteca's unfair labor practices and paving the way for a contract settlement.

The union and JwJ are calling on people to contact Velasquez to tell him to stop stalling and to negotiate a fair contract. They urge calling him at 708-563-6600 or sending him a message through the UE's website, www.ranknfile-ue.org/cm/azteca.php. The site also contains a two-page leaflet describing background information on the strike that can be downloaded and reproduced for distribution.

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People Before Profits

By Art Perlo

With control of the House and Senate at stake in the Nov. 5 elections, the Republicans have launched a national campaign of lies and disinformation.

The most outrageous example is Social Security. Ever since occupying the White House, the Bush administration, with support from Congressional Republicans, has been pushing for privatization. Now, the White House has given orders: don't call it privatization – call it individual choice.

Whatever name it goes by, the Bush Republicans want to divert part of Social Security income to individual investment accounts, providing a bonanza for Wall Street investment houses and undermining the security of future retirees. Even Bush's hand-

Economic issues in the elections

picked "Commission to Strengthen Social Security" admitted that these proposals would require cuts in current benefits, increased taxes or government borrowing.

Republican candidates also talk about helping investors who have lost money in the stock market. But economist Dean Baker points out that their plan would provide no help at all to the vast majority, while providing yet another tax break for the very rich. And the "reform" legislation the administration pushed through Congress after the wave of corporate scandals allows corporate executives to reward themselves with even bigger pension plans, while stiffing workers. This doesn't stop Republicans from posing as champions of corporate accountability.

Meanwhile, a "non-profit" front group for the drug lobby is spending between \$9 and \$13 million dollars in a campaign that mainly supports Republican incumbents. It praises the Republicans for supporting legislation to provide a prescription drug benefit

for the elderly. It doesn't tell you that this bill provides a bonanza for the drug and insurance companies, while doing little to help most seniors, and nothing to control drug costs. Meanwhile, these same Republicans have blocked proposals to add a drug benefit to Medicare, which would provide deeper coverage while slowing drug costs.

A year ago, under cover of "fighting terrorism" and "economic stimulus," the Republican-controlled House passed a bill giving huge tax rebates to a handful of giant corporations, including Enron. Fortunately, the Senate stopped this particular outrage from becoming law. The AFL-CIO has been running ads attacking the Republicans for trying to give a free gift to Enron. Republicans complained that the ads were inaccurate, because the bill they passed benefited many corporations, not just Enron. Because of this, they convinced many TV stations to stop airing the ads.

But the AFL-CIO was essentially cor-

rect. The Republican bill was indeed a giveaway to Enron, along with other undeserving corporations. But with the help of the TV stations, Republicans managed to confuse the issue, making it appear that Democrats were distorting the issue and diverting attention away from their own complicity in looting the Treasury.

The list of specific issues goes on and on, but the pattern is clear. The Bush administration, with the full support of Republicans in Congress, is pressing ahead with more corporate tax breaks, more tax cuts for the rich and unlimited military spending. They will use the resulting budget deficits as an excuse for further attacks on Social Security, education and every other federal program that benefits the people. They will try to offload the full burden of dealing with the recession onto state and local governments, causing more cutbacks in services and increasing taxes on the working class.

It will take a long, hard struggle to win real alternatives: ending the tax breaks for the rich and the corporations, halting the drive to war and greatly increasing federal spending to meet the real needs of the majority while providing jobs and stimulating the economy. The first step is to mobilize every vote to defeat the right-wing Republicans Nov. 5.

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Production at any cost? Dockers say No!

By Herb Kaye

When longshore workers go to work in the morning, they hope to come back to their family

at the end of the day in one piece, and able to go to work the next day.

But for five West Coast dockworkers, members of the Interna-

Commentary

tional Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), that hope was permanently ended when they were killed on the job. And so, too, for another 1,163 ILWU members, those hopes were frustrated by on-the-job injuries, 696 of which caused the workers to lose four or more days of work.

Put another way, 16 percent of the 10,500 longshore workers who work the docks on the West Coast, from Los Angeles to Seattle/Tacoma, were injured on the job in just the first nine months of this year.

That puts longshore work just behind garbage workers and in front of construction workers on the list of occupations with the most fatalities in 2001, according to U.S. Department of Labor statistics.

Among the victims of the shipping industry's failure to provide safe working conditions in the relentless drive for new records in cargo handling:

- John Prohoroff, killed March 14 by a spreader bar that fell from a crane.

- Mario Gonzalez, struck by a hydraulically-activated door on an auto shredder at the port of Los Angeles on March 15

- Richard Peters, age 68, with 45 years on the waterfront, killed by a gantry crane that crushed him against the side of a ship in Eureka, Calif., on June 1. California OSHA investigated the case, found the company failed to provide a safe workplace by failing to properly guard the shipboard crane and fined it \$2,250.

- Richie Lopez, Jr., age 40, the father of four children, run over by a fork lift at Port Hueneme, near Los Angeles, on June 23.

- Rudy Acosta, run over and killed by a Top Handler, a cargo-moving device at Port of Long Beach, Calif., on Sept. 3.

As recently as Oct. 11, a dockworker at the Long Beach terminal was shocked with 480 volts of electricity when unplugging a refrigerator container. He is still under treatment at a local hospital.

A Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) spokesman, John Pachtner, commented, "We are very concerned because we are not moving toward a normal level of production."

Never mind that five workers have been killed and 1,668 injured on the docks since January this year, the PMA wants production!

Never mind that the ILWU has been trying in vain for years to get the PMA to agree to register and train more workers for longshore jobs to meet the increase in cargo handled at the ports.

Never mind that it was the PMA that locked out the longshore workers for eight days and caused the logjam at the ports in the first place.

"Production!" was the cry of the slave owners as they cracked the whip on the backs of the slaves on the plantations.

"Production!" was the cry of

the mine owners while thousands of miners died from preventable explosions and rock falls at the mines and thousands more suffered and died from Black Lung.

"Production!" was the demand of the steel industry, textile manufacturers, construction contractors, timber companies and the profit-driven executives who sit in air conditioned offices collecting their fat salaries, bonuses and stock options totaling in the millions – and have the gall and the audacity to carp about the salaries of the longshore workers who put their lives on the line every time they walk through the gates at a dock.

The AFL-CIO has called for the U.S. Labor Department and the governors of California, Washington and Oregon to dispatch inspectors to the docks to check on the safety and health conditions there. Bush administration cutbacks in funding for OSHA have given the companies a free hand to ignore safety considerations, and CalOSHA's fine of \$2,250 in the death of Richard Peters indicates the low value put on the life of a dockworker. Adding a clerk at each hatch, instead of moving one clerk around from hatch to hatch, as is recently done, would avoid such tragedies.

Those clerk jobs – the ones that PMA considers expendable – are very much at the heart of the is-



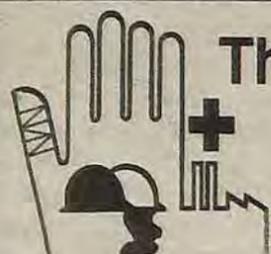
Bobbie Rabinowitz

Longshore workers, locked out by the PMA in Oakland, Calif., October 2002, show that job safety is one of the issues under attack.

sue of the union's right to jurisdiction for all jobs created by new technology.

The imposition of a Taft-Hartley injunction by the Bush administration adds a new weapon in the hands of PMA as they press for more production regardless of worker health and safety. This is a dagger at the heart of all working people, and should be condemned and opposed by all who care about the right to work in a safe environment – one that is free of the employer's demand for "production at any cost."

The author can be reached at ncalview@igc.org



The Nation's Health Worker's Safety

By Bea Lumpkin

Retirees who won't quit

Where do over two million union members go when they retire? The AFL-CIO has an answer: the Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA). The concept driving this organization is that retired trade unionists continue their contribution to society through "lifelong participation in their unions and in their community, political and civic organizations." The ARA comes just in time, too, since George W. Bush has stepped up the attack on working families and retirees.

Medicare coverage of prescription drugs was the first demand adopted by the ARA's founding convention in Washington, D.C., Sept. 3-5. A dramatic display of 400,000 petitions for Medicare coverage of prescription drugs was stacked high on the convention's platform. The next day, 800 convention delegates protested the high price of medicine at the drug company association's headquarters. They carried signs and wore huge buttons saying "Drug companies make me sick."

Why is the prescription drug issue ARA's first priority? Although many union retirees already have coverage for medicine, everyone has family members or friends without coverage who collectively must spend \$1.6 trillion on medicine during this decade, according to the ARA. Also, many employers are cutting back or dropping their prescription drug plans. On a personal note, I was just given a new prescription for which Walgreen's price was \$20 for one pill.

Growing popular support for prescription drug benefits has made the issue a hot political item, with even George Bush saying he supports the demand. However, his plan is similar to that adopted by the House of Representatives that gives HMOs and insurance companies total control of the plan. Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) told ARA delegates that bill "will kill every single corporate pension plan/health care system that provides prescription pharmaceuticals."

On a related front, ARA is also demanding federal action to bring pharmaceutical prices under control, warning that the continued skyrocketing price of drugs threatens any prescription drug plan.

In addition to prescription drugs, ARA calls for improving Medicare to provide affordable long-term care, dental care, vision and hearing aids and extended preventive services. Delegates summed up the ARA position on these matters when they said, "The Alliance for Retired Americans supports a national health system providing comprehensive care to all as a matter of right."

Pointing to the fact that two-thirds of older Americans rely on Social Security for half or more of their income, the convention adopted a strongly-worded resolution condemning the administration's plans to "modernize" the program by allowing all or part of Social Security taxes to be invested in "individual retirement accounts" – both terms meant to hide efforts by the Bush administration to privatize Social Security. A separate resolution on "Pension Protection" demanded pension plan reforms.

The ARA calls for raising or ending the cap on earnings taxed for Social Security, which would go far in preventing any future shortfall. Other demands include increasing benefits for single women and raising the monthly Social Security minimum to at least 100 percent of the poverty level, adjusting cost of living increases to reflect true costs for senior citizens and those with disabilities. ARA went on record opposing "any increase in the early retirement age or any further increase in the normal retirement age."

The ARA says the national housing crisis is especially severe for older Americans and is made worse by cutbacks in federal spending for subsidized housing with supportive services. Only 5,200 of these units, which allow older people to remain independent rather than going to nursing homes, have been built in recent years. The ARA is calling for construction of 60,000 of these units a year as a start toward meeting the needs of the 1.5 million seniors who are ill-housed.

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Vote for health care

By Phil Benjamin

Workers Correspondence

The 2002 elections offer another opportunity to press for an agenda that meets the health, housing, education and safety needs of the people. Congress still has time to enact a prescription drug bill that will take care of all retirees age 55 years and older, including Medicare recipients.

Congress can still pass HR-99, the Universal Health Care Act proposal by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) and set the stage for making national health legislation an issue in the 2004 presidential election. In addition, Congress can force the Bush administration to fully fund the Child Health Plus bill so that all children can have their health needs met. Fighting on these issues can go far in exposing the anti-people policies of the Bush/Cheney administration.

Bush vetoed a \$90 million Senate- and House-approved financing for the medical and mental health screening of World Trade Center clean-up workers. He also vetoed a special appropriation, also approved by the House and Senate, of \$100 million to buy a communication network for New York City firefighters so that the errors that took place at the time of these attacks would not be repeated. Issues such as these offer a Pay-back opportunity for these vetos.

The key to success in electing a pro-people Congress is for labor, community and other pro-people forces to work together. The broadest coalitions are now possible. And, given the massive anti-war demonstrations and letter-writing/e-mailing opposing Bush's drive to war, this coalition can be a socio-economic/anti-war coalition.

The author can be reached at pww@pww.org

Ballots across the West promise 'Power to

By Tim Wheeler

Public ownership of electric power is an idea whose time has come — at least in San Francisco, Las Vegas and in the Big Sky state of Montana. Voters in these western locales have a chance to vote Nov. 5 for ballot questions that open the way for city or state takeover or buyout of private utility companies.

Advocates in the region say support for public ownership is fueled by backlash against Enron's gaming of the deregulated energy market in California. It created a fake crisis and drove up electricity rates by 400 percent or more in the space of a few months. The ripple effect from that crisis has spread throughout the West in sharply higher costs for electricity. It contradicted all the propaganda claims by Enron, George W. Bush and the ultra-right for the past 20 years that deregulation and privatization would deliver higher quality goods and services at lower cost to consumers.

Madalyn Tafruny, a spokesperson for the American Public Power Association (APPA) in Washington told the *World* that APPA's polite term for Enron-style deregulation is "a dysfunctional electric energy market." It produces, she said, less reliable, more polluting and far more expensive electricity. APPA points out that across the nation, 2,009 utilities are publicly owned, charging on average 16 percent lower rates than the 240 privately owned utilities. Another 894 are rural electric cooperatives that also tend to provide cheaper electricity.



Above, Protesters block the door to the headquarters of Pacific Gas & Electric Company in San Francisco, Jan. 9, 2001, to protest rate gouging during the California energy crisis. (AP)
Left, Poster promoting Prop. D, the public takeover of San Francisco's PG&E utility company. (PowerToThePeople)

"As deregulation moved forward and rates have climbed higher, people have become more interested in taking control of their own electricity," Tafruny said. "Simply put, public power is cheaper because it is not for profit. This is a service that is so crucial to their lives and livelihood that the people can see clearly the advantages of public ownership."

San Francisco's Prop. D: 'Power to the people'

In San Francisco, the Board of Supervisors voted 8-3 to place on the November ballot Prop. D, drafted by Supervisor Tom Ammiano. It would amend the City Charter to create a Public Utility Commission with authority to take over the electric power plants, hydroelectric dams and transmission lines of Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), the largest private electric utility in California.

Dana Long, director of organizing for The Utility Reform Network (TURN) in San Francisco, told the *World*, "We've garnered very important endorsements for Prop. D including the AFL-CIO, which is heavily involved in turning out a big vote Nov. 5." A similar ballot measure lost by a very narrow margin in San Francisco last year, she said. "PG&E is in bankruptcy yet they boast that they will have a \$4.2 billion surplus next year based on their excessive rates. I have never seen a bankrupt corporation that is so flush with cash."

Throughout the 2001 energy crisis PG&E was pouring millions into its Maryland-based holding

company, she charged. None of this money was carried on PG&E's balance sheets when the firm filed for bankruptcy, another example of Enron-style cooking the books.

"There is an issue of racial justice involved," she said. "Prop. D would mandate the closing of PG&E's Hunters Point power plant that pours pollution into a predominantly African-American community. Prop. D also authorizes the construction of a new, far cleaner plant to replace the power that will be lost when Hunters Point closes."

Juan Lopez, chair of the Communist Party of Northern California, told the *World*, "Voter sentiment for public ownership is strong and getting stronger. We are paying outrageous rates, three times the national average. The people are fully aware of Enron's role in gaming the California electricity market while Bush and Cheney looked the other way. We want to help build the momentum for a statewide or even national public takeover of electric power under democratic control."

The *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, a weekly newspaper, produced a study revealing that PG&E overcharges "took as much as \$620 million out of the San Francisco economy, worsening the impact of the recession. ... Replacing PG&E with public power could potentially pump \$550 million into the economy."

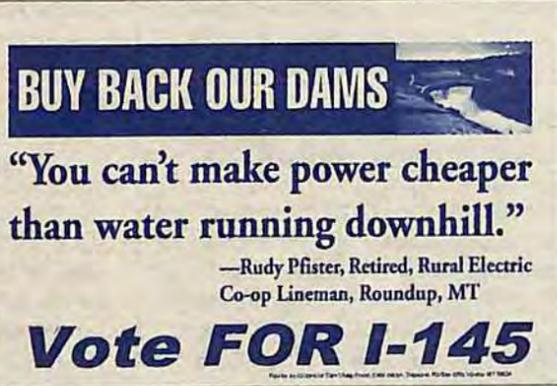
A *Guardian* reporter interviewed Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) while he was visiting the Bay Area speaking on a national health care plan and against Bush's war on Iraq. Kucinich recalled his role in blocking privatization of Muny Light, Cleveland's publicly owned utility with rates 25 percent lower than privately owned Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company. "Just as people have a right to public schools, to waterworks, sewers, parks, people have a right to own their electric system," Kucinich said.

In Big Sky country the demand is 'dam cheap power'

In Montana, a group known by its website, "Dam Cheap Power" (www.damcheappower.com), has won ballot status for I-145, the Montana Hydroelectric Security Act, sponsored by progressive Helena legislator Ken Toole. It would mandate public buyout of 13 hydroelectric dams on the Missouri and Clark Fork Rivers.

For nearly a century, Montana Power Company (MPC), a private corporation, "virtually owned the state," said Paul Edwards, president of Dam Cheap Power. MPC was regulated by a state public utility commission. Only five other states charged lower electric rates than Montana.

Then-Gov. Marc Racicot, a George W. Bush Republican, ramrodded deregulation through the GOP majority Montana legislature in 1997.



Poster for Initiative-145, mandating the buyback of 13 hydroelectric dams across the state of Montana.



AP
Protesters burn their Pacific Gas and Electric bills March 29, 2001, during a demonstration protesting rate hikes in electricity and natural gas prices outside the headquarters of Pacific Gas and Electric in downtown San Francisco.

to the people'

Virtually overnight, Edwards said, MPC sold off its hydro-dams to Pennsylvania Power & Light (PP&L). PP&L has jacked electric rates by a combined \$55 million for hard-pressed Montana consumers. Stripped of its profitable electric generating business, MPC ventured into fiber optics through a subsidiary, Touch America. Their stock has plunged from \$65 a share to 52 cents a share as the high-tech bubble economy exploded.

Hundreds of MPC workers across job-starved Montana lost their jobs in the sellout to PP&L. These workers lost their health insurance, pensions and 401(k) accounts. "Those workers have lost everything in the collapse of MPC," said John Smart, a photographer active in Dam Cheap Power. "It was a mini-Enron here in Montana. They took a perfectly good power company that was making reasonable profits and wrecked it."

The PP&L privatizers, under investigation in Pennsylvania for price fixing, "now have our water rights, the dams, the generators the power, everything. It is outright high-way robbery designed by the Republican Party."

Racicot was called in by the Bush-Cheney campaign in November 2000 to orchestrate the Republican media blitz during the "battle of Florida." After helping steal the election for Bush and Cheney, Racicot went to work as an attorney for Enron.

"This was nothing new for Racicot," Smart said. "He was born in Libby, Montana, where Grace & Co. mined asbestos. The people have been dying of asbestosis in droves. Both as Montana Attorney General and

Governor, Racicot didn't lift a finger to help the people of his home town."

Dam Cheap Power argues that voter approval of I-145 would provide "a stable and dependable power supply. Just like government-owned TVA, Bonneville Power and the State of Nebraska's publicly owned power, our power would be dependable once again ... With I-145, we can recapture and retain the cheapest - or nearly the cheapest - power in the United States ... half of what it is costing us right now."

Edwards said he and a group of concerned environmentalists and human rights activists are working on a shoestring budget. PP&L has poured in \$2 million for TV ads attacking I-145. Yet the most recent poll showed 43 percent of voters favoring I-145 compared to 31 percent who are opposed.

Las Vegas wagers on a big 'Yes on Question 14'

In Las Vegas, Nev., Question 14 asks voters if they approve a public buyout of the city's electric utility. It is in effect a referendum on the Southern Nevada Water Authority's bid to purchase

Nevada Power Company from its parent, Sierra Pacific Resources, for \$3.2 billion. Question 14 was placed on the ballot by Citizen Alert, a grassroots organization that also spearheaded the movement to block use of Yucca Mountain, sacred to the Western Shoshone Indians, as a dump for nuclear wastes.

Citizen Alert Director, Peggy Johnson, said, "There are some things that should not be for profit," including power and water.

Even though their profit greed and corporate sleaze is exposed, the energy corporations are pouring in the big bucks to



Citizen Alert
Las Vegas-based Citizen Alert placed Question 14 on the city's ballot, mandating the purchase of Nevada Power Company's operations in the city by the Southern Nevada Water Authority, a public utility.

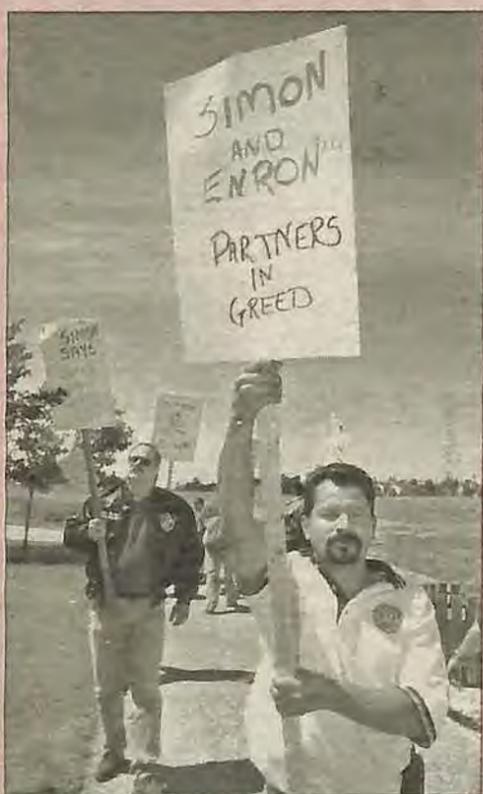


Jennifer Turner marches in a Citizen Alert-organized demonstration to protest the proposed nuclear waste project at Yucca Mountain, Sept. 3, 2001, in Las Vegas. The Bush administration wants to bury 77,000 tons of waste accumulating at nuclear power reactors in 31 states at the site.

defeat the public power ballot questions. They have removed the words "deregulation" and "privatization" from their political lexicon. But there is no change in their profit-greedy game-plan whatever it is called. On Nov. 5, voters have a chance to smack them down.

The author can be reached at greenerpastures21212@yahoo.com

Energy trader admits Enron stole billions from Calif.



Ricky Gonzalez, of the San Jose Labor Union, holds a picket sign with other demonstrators before GOP gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon's speech on the energy crisis in Redwood Shores, Calif., May 17. Simon's brokerage firm is closely linked to Enron and other energy traders that gamed the California deregulated electric market.

WASHINGTON - Former Enron trader, Timothy L. Belden, confessed Oct. 17 that Enron engaged in a criminal conspiracy to swindle California electricity ratepayers of billions of dollars during the 2001 so-called "energy crisis." Belden admitted that he and other Enron executives fabricated electricity shortages, fraudulent purchases of "out of state" power generated in California and bogus transmission schedules to inflate Enron's profits.

Belden told Justice Department investigators that the scam began soon after California approved deregulation of the state's electricity market in 1998. Enron's electric trading division, West Power, collected \$50 million in revenues in 1999. That skyrocketed to \$500 million in 2000 and to \$800 million in 2001 at the height of the crisis. Belden, himself, was rewarded with \$5 million in bonuses in 2001 alone for his role in this heist.

The racket was detailed in Enron memos released by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) last May. With code names like "Death Star," "Ricochet" and "Fat Boy," the memos revealed how Enron, El Paso Natural Gas, Dynegy, Duke

Power and Reliant manipulated California's deregulated market to drive up electric rates by 400 percent and more creating power shortages and rolling blackouts across the state.

Belden, who helped cook up the strategies from his offices at Enron subsidiary, Portland General Electric (PGE), is the first Enron executive to cop a plea, offering to tell what he knows in exchange for leniency. His lawyer told reporters that Belden "did what was expected of him in accordance with Enron's policy, expectations, and training." That defense suggested that Belden is prepared to testify against other top ranking Enron executives even including former Enron CEO, Ken Lay, a close crony of George W. Bush and Richard Cheney.

Vice President Dick Cheney is still claiming "executive privilege" in refusing to release the records of the White House Energy Task Force, which he chaired, fueling suspicions that a big part of Cheney's plan was to grant the energy traders free rein to engage in Enron-style thievery.

Deputy Attorney General Larry D. Thompson admitted that "Belden and others conspired to defraud California electricity consumers and

customers through a variety of schemes designed to artificially increase payments from the California power manager to Enron." The lack of a federal watchdog, Thompson conceded, "allowed Enron to exploit and intensify the California energy crisis and prey on energy consumers at their most vulnerable moment."

Bush and Cheney rejected the appeals of Gov. Gray Davis and Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) that they order FERC to impose a cap on electric rates and investigate the crisis that some estimate will cost California ratepayers \$30 billion in the coming decade.

The Republicans schemed to shift blame for the crisis to Gov. Davis in hopes of defeating him in the Nov. 5 election. But their hopes were dashed by the corporate connections of Republican nominee for Governor, William E. Simon Jr. A jury ordered his company, William E. Simon & Sons, to pay \$78 million in damages for "corporate fraud" in swindling P. Edward Hindelang of Santa Barbara, owner of a pay phone company, Pacific Coin. It was just more "business as usual" Republican style.

- Tim Wheeler

EDITORIALS

There's still time

One thing can be said about the Bush administration: No administration in history has been so focused – and so far so successful – in protecting the interests of the rich and super-rich.

A case in point is the July promise Bush made that "corporate misdeeds will be found and will be punished," all made possible by legislation authorizing "new funding for investigators and technology at the Securities and Exchange Commission to uncover wrongdoing."

Never mind that it was public outrage over the shenanigans of officials at Enron, Global Crossing and WorldCom that forced Congress to act – and a reluctant Bush to join the chorus. And never mind that both promises have since been broken.

We don't expect Bush and the other millionaire members of his cabinet to change their spots – or their policies. But, as last summer's events showed, they can be forced to retreat. The next battle will be fought in voting booths across the country on Nov. 5.

Simply put, that's what this year's elections are all about. Karl Rove & Co. has Bush hop scotching around the country in a desperate effort to keep control of the House and win control of the Senate.

They, too, have read the polls showing 56 percent of the people thinking the economy is "bad" or "very bad," that 39 percent say it is "getting worse" and that 57 percent say economic issues will influ-

ence the way they vote.

On the surface, those are pretty good odds. But, as the saying goes, "The only poll that counts takes place on election day." And there's another: "Every vote counts, but it doesn't count if you don't vote."

Thus the challenge: To use the days between now and Nov. 5 to help guarantee the maximum voter turnout. There's a place for everyone in that effort: making phone calls, poll watching, ringing doorbells. Sign up now. As Yogi said, "It ain't over 'til it's over."

Thugs and rogues at UN

The Bush administration cannot pursue its unilateral first-strike foreign policy without destroying international bodies established to uphold world cooperation and national sovereignty. The current situation at the United Nations vis-a-vis Iraq is a case in point. Bush officials have been threatening, bullying and trying to bribe their way to getting a resolution which would give international cover to their Iraq war plans. They are holding aid and loans over some countries' heads. They are offering other countries control of Iraqi oil fields and threatening some with a cut-off of oil if they don't cooperate.

A U.S. union leader commented, "Multilateralism has been reduced to threats, bribes and bullying, all of which undermine the prestige of the

United Nations."

This is an administration that refuses to sign onto the International Criminal Court, pulled out of the Kyoto Treaty, walked out on the UN conference on racism, and sees itself as the boss of the world, with the weaponry to back it up.

In his 1966 book, "The Arrogance of Power," Sen. J. William Fulbright wrote about the mounting Vietnam war fever, "We all like telling people what to do, which is perfectly all right except that most people do not like being told what to do."

Fulbright's observations resonate today as the Bush administration promotes its aggressive National Security Strategy and celebrates a congressional war resolution that many compare to the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution that set in motion the tragic escalation of the Vietnam war.

There are many lessons to draw from the mass movement that ended the Vietnam war. The most important is that the American people insist on our democratic right to determine our foreign policy. And the majority is for multilateralism, international cooperation and respect for international norms and law.

Most would agree with Fulbright: "When we violate the law ourselves, whatever short-term advantage may be gained, we are obviously encouraging others to violate the law; we thus encourage disorder and instability and thereby do incalculable damage to our own long-term interests."

LETTERS

Part of the system

I certainly appreciated Sam Webb's centerspread article "A threat to humanity: Bush's new military doctrine." (10/19) I think the article could have emphasized the "why" of the ruling class obsession with aggression even more.

A lot of Americans think the ruling class is becoming more aggressive simply because they want to and because they think they can get away with it. The article would be even stronger if it confronted that notion bluntly and more fully emphasized the fact that the capitalist ruling class is experiencing a severe economic crisis of international proportions.

In other words, they are doing what they are compelled to do by the very nature of their capitalist, expansive, imperialistic, economic system. They want to in-

vade other countries in order to exploit them more fully, just as they are cranking up their exploitation of the working class at home. At home and abroad they are driven by the same frenzied need: to try to resolve their underlying capitalist economic crisis.

Jim Lane
Dallas TX

Vet says 'No war for oil!'

I am a World War II veteran. I flew 30 combat missions with the U.S. 8th Air Command, as a gunner and radio operator on the B-17 Flying Fortress, attached to the 401 Bombardment Group.

I know first hand the harsh meaning of war. But I supported that war with the full understanding of why we were fighting. We were fighting enemies who were aggressive and planning to put the whole world under its iron fist of fascism. They brought us into the conflict by raining havoc, destruction and death upon us at Pearl Harbor. I enlisted to fight.

Today the story is different. The real purpose is not for freedom or against terrorism but the desire of some to capture the lucrative oil of the Middle East.

George Feigenbaum
Pompano Beach FL

Joking around

I saw this one and wanted to share it with your readers:

A woman dies and goes to heaven. As she stands in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates she sees a huge wall of clocks behind him.

She asks, "Why do you have all those clocks there on that wall?"

St. Peter answers, "Those are Lie-Clocks. Everyone has a Lie-Clock. Every

time you lie, the hands on your clock will move."

"Oh," says the woman, "whose clock is that?"

"That's Mother Teresa's. The hands have never moved indicating that she never told a lie," St. Peter said.

"Whose clock is that?" the woman asks.

"That's Abraham Lincoln's clock. The hands have only moved twice telling us that Abe only told two lies in his entire life."

Looking around the woman asks, "Where's George W. Bush's clock?"

"Oh that one's in my office. I'm using it as a ceiling fan."

Jenny Gordon
via e-mail

Can someone help me?

Who was the retired Marine officer who said something like, "Al Capone was a piker. He only ran three counties in Illinois. I made all of Central America safe for United Fruit!"

I'm battling with a few right-wingers at our local newspaper's online site today. Most folks here support peace and oppose "Bush the Little" but, I'd like to be able to give an accurate quote and source.

Ed Campbell
Santa Fe NM

Editor's note: If anyone has the source of that quote please send to pww@pww.org

New Haven says no to war

On Oct. 21, by a vote of 24 to 2, with 1 abstention, the New Haven Board of Aldermen approved a resolution submitted by Alderman John Halle opposing any

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"One Senate seat will make the difference between an America where women have the right to make decisions on pregnancy and childbearing, and one where the government makes those decisions for them."

Kate Michelman
NARAL president, Oct. 21

U.S. military intervention in Iraq. In the weeks prior to the vote, public opposition to the war expanded in the city with a large rally on the New Haven Green addressed by elected officials and religious and academic leaders, and a public hearing called by the City of New Haven Peace Commission which heard strong testimony against invasion of Iraq. Several weekly vigils have been held continuously for many months.

A reader
New Haven CT

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OPINIONS

We can prevent this war!

By Sarah Staggs

President Bush received the votes from Congress authorizing him to wage war against Iraq. The world is a much less secure place as a result. While the administration threatened and arm-twisted to get the resolution it wanted, it is important to recognize the mass sentiment that has developed against the war drive.

In the House, 133 members voted against the war resolution. That is 132 more votes against going to war than existed a year ago when one sole voice voted no on the war resolution that led us into Afghanistan. In the Senate, 23 voted against the Bush resolution. That is 23 more than voted against war a year ago. This has to be seen as a direct result of the burgeoning peace movement, whose tremendous effort, with vigils, teach-ins, demonstrations, phone calls, postcards, petitions and visits to elected leaders, is what produced the votes opposing war. No elected official, not even the most right-wing Republican, can deny that public opinion in their district was majority anti-war.

What comes next? The demonstrations, vigils and pressure on elected officials must continue. The momentum developed in the last month to oppose war with Iraq must continue and refocus on the upcoming elections. Do we feel betrayed by those Democratic Party representatives and senators who capitulated to pressure and voted for war? Yes. Do we feel frustrated by those who mistakenly believed they could vote for war in hopes of returning the national debate to fighting Bush on domestic issues? Yes. Are we angry that many Republicans and Democrats ignored the mass sentiment for peace in their districts? Yes.

But we cannot sit out the Nov. 5 election. We have no choice but to make this election a nationwide referendum on the Bush agenda. Translating the thousands of



Demonstrators stand behind a fence while protesting a visit by President Bush to Rochester, Minn., Oct. 18.

calls, postcards and signatures against war with Iraq into votes to defeat the right-wing Bush agenda and its proponents will deliver a powerful statement.

The peace movement should support those who have stood in opposition to the war. It should challenge the inconsistency of those who oppose Bush's right-wing agenda at home but support it abroad. And those who promote Bush's agenda must be defeated. The election provides an opportunity to throw a spoke in the wheel of the war machine. While that will not end this administration's empire-building and drive for world domination, it can impede it and create space for further development of the peace sentiment in the nation.

Remember, Bush started this campaign with the idea that he need not get permission from Congress to go to war.

Yet, he was forced to do so. He asked for unanimous support of his war resolution but did not get it. He claimed the right to unilateral action yet was forced to address the UN and still attempts to buy UN cover for his campaign. Every delay he has encountered has created opportunities for furthering the peace movement.

The peace movement has rightly decried the devastation that a war would cause both for Iraqis and Americans. It has exposed the hypocrisy of Bush's call for bringing democracy to the region, when the U.S. supports the repressive, racist policies of the Israeli government against the Palestinian people. It has exposed this war as a grab for oil spurred by corporate greed. It has exposed the high price of going to war with our economy in a tailspin. However, building a mass peace movement

requires linking the struggles on Social Security, health care, education, immigrants' rights and labor rights with the drive to stop war.

The war planned by the Bush administration is not only against Iraq, but also against the rights and living standards of working people across this nation. Our basic democratic liberties have already been attacked with the Patriot Act. Tax giveaways to the rich are robbing funds from human needs. Bush and the corporate giants he represents are waging all-out war against the right of workers to organize and fight for decent working conditions, living wages and health care. Make no mistake, if this nation goes to war, neither the longshore workers nor any other union will be allowed to strike for their rights – it will be called a breach of national security and unpatriotic.

When we were building the movement to end the war in Vietnam it took years to develop a majority peace sentiment. Today, the pace and destructiveness of war demand that a peace majority develop quickly. And the struggle will not end with stopping this war. A mass peace movement will help develop an independent political movement that can challenge the power of those who side with corporate greed over the needs of working people.

In the words of the great American labor hero Joe Hill: "Don't Mourn – Organize!"

Organize to defeat Bush's right-wing agenda on Nov. 5.

Organize to stop war against Iraq.

Organize the peace movement to stop Bush's war at home and abroad.

Sarah Staggs is chairperson of the Peace and Solidarity Commission of the Communist Party USA. She can be reached at pww@pww.org.

'Our children can't vote, but you can ...'

By Marian Wright Edelman

What am I missing here? The Oct. 7 *New York Times* ran a front-page article that said a majority of Americans believe President Bush and congressional leaders are spending too much time studying war while neglecting problems at home. A second front-page article in the same edition reported that Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone, visiting an eight-person company in Duluth to help draw attention to the spiraling cost of health care for small companies, had to ask a local television reporter for the favor of mentioning in her news report why he was there. She was only interested in a sound bite about Wellstone's opposition to unilateral action against Iraq.

Yet the Census Bureau has just reported that for the first time in eight years, the number of children living in poverty has gone up. There are still more than nine million children in America without health care coverage. And a new survey shows that low-income working families with children are bearing the brunt of state budget crises as states are forced to cut back on the child care services parents need to go to work and children need to be safe and enter school ready to learn.

These are not acts of God over which elected officials have no control. They are the consequences of ac-

tions taken – or not taken – by our elected officials, the same officials who are now campaigning all across the country for election or re-election to public office. It's time to hold our elected officials accountable for our nation's neglect of our children, and it's time for all of us who sincerely care about our children to cast our votes on their behalf.

Women and African Americans fought long and hard for the right to vote. Many put their lives on the line. Some died. Yet, according to the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, only 51 percent of all eligible voters cast votes in the 2000 election. If the right to vote is worth dying for, how can we take that right so lightly in 2002 when too many of the officials elected are neglecting the interests of our children with impunity? They lavish tax cuts on millionaires and billionaires, while freezing funds for child care and Head Start. They vow to reform the nation's educational system and then withhold funds needed to do so. How in good conscience can we continue to re-elect them?

When elected officials come to our neighborhoods, churches, organizations or community groups seeking our votes, we need to ask them when they are going to

re-authorize welfare and child care legislation, and whether or not they are willing to increase childcare funding to the \$11.25 billion that is needed to provide safe and reliable child care for children whose families cannot otherwise afford it. We need to ask them if they plan to vote to re-authorize and expand Head Start in 2003, and what their plans are for making sure that all children have what they need: a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life, and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

We live in the wealthiest nation in the world. If we can't afford to invest in our children, knowing that the options for their future and the future of the country are bleak if we don't, how can we afford to invest billions in a war, knowing that all of the options for a more peaceful process have not yet been exhausted?

It is time for new choices. I urge everyone who cares about our nation's children to cast their votes in November. Our children can't vote, but you can.

Marian Wright Edelman is president and founder of the Children's Defense Fund.

Anti-war movement grows in labor ranks

By Tony Pecinovsky

Growing sections of organized labor are making the connection between U.S. military aggression abroad and cuts in social programs at home. Also, many in the labor movement are openly opposing the curtailment of civil liberties.

Some are also opposing an attack on Iraq. Today, when local, regional and national unions encourage their membership to oppose war with Iraq they are setting an example for the broader labor movement.

This isn't to imply that there is now a broad-based peace movement in organized labor. Many trade unionists are cautious on this issue. But while they may not like Saddam Hussein many do not see enough reason to intervene in the affairs of a sovereign nation.

It is significant that very few unions have taken a stand supporting the Bush administration, and there isn't a vocal pro-war section in organized labor, as there was during the Vietnam War.

Many union members are waiting to see how the next few months play out. But some have come out against war, and the speed at which this is happening is almost unprecedented.

Even though the national AFL-CIO hasn't taken a position for or against war on Iraq, it has allowed room for local and regional affiliates to take independent stances.

An important labor initiative opposing war came from the Washington State Central Labor Council (CLC), representing close to half a million trade unionists.

Its Aug. 19-22 convention resolved that the Washington State CLC "opposes the U.S. government's open-ended 'war on terrorism' and [urges all its affiliates] to pressure Bush and Congress to stop the war ... assist laid-off workers, restore and expand services, and promote global justice by providing humanitarian and economic aid ..."

The California Federation of Teachers (CFT), representing over 100,000 teachers

and school employees, at a recent State Council meeting passed a resolution saying, "the CFT goes on record as strenuously opposing the Bush administration's march toward war with Iraq ..." The resolution urged all affiliates to encourage their members to do the same.

Margaret Shelleda, assistant to the president of CFT, told the *World* Bush has shown no evidence that Iraq poses a threat to the U.S. and war would only exacerbate the situation in the Middle East. "Unilateral action is a violation of international standards," she said.

"Twenty-five percent of California's budget is in deficit," Shelleda commented. "Education isn't getting enough money. Hardly any schools have nurses. And Bush is on the brink of committing billions of dollars and thousands of lives without attempt-

ing a diplomatic approach."

Most recently, on Oct. 1, the Executive Committee of AFL-CIO Pride at Work, a constituency group of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender union members, passed a resolution opposing "pre-emptive war strikes on Iraq or any other country."

The list of official AFL-CIO bodies openly taking a stance against war is small now. But it is growing.

Independent groups of union officers and rank-and-file union members are forming and seeking official recognition by local, regional and national unions.

New York City Labor Against the War (NYCLAW), a coalition formed weeks after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, is one example. The peace movement has found an important ally in NYCLAW. According to Michael Letwin, president of the Associa-

tion of Legal Aid Attorneys, UAW 2325, it has been "both an anti-war pole within labor and a labor pole in the anti-war movement."

Detroit Labor for Peace and Justice (DLPJ), originally formed in response to the bombing of Afghanistan, is another example. DLPJ issued a Labor Day statement in the *Metro Detroit Labor News* saying, "We condemn the horrific terrorist attack on Sept. 11. Yet the war in Afghanistan has brought further suffering ... We therefore oppose the expansion of the War on Terror to include military action in Iraq ... or any other country."

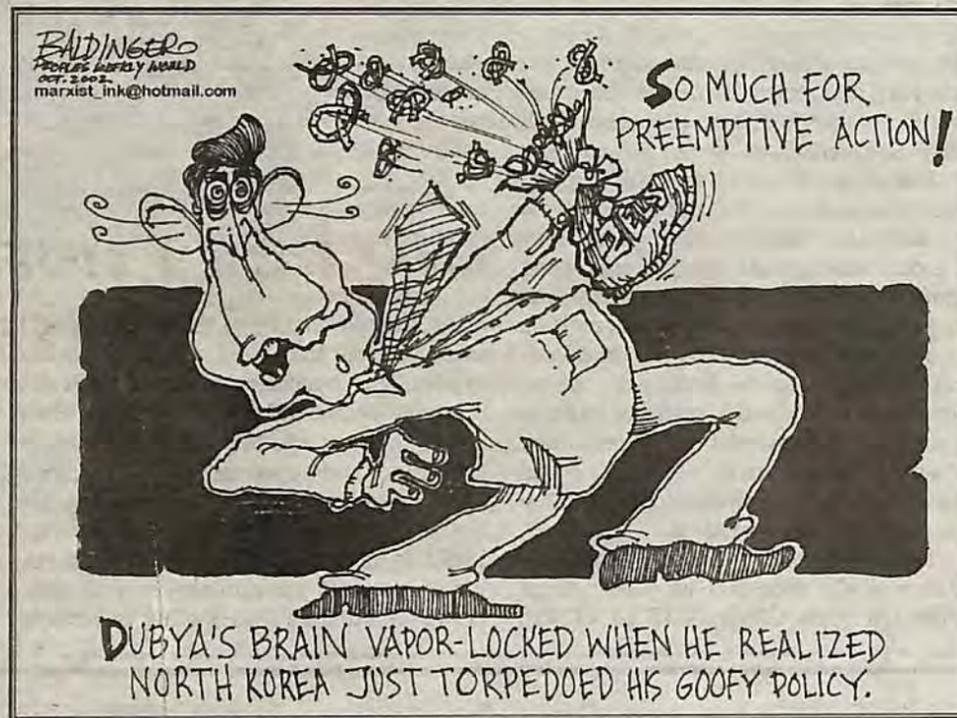
In an interview, Paul Felton of DLPJ said, "Bush's foreign policy has little to do with helping the American people. It is designed to further corporate interests."

Felton, a 22-year member of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) Local 480-481, said, "This is the perfect opportunity for labor to break from the legacy of uncritically supporting U.S. foreign policy." Observing that "sometimes labor participation in the peace movement seems too small," he said the quick response many unions and union members have shown is "a healthy beginning."

The backing of the labor movement, with its potential to mobilize its 13 million members, would greatly increase the influence of the peace movement. Organized labor is the only mass group that can mobilize enough votes to defeat the Republicans in November, elect a pro-peace majority, and put the Bush administration on the defensive. By sheer numbers alone, labor, in coalition with progressive, environmental, community, peace and student organizations, can shift the balance of political forces.

Labor can make or break Bush's war.

Tony Pecinovsky is a frequent contributor in New York. He can be reached at tonypec@pww.org



Renew the struggle against anti-Semitism

By Emile Schepers

The most myopic U.S. supporters of Ariel Sharon have launched a campaign to smear all who criticize Israeli and U.S. policy in the Middle East as anti-Semitic. They argue that Israel represents the crystallization of the aspirations of Jews as a people and that, therefore, questioning the idea of Israel as an exclusively Jewish state is intrinsically anti-Jewish.

Elected officials, academics and activists have been subjected to charges of anti-Semitism for their comments on the Middle East crisis. Lives and careers have been, and are being, damaged.

These charges must be challenged, and not only because they slander many excellent people. Anti-Semitism, defined as hatred and prejudice directed against Jewish people in thought, word and deed, is still a problem and could grow. But people calling for a settlement of the Middle East crisis that recognizes Palestinian rights to nationhood are not the people who should be charged with anti-Semitism.

Most of the anti-Semitism in the U.S. is, and has been, generated by the ultra-right — by neo-Nazis, xenophobic anti-immigrant groups and some embittered Christian fringes. In many cases, those who hate Jews also hate Arabs and all foreigners.

Nor can it be denied that some anti-Jewish tendencies exist among conservative Islamic elements in the U.S., manifesting itself in such things as Holocaust denial. But this should not be exaggerated. Most Arab-American and Muslim leaders and activists I know fall over backward to disassociate themselves from anti-Semites, Muslim or Christian. Here in Chicago, I witnessed a demonstration of over 3,000 Arab-Americans on the Palestine issue. There was nothing said about Jews as Jews (most of the speeches were in English), but one solitary person held up a sign which equated a star of David with a swastika. All the TV cameras zoomed in on that one sign among the multitude of other signs, and, of course, that is what was seen on the evening news.

The fear of being labeled anti-Semitic has led people I know, who feel outraged at the oppression of Palestinians, to keep silent on the whole Middle East crisis.

What to do? In my opinion, there needs to be a new campaign against anti-Semitism, and that campaign should be integrated with the struggle for a just solution of the Palestine/Israeli conflict. This is the correct thing to do, not only for its own sake, but for the sake of bolstering arguments on Palestine. The Jewish organization "Not in my Name" has

played a valuable role by presenting Jewish voices in favor of the rights of the Palestinians. In the same manner, non-Jews, including Arab-Americans and Muslims, need to have an organized means to speak out against anti-Jewish prejudice in the U.S.

Such a campaign would educate the public on the history of anti-Semitism. For example, while schools in the U.S. often teach about the Holocaust, few, if any, mention the fact that while that ghastly crime was being plotted — and implemented — anti-Semites in the U.S. government blocked immigration of Jewish refugees to our shores. The degree to which governments like ours saw the channeling of Jewish refugees toward Palestine as a way of keeping our country "Christian and white" was actually a manifestation of "our own" anti-Semitism, and certainly contributed to today's Middle East confrontation.

There is nothing to lose by creatively combining the struggle against anti-Semitism with the struggle for the rights of the Palestinian people, and a whole lot to be gained.

Emile Schepers is a frequent contributor from Chicago. He can be reached at pww@pww.org

PEOPLE'S CULTURE

Martín Espada, singing truth in dark times

By Louise Michel

Raised in Brooklyn in a housing project in a community with strong ties to Puerto Rico and its histories of political resistance, Martín Espada is now recognized as a major poet of his generation. But unlike others who come out of a working-class background and then write about it as something they were able to "overcome," Espada has stubbornly insisted on writing from, for, and with the communities he grew up in. That is the great strength of his work.

Espada writes about the sorts of people and experiences that don't usually show up in poetry, except perhaps as colorful background to show that the poet has been "down and out" at some earlier point. Like fellow Brooklyn poet Walt Whitman, he celebrates the everyday heroism of working people.

In "The Janitor's Garden," we learn of Felix Rodriguez, who has cleaned the same office building in New York for half a century. Unlike the executives who notice his work only if it isn't done, Espada does the math: sixty floors, mopped and waxed every night, five nights a week, fifty weeks a year, for forty-five years: 675,000 floors gleaming.

In the many other poems about the dignity of work — especially the work still most often done by immigrants and people of color, whether washing floors, picking produce, stacking legal pads, waiting tables, driving cabs, or "bouncing" unruly bar customers — Espada combines humor, compassion, and a deep sense of outrage at the lack of respect these people often endure.

This outrage is expressed in ingenious ways. In one very short poem about his anxiety over Latino immigrants, "Governor Wilson of California Talks in His Sleep," in *Imagine the Angels of Bread*, we

imagine a year in which justice finally comes for those to whom it is usually denied:

This is the year that squatters evict landlords ... this is the year that shawled refugees deport judges ...

This is the year that those who swim the border's undertow and shiver in boxcars are greeted with trumpets and drums at the first railroad crossing on the other side.

While Espada's gaze is fixed firmly on the injustices of the present, he is careful to link them with past struggles for justice. He writes about the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and the solidarity of workers who put aside their tools to fight for their class in Spain:

... across the earth, thousands laid hammers in toolboxes, holstered drills, promised letters home, and crowded onto ships for Spain ...

The handle of the hammer became the stock of the rifle. ("The Carpenter Swam to Spain")

There are poems about Sacco and Vanzetti and Chilean singer Victor Jara, murdered by Pinochet; in another, Chilean Communist poet Pablo Neruda is imagined at a New York Yankees game, unable to restrain himself from loudly reciting poems in praise of the players from the stands.

But even when remembering past political struggles, Espada dwells most often on those who died without leaving behind a famous name. In "All the People Who are Now Red Trees," he sees a red maple leaf, which reminds him of the red flamboyant flower, which reminds him of two poets jailed for supporting Puerto Rican independence and then of "a war in Spain /

and nameless laborers / marching with broken rifles." The red then moves into the present: "I think of union organizers / in graves without headstones, / feeding the roots / of red trees." The red leaves become "red wreaths in the treetops to remember, / ... all the people who are now red trees."

Espada has written a long poem in praise of the 43 members of Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees (HERE) Local 100 who died while working in the Windows on the World Restaurant on Sept. 11 — in heaven, these men and women teach the souls of those who then died just as needlessly in Afghanistan to dance. The poem will be included in a collection to be published next year.

Martín Espada has published five books of poetry and a collection of essays (*Zapata's Disciple*); he has also edited a fine collection of translations of political poetry by Latino and other poets, *Poetry Like Bread: Poets of the Political Imagination*. All are available in paperback and at most libraries.

During the darkest days of

Nazism, Bertolt Brecht wrote a poem in which he asks, "In the dark times, will there still be singing?" The response? "Yes ... there will be singing about dark times." Martín

Espada sings during these dark times, and dances, too. He's someone you want to read.

Louise Michel can be reached at pww@pww.org

Native American Day

Eddie Muoz, 3, of Bloomfield, N.M. performs a Grass Dance during the powwow of the annual Native American Day at Swinburne Elementary School in Farmington, N.M. Oct. 17. American Indians celebrate Native American Day instead of Columbus Day.



AP

To be or not to be For Tom Tancredo

The Denver newspaper recently did a story on Jesus Apodaca, a gifted high school graduate who was having difficulties obtaining scholarships for his college education. The article revealed that he was from Mexico. Congressman Tancredo (R-Colo.), an extreme anti-immigrant ultra-rightist, uncovered his racist attitudes and asked the Immigration Service to deport Apodaca and his family. These events inspired this poem. — Trinidad Sanchez, Jr.

Tom
I want you to know that
I am
Illegal,
that my parents were
Illegal,
that they came to this country
with a MEXICAN DREAM —
that life would be better
there would be an abundance of
justicia!
They raised ten
Illegal
children who fought and returned
from those unlawful wars
only to be more
Illegal
than when they left.
If that's not enough,
I want you to know
my siblings have multiplied
and all sobrinos y sobrinas
they are all
illegal.

I want you to know that

I am
Illegal,
that we're the ones who
renovated your home, raise your
children,
clean up after people like you
maid your houses, garden your
flowers.
work your fields, your orchards
construction sites & restaurant
kitchens
doing the cheeeeeeap hard labor
your kind refuse to do.

I want you to know that
I am
Illegal.
We are all
illegal
Americans from
North, Central
& South America
we are all proud of being
illegal Americans.

I want to know
with a name like yours
if there are skeletons in your closet ...
if they are
illegal
& did you ask for their pink cards
after all, people who live in glass
houses
need to be extra careful.

Tom Tancredo
I am
Illegal,
I'm proud of being illegal.
Your Gestapo immigration
can't mess

with my MEXICAN/CHICANO
sueño
for a better life — lleno de justicia
NOT the "just us" American
dream
that you look for ...
a life without people
who are different than you
in color and size and even better
than you.

Tom
I want you to know
there are no illegal people,
there are only illegal govern-
ments.
I'm sure you will say
writing this poem is
illegal.
It's against the law
because it's the fashionable thing
to be.
I want you to know

You will never understand
being
illegal
is fun
being a wetback is cool
being a mojado es la moda
because being
illegal
is being different than you
and
is the best thing
I know how to be!

Trinidad Sánchez, Jr. is author
of the best seller *Why Am I So
Brown?* and lives in Denver,
Colo. He can be reached at
trino@familystar.net

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Gus Hall remembered

Gus Hall former national chairman of the Communist Party, was interred at Forest Home Cemetery (formerly Waldheim Cemetery), near Chicago, Sept. 20. Gus and Elizabeth's children, Barbara Conway and Arvo Hall, party leaders and friends attended the ceremony. Carole Marks, who worked with Hall for many years, welcomed the attendees. CPUSA National Chairman Sam Webb and Executive Vice Chairman Jarvis Tyner delivered the eulogies. Their remarks are reprinted below.

Hall was one of the most famous American Communists, from founding member of the United Steelworkers

of America (USWA) and a leader of the 1937 "Little Steel" strike to being one of 12 Communist Party leaders indicted on false charges under the unconstitutional Smith Act for which he spent eight years in prison. Hall made an indelible mark on the working class and communist movement in this country and worldwide. Hall was a working-class theoretician of Marxism-Leninism, the science of the class struggle. He wrote eight books and was working on another at the time of his death, Oct. 13, 2000.

Historic Waldheim Cemetery is famous for the many revolutionaries and working class leaders resting there. Hall's remains were interred near the Haymarket Martyrs

Monument, where the five murdered labor leaders, champions of the eight-hour day, are buried.

Hall may be best remembered for his unwavering support for socialism. "Life cannot go on forever without that step (to socialism), and setbacks don't change it," Hall once said. "Just as feudalism was an advance over slavery and capitalism was the next step after feudalism, socialism is the next step after capitalism."

A reception was held immediately following the ceremony. The National Board of the Communist Party met the following day. Webb opened the meeting with a rededication of purpose in honor of Gus' memory.



Gus Hall
Oct. 8, 1910-Oct. 13, 2000



Remarks by Sam Webb

We gather today to inter the ashes of Gus Hall – husband of our comrade Elizabeth, father, grandfather, comrade, and dear friend.

This earth in which Gus's ashes will find a home is not hard, cold and unyielding. Rather it is a site deeply imbued with the finest traditions of the working-class and socialist movement. It is a place to restore our historical memory of events and comrades of an earlier time and revitalize ourselves for struggles ahead. It is hallowed ground.

In this ground are the ashes of comrades and working-class militants who stood with Gus in thick and thin, shared his hopes and dreams, and considered him a legendary figure of the 20th century working-class struggle. So we are not saying a fond farewell to Gus, but entrusting his ashes to a familiar and precious place to which we will periodically return.

We will miss Gus' presence, of course, but we will keep his memory alive. How can we forget such a wonderful human being and comrade? His footprints on events of the last century were deep and are still felt. He left his mark on each of us and each of us carries something of Gus with us.

His was a fulfilled life. I'm sure that he had a few regrets, but against the full range of accomplishments of his life, these regrets should inhabit little space in his biography.

Some will say, of course, that both Gus and his comrades must have felt profound disappointment in the twilight of their lives as the possibility of socialism in their lifetime dimmed from their view.

On the surface, I guess it might be easy to think that, but actually there is no truth to it. Like the African-American patriot Crispus Attucks who was the first to lay down his life for his country's independence, ... like the soldiers at Gettysburg that Lincoln eulogized so eloquently and whose blood still consecrates those fields, ... like the young volunteers from Chicago and elsewhere who fought fascism on

Spanish soil and whose remains are still there, ... like Joe York and three other Ford hunger marchers who were struck dead by Ford bullets and lie in Woodmere cemetery in the shadow of the River Rouge plant, ... like the great revolutionary democrat, Martin Luther King, Jr., who shortly before his life was cut down by an assassin, prophetically said that he might not get to the "promised land," ... and like Cesar Chavez, the Mexican-American trade union and people's leader, who gave every ounce of energy to the struggle against the giant agribusinesses that still dominate the factories in the fields, ... like all of them ... Gus and the other comrades buried in this hallowed ground never gave in to despair about the unforeseen turns of the struggles to which they devoted their lives.

They neither expected nor asked for any promissory notes that guaranteed that the full fruits and ultimate aim of their struggle would be enjoyed by themselves and their generation.

They understood in their minds and in their guts that the struggle for freedom promises no easy victories, but rather demands unrelenting struggle, sometimes for even an inch of progress. Gus and his comrades were not summer soldiers.

A full measure of Gus and his comrades' work can't be gained by simply asking, "Did they see socialism?" In fact, a measure of their contributions to the struggle for a just world can only be obtained by appreciating what they were up against, the barriers that they had to overcome, the sacrifices they had to make, and the new vistas of freedom that they opened up on the road to democracy and socialism.

By that measure, theirs was a life lived well. Indeed, I would say that if a new birth of freedom is going to gain sway over the militarist polices of the Bush administration that are pushing the world to catastrophe, we would do well to solidly fix our feet on the shoulders of Gus and Winnie, Gurley Flynn and Foster, Helen and Carl and the other legendary comrades buried here.

They left us with an unfinished agenda to be sure, but they also brought us to higher ground. Let us be inspired by their example, learn from their experience, and carry on in their unrelenting spirit of struggle.

Today we inter the remains of a great revolutionary ... a leader of our Party ... a Communist in the purest sense of that word.

Remarks by Jarvis Tyner

For 40 years Gus was an outstanding leader of the Communist Party USA, during which time he distinguished himself as one of our movements greatest thinkers. His speeches and writings are still read and studied by people – not just communists – all over the world.

He was a fantastic organizer who led the party from the staggering blows of the McCarthy cold war era, through the Civil Rights upsurge, the campaign to end the war in Vietnam and the revival of the public role of the Party.

I still remember his speech to thousands of students at the University of Oregon. Then there were the four times he ran for president on the Communist Party ticket, where I had the honor of being his running mate in two of them.

Gus convinced us all that the Party could be a public party and he showed us how to do it in a mass, popular way – how, in his words, to "reach the millions."

Because of his leadership we are stronger and wiser as a party and can withstand the most difficult circumstances.

Through it all, he never faltered. He never retreated from the basic principles of our Party or defending the working class. Gus never retreated in the battle against American Imperialism, the struggle against racism and for Black, Brown and white unity.

It's appropriate to say again, thank you Gus Hall!

We also say thank you to the family of Gus Hall – to Elizabeth, to Barbara and Arvo for your sacrifices and contributions to the cause of Gus' class and party.

We are here to place Gus' remains in this sacred place where he will rest beside Henry Winston, William Z. Foster, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Carl and Helen Winter, Big Bill Haywood, Claude and Geraldine Lightfoot, Art and Esther Shields.

His remains will have a resting place now, a place where we can visit and remember his many contributions, not only to our Party, but to our nation and the world.

Gus was like a father to many of us. We loved him dearly and will strive to live our lives as he lived his.



'Devious': In Jeb Bush's own words

By Bill Davis

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — In the dead of night, an unknown graffiti artist is placing a big sticker on Jeb Bush campaign posters across the state. The sticker has just one word: "Devious."

The problem for Bush is that it is his own word. The swaggering Bush was caught on a tape recording by a Gannett News reporter bragging to his aides that he has

"devious plans" to nullify a ballot initiative requiring the state to reduce class size in the state's public schools if voters approve it Nov. 5.

It revealed, once again, the Republican governor's contempt for the will of Florida voters that first surfaced when he and Florida Sec. of State Katherine Harris "scrubbed" at least 80,000 voters, mostly African Americans, from voting rolls to help the Bush-Cheney campaign steal the 2000 presidential election.

identical election.

Bush is also heard on the tape cracking jokes about "juicy details" (his words) of an alleged lesbian relationship between two former caregivers of missing child, Rilya Wilson. Bush is responsible for the debacle in Florida's Department of Children and Families which cannot account for 532 children who ran away or were abducted from foster homes. To put it mildly, Bush's levity about a missing child was in foul taste.

The *Palm Beach Post* headlined the story of the tape as Jeb Bush's "most serious campaign mistake." Democratic opponent, Bill McBride, seized on the recording, hammering Bush as a demagogue who talks behind voters backs of his devious plans to slash and burn public education and the children of the Sunshine State. "What I say in private is the same thing I say to you from this podium," McBride tells his big, cheering crowds.

Virtually unknown a few weeks ago, McBride has surged in the polls to within striking distance of

Bush. A relentless campaigner, McBride, a Tampa attorney, enjoys strong support from the Florida AFL-CIO, the Teachers Union and other grassroots organizations.

During an Oct. 22 televised debate at the University of Central Florida, in Orlando, McBride hit Bush again for his failed record on public education. "For the past three and a half years, you've had an opportunity to reduce class size. They haven't been reduced," McBride said. "In one instance, you said class sizes didn't matter, as if you'd never seen a class. What we've had over the past four years is not enough leadership. I'll provide that."



AP
Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bill McBride, right, listens as Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, left, responds to a question during their final debate before the election, Oct. 22, at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Fla.

Free the innocent



Dolores Wise, left, whose son Kharey Wise was one of five youths convicted in the 1989 Central Park jogger case, pumps her fist in the air as she sings "We Shall Overcome" at a rally in front of Manhattan Supreme Court, October 21. State Supreme Court Justice Charles Tejada gave prosecutors until Dec. 5 to complete their report on whether the convictions of five men in the 1989 rape and beating of a Central Park jogger should be overturned.

AP

Correction

Lisa Armstrong wrote the obituary for Patsy Mink (*PWW* 10/19, page 16). We apologize for the omission.

SID TAYLOR

September 2, 1915 - September 29, 2002

Who taught us Patience and Struggle
Who always reached higher against all odds
Who lived an extraordinary life with a purpose,
and will live forever in our hearts

We dedicate our continuing struggle
to build the working class movement
and the Communist Party
for a better world and Socialism USA.

- Connecticut Communist Party USA

Turnout is key in dead-heat elections

Continued from page 1

Throughout Minnesota labor is emphasizing member-to-member contact at worksites, "ramping up" workplace flyer distributions at shift changes, and working phonebanks in the Twin Cities, St. Cloud, Rochester and Mankato as well as Duluth. Tom Beer, labor coordinator for the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party's Coordinated Campaign, told the *World*. The labor effort this year is "pretty unprecedented" in both the variety of activities and the number of affiliated unions participating, Beer said. The high-stakes race for control of Congress and the targeting of Wellstone by "conservative special interests" has sparked a tremendous upsurge among working-class Minnesotans, he said. "Wellstone is the labor senator and makes no bones about it," Beer commented. "People will fight for those who fight for them."

In South Dakota, where the ultra-right is seeking to defeat Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson, state AFL-CIO President Gil Koetzle said his federation is "breaking absolute new ground" in pulling out the vote for Johnson, who has a 92 percent lifetime pro-labor record. Johnson's right-wing Republican challenger, Rep. Jim Thune, has a 13 percent record on labor issues, and is among the League of Conservation Voters' "Dirty Dozen," with a 0 rating on environmental issues.

Labor is in this election as "never ever before" — previous involvement was "maybe 10 percent" of this year's effort, Koetzle told the *World*.

The South Dakota federation has assigned six staff full time to the GOTV effort. They have divided the state into three zones with roughly 65 coordinators, a contact person in every union local. They will contact every member and retiree face to face and twice by phone. They plan to reach 15-16,000 households by the Saturday before Election Day.

The federation is following up voter registration

with a massive "never seen" GOTV effort in the Native American reservations, including Election Day drives to the polls. Native Americans on the reservations are ignored by the polls because they often don't have phones or a voting history, Koetzle said, but they well understand the issues.

In St. Louis, Mo., some 3-4,000 union members are expected to participate in the Central Labor Council's Oct. 26-27 mobilization to re-elect Sen. Jean Carnahan. Her opponent, Republican Rep. Jim Talent, has an anti-labor record and is another of the League of Conservation Voters' "Dirty Dozen." The St. Louis NAACP is issuing a candidates' report card showing Talent has the worst civil rights record of all Missouri congressmembers.

The Carpenters' Union has sent a mailing to 8,000 members backing Carnahan, and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Hotel and Restaurant Workers, Service Employees, AFSCME and community groups are conducting big GOTV campaigns.

Maine's labor and progressive movement has been energized by the race for Congress of paper-worker Michael Michaud, with a strong pro-worker record as a state senator, and the U.S. Senate campaign of progressive Democrat Chellie Pingree. State AFL-CIO members are campaigning door-to-door in the state's three largest cities: Portland, Bangor and Lewiston. With the races seen as tight down to the finish, "we have more rank and file members involved than ever," Maine AFL-CIO President Ed Gorham told the *World*.

In this election, "the lines are drawn really clear," Northern Valley Labor Council President Mark Froemke, in the Minnesota-North Dakota Red River Valley, told the *World*. "Even in small-density labor states, getting members out to vote can make the difference," he said.

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Prescription drugs

Continued from page 5

Pharmaceutical companies, the most profitable of any domestic industry, are among the major contributors to political campaigns with their generosity overwhelming benefiting Republicans.

In the 2001 election cycle, pharmaceutical companies had donated some \$4.5 million to political candidates with \$1.4 million given to Democrats and \$3.1 million to Republicans.

And then there's the hidden political contributions given to outfits like the United Seniors Association, an industry front group that is running TV ads in 20 congressional districts where the outcome may very well determine the post-election makeup of Congress.

The ads, tailored for each district, praise Republican members of the House of Representatives for supporting legislation to provide prescription drugs benefits to seniors. Starring a chipper Art Linkletter, one version of the ads proclaims, "American seniors deserve the best of health," adding that the Congress member in question "is fighting for real prescription drug coverage," and tells viewers to "urge him to keep standing up for America's seniors."

What the ads don't say is that the candidate voted for legislation similar to that proposed by Bush in his Rose Garden extravaganza or that the legislation closely tracked the industry's position on how drug benefits should be provided. Nor do they say the legislation was rammed through after the House leadership refused to let a Democratic proposal come to the floor.

Ron Pollack executive director of Families USA said the pharmaceutical lobby has "take deceptive advertising to new highs," while Public Citizen called the ads "sham issue ads designed to help industry allies who face tough re-election campaigns."

The University of Wisconsin's Advertising Project said a conservative estimate of the cost of the ads is \$9 million, while other consultants said \$13 million represents a more accurate figure.

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Labor opposition to the Iraq war grows

Continued from page 1

Although Sweeney's carefully crafted letter neither endorsed nor opposed war against Iraq, he did say military action should come only after all possibilities of a peaceful settlement through the United Nations had been exhausted.

In his letter Sweeney said the country cannot engage in a conflict that involves a "clear potential for significant casualties" as well as social and economic costs, without a full public debate "free of political inferences."

He pointed out that military force, alone, would not defeat terrorism, a task requiring a world commitment to basic human rights such as "freedom from starvation, from homelessness and from curable disease."

Sweeney said the federation "fully concurred" with the need an unfettered inspection system so that any subsequent action is "predicated upon conclusive proof" about the extent and nature of an Iraqi threat.

In his call for the White House to "present Americans with the evidence" before sending U.S. forces to war, Sweeney said, "After all, it is the sons and daughters of America's working families who will be asked to carry out this mission."

Although Sweeney's statement was the first time any AFL-CIO leader had publicly commented on Bush's campaign for war, other AFL-CIO leaders have joined the growing labor chorus against war with Iraq.

Gene Bruskin, secretary-treasurer of the federation's Food and Allied Trades Depart-

ment, called Bush's drive to war a Trojan Horse meant to hide his domestic and international agenda. In a letter to Sweeney, Bruskin said Bush's foreign policy "is designed to serve the same corporate interests that drive his domestic policy, making the world safe for U.S. multinationals," adding: "In the era of globalization the two cannot be separated."

Bruskin said the labor movement must take the lead in opposing the Bush war policies if it is going to "succeed in advancing our own goals of improving the lives of the U.S. working class," he added the AFL-CIO had been "naive at best" in fighting Bush's domestic policies while remaining silent on the objectives of the administration's foreign policies. He called the federation's effort to fight the effects of Bush's domestic policies while fully supporting the War on Terrorism, a "losing strategy" because such a strategy amounted to fighting the symptoms rather than the disease. "To support the war is to invite all the inevitable political and economic affects," he said.

Like Sweeney, Burskin questioned the "urgency" of the Iraq situation, which, he said, had been concocted to give the Republicans the advantage in November. "But the labor movement hasn't called him (Bush) on it, despite the substantial damage a Republican success in November would do to U.S. workers."

"I believe we ignore this ominous trend at our peril," Burskin continued, urging Sweeney "to speak out forcefully [and] to begin to publicly challenge Bush's obses-

sion with war. Your leadership could make a substantial difference on how we define war and peace as well as justice and progress in the 21st century."

Burskin reminded Sweeney of George Meany's remarks in an interview with David Frost. "If I had known then what I know now, I would have acted differently about the [Viet Nam] War," the crusty former AFL-CIO president said. "We all have much to learn from him in this regard," Burskin concluded.

In a telephone interview from her Washington office, Gloria Johnson, national president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, told the *World* Sweeney had addressed many of her concerns. She, too,

questioned the rush to judgment: "I did not — and still do not — see any evidence that justifies a war with Iraq. And above all, I see no evidence justifying unilateral action."

Bruce Raynor, president of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE), expressed a similar view in an interview with the *World* during the August meeting of the AFL-CIO Executive Council. "I can think of no sensible argument to justify an invasion of Iraq," he said. "It does not serve the national interests of the United States. It sends the wrong message to the rest of the world. It's the ultimate in Bush's wrongheaded foreign policy."

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Bilingual education

Continued from page 5

Unz is also the financial backer of a similar proposition that would change the constitution of Colorado and prohibit the use of any other language for public school instruction. The Colorado referendum would also make teachers and other school employees liable if they use bilingual education methods for teaching. A coalition similar to the one in Massachusetts is fighting to stop the Colorado referendum.

In Lawrence, the only Massachusetts city with a Latin American majority, José Balbuena, for president of the School Department's Parent Advisory Council, told the *World*, "The elimination of bilingual education would hurt us all." He said he feared that some youth would turn to crime without a good education. He said the movement was racist and would not contribute to learning.

Balbuena, who was a candidate for School Committee, said the bilingual educational system needs to be fixed not discarded.

Even critics of bilingual education have termed the Unz initiative as too extreme. Wilfredo Laboy, Lawrence school superintendent said that he refuses calls from Unz. Laboy favors English immersion but with more safeguards.

According to Denis O'Leary of the League of United Latin American Citizens, "Students who were promised to be English language fluent at the end of the 1998-1999 school year are now entering the 2002-2003 school year without having become English fluent."

O'Leary continued, "For the fourth straight year the achievement gap between English only speaking students and those who haven't mastered English has widened. Many children are repeating their fifth year of what was promised to be a one year program of English immersion. Children are failing to become fluent in the English language and according to ... test scores they are being left behind academically."

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Quaker women from around the nation gather in a circle near the Pentagon, Oct. 20, to protest against a war in Iraq.

'Safe and Free' campaign

Continued from page 3

COINTELPRO was first used by FBI director J. Edgar Hoover to spy on, harass, and disrupt, the Communist Party USA and was later directed against the civil rights and the anti-Vietnam War movements. It culminated with Richard Nixon's infamous "enemies list" of more than 30,000 law-abiding citizens targeted for IRS audits and other forms of government retribution. Local police set up "Red Squads," which, together with the FBI, infiltrated and disrupted protest meetings.

Now, Murphy warned, Ashcroft is taking steps to revive these tactics. "The

attorney general's new guidelines allow the FBI to work with municipal, county, and state police agencies to conduct joint operations that include spying on First Amendment-protected activities."

She pointed out that local authorities can refuse to cooperate with these witch hunt activities as was done when the police department of Portland, Oregon refused to collaborate with the administration's repressive campaign. The ACLU will also seek congressional repeal of the worst features of the Patriot Act.

Howard Simon, president of the Florida ACLU, recalled the debacle in the

2000 election in which at least 80,000 Florida voters were disenfranchised, opening the way for George W. Bush to steal the election.

He said the same thing happened in Florida's Sept. 10 primary election when thousands of voters waited in interminable lines — or were turned away — because polling places failed to open or electronic voting machines failed to operate.

Simon warned that only a high state of vigilance can prevent a repeat of that fiasco. "If not corrected, Nov. 5 will be as bad or worse" than Sept. 10, he warned.

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Republicano y sus acusaciones falsas

Por Emile Schepers

CHICAGO – En el estado de Illinois, la tentativa por Jim Ryan, el candidato republicano para gobernador y Joe Birkett, candidato republicano a la fiscalía general, de acusar falsamente en 1985 a dos hombres latinoamericanos ya es cuestión que se pone al rojo vivo en las elecciones estatales. Ryan, un republicano de ultraderecha, se enfrenta al congresista demócrata centrista Rod Blagojevich, en busca de la gobernación estatal hasta ahora ocupado por el republicano moderado George Ryan. En los comicios para elegir al fiscal general, la senadora estatal demócrata Lisa Madigan se opone a Birkett, extremista reaccionario y fiscal actual del condado de DuPage, distrito que incluye algunos de los suburbios más adinerados de Chicago.

Ryan y Birkett claramente están a la derecha de sus opositores demócratas en varios aspectos. Ryan es abiertamente antisindicalista, y Birkett está radicalmente opuesto al derecho de la mujer a escoger, y en pro de las armas de fuego. Pero su manejo del caso del asesinato de la niña Jeanine Nicarico de 10 años de edad en 1983 es la cuestión que más ha llegado a dominar los titulares mientras más se acercan las elecciones.

Tres hombres, Rolando Cruz, Alejandro Hernández y Steve Buckley, habían sido detenidos por el asesinato. Más tarde, Buckley fue liberado, pero por el procesamiento agresivo promovido por Ryan y el uso de tácticas

poco éticas, resultó en 1985 que Cruz y Hernández fueron encontrados culpables y fueron condenados a la pena de muerte.

Pero, muy rápidamente comenzó a apesatar a los cielos el caso del fiscal. La amplia Coalición Universal para la Justicia investigó obstinadamente el caso y encontró que se basaba en denuncias infundadas del fiscal y escasa evidencia verdadera. Luego, otro sujeto, Brian Dugan, preso que ya purgaba sentencia a cadena perpetua por otro crimen similar, admitió que él mató a la niña, y que ni Cruz ni Hernández tenían nada que ver con el asesinato. Pero no quiso confesar formalmente sin tener una garantía de parte de Ryan, de que no sufriría pena de muerte. Ryan no sólo no garantizó esto; muchos lo acusan de hacerse completamente sordo a las confesiones de Dugan, las cuales se verificaron más tarde con evidencia de ADN. Dos veces el Tribunal Supremo de Illinois abrogó las condenas, y dos veces Ryan arrastró de vuelta al juicio a los dos hombres, a ser condenados de nuevo.

Por fin, en el 1995, un detective de policía que había jugado un papel clave en la convicción de Cruz y de Hernández, admitió al tribunal que había inventado el único pedazo de evidencia que quedaba contra Cruz. Furioso, el juez absolvió la instancia a Cruz y Hernández, y los puso en libertad.

Mientras tanto, Ryan fue electo fiscal general de Illinois y Joe Birkett tomó el antiguo puesto de él como fiscal del Condado de DuPage. Birkett está acusado de haber

presionado a un testigo para que presentara testimonio falso contra Cruz. Durante la tenencia de Ryan como fiscal, Birkett saboteó abiertamente el trabajo de un fiscal especial asignado a una investigación de la mala conducta de policías y fiscales en el caso Cruz-Hernández.

Ya con los dos ex – acusados liberados, quizás Ryan y Birkett esperaban que el caso desapareciera de la mente del público. Pero estos acontecimientos, que llevaron al *Chicago Tribune* a opinar que jamás se le debería confiar oficio de confianza pública a ningún involucrado en este asunto, no se olvidan tan fácilmente.

El gobernador Jorge Ryan, quien ganó fama internacional por su moratoria a la pena de muerte, dijo que se les pueden conmutar a todos los 159 presos condenados a muerte en Illinois sus sentencias. Cruz ha solicitado al gobernador un perdón pleno. (Increíblemente, sus antecedentes penales aún no han

sido borrados, ni sus derechos restaurados, a pesar de que haya sido completamente absuelto de cualquier cargo de asesinato).

Sin embargo, Ryan y Birkett se han opuesto agresivamente al plan de conmutación del gobernador. La directora ejecutiva de la Coalición por la Justicia, Diana Eiranova, y muchas otras figuras públicas han exigido a Ryan y Birkett que apoyen la petición de Cruz, pero estos han rechazado toda petición. Siguen insinuando que los dos hombres están de algún modo culpables. Mientras tanto, no hacen nada para llevar adelante el enjuiciamiento de Dugan.

Activistas pro justicia social advierten que si Ryan y Birkett son elegidos, quedarán suspendidos por un hilo las vidas de los 159 presos ya condenados a la muerte, y las de otros más que podrían ser condenados por evidencia falsa.

Se puede comunicar con el escritor al: pww@pww.org

DE SER O NO SER Para Tom Tancredo

El periódico de Denver recientemente tuvo un artículo sobre Jesús Apodaca, un talentoso joven graduado de la escuela superior que está teniendo dificultad conseguir becas para su educación universitaria. El artículo reveló que él es de Méjico. El congresista Tancredo, republicano por Colorado, un ultraderechista extremista antiinmigrante pidió que el Servicio de Inmigración deporta a Apocada y su familia. Estos acontecimientos inspiraron este poema. – *Trinidad Sánchez, hijo*

Tom,
quiero que sepas
yo soy
ilegal,
que mis padres fueron
ilegales
que ellos vinieron a este país
con un SUEÑO MEXICANO,
que la vida aquí sería mejor
habría una abundancia de justicia!
Ellos criaron diez hijos
ilegales,
niños que lucharon y regresaron
de las guerras injustas,
nomás para ser más
ilegales
que antes de que se fueron.
Si eso no es suficiente,
quiero que sepas que
mis hermanos se han multiplicado
y todos mis sobrinos y sobrinas,
todos son
ilegales.



con un nombre como el tuyo
si las esqueletos en tu armario ...
son ellas
ilegales,
si les preguntaste por la tarjeta rosa.
Después de todo,
la gente que vive en casas de vidrio
necesita ser más cuidadosa.

Tom Tancredo,
yo soy
ilegal,
soy orgulloso de ser ilegal
Tu inmigración GESTAPO,
no puede chingar
mi sueño MEXICANO/CHICANO
para una vida mejor – llena de justicia
y NO el "just us" sueño americano
que tú buscas ...
una vida sin gente
que es diferente a ti
en color y tamaño y son mejor que tú.



Quiero que sepas que
yo soy
ilegal,
que nosotros somos los que
renovamos tu casa, criamos tus niños,
limpiamos detrás de gente como ustedes
haciendo el aseo sus de casas,
jardinamos tus flores
trabajamos los campos, sitios de construc-
ción,
somos los cocineros en los restaurantes
haciendo el trabajo duro y barato
que los de tu tipo se niegan hacer.



Tom,
no hay gente ilegal.
hay sólo gobiernos ilegales.
Estoy seguro que vas a declarar
que a escribir esta poesía es
ilegal.
Es contra la ley,
porque eso es lo que está de moda.

Quiero que sepas
yo soy
ilegal.
Todos somos
Ilegales,
Americanos de
Norte, Centro
y Sur de América.
Estamos orgullosos de ser
americanos ilegales.



Nunca vas a entender
que ser
ilegal
es ser libre y a todo dar
ser un "wetback" es lo más "cool"
ser un mojado es la moda
porque ser
ilegal
es ser diferente de ti
y
esa es la mejor cosa
¡que yo sé ser!



El autor, *Trinidad Sánchez, hijo*,
escribió el libro de mayor venta *Why
Am I So Brown?* y vive en Denver,
Colorado He can be reached
at trino@familystar.net

Quiero saber

Arrestadas por reclamar justicia



Sau Kwan y Betty Uyu (de izquierda a derecha) son arrestada por la policía de Albany durante una manifestación donde exigen la renuncia del gobernador de Nueva York, George Pataki, por el maltrato que reciben los trabajadores a mano de la Junta Estatal de Compensación Obrera que está supuesto indemnizar a trabajadores por lesiones o enfermedades causada por el trabajo. JoAnn Lum de la Campaña Nacional contra Talleres de Explotación acusó a Pataki de permitir que las compañías de seguro demoren los casos por años. La Junta admite que 196.388 trabajadores todavía están esperando que procesen sus casos.

Prensa Asociada

Jeb Bush en sus propias palabras

Por Bill Davis

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida – En la media noche, un dibujador desconocido de grafitis está poniendo pegatinas en los letreros de campaña de Jeb Bush por todo el estado. La pegatina tiene solo una palabra: "Devious."

Para Bush el problema es que es su propia palabra. Bush fue captado en cinta por un periodista de Gannett News jactándose de que tenía "planes astutos malintencionados" para hacer nulo una iniciativa electoral que puede requerir que el estado reduzca cuantos estudiantes pueden haber en una clase, si el electorado lo aprueba el 5 de noviembre.

Reveló, otra vez, la falta de respeto que el gobernador republicano tiene por los votantes de Florida. Falta de respeto que primero se vio cuando la secretaria de Estado de Florida, Katherine Harris, quitó 80 mil votantes, en su mayoría afroamericanos, de las filas electorales para ayudar a la campaña de Bush-Cheney robarse las elecciones presidenciales del 2000.

El periódico *The Palm Beach Post* publicó la noticia en primera plana y llamó esto "el error más serio de la campaña" de Jeb Bush. Bill McBride, su oponente demócrata, criticó a Bush llamándolo un demagoga que habla detrás de las espaldas de los votantes de sus planes malintencionados para destruir la educación pública y servicios para niños. El estado no puede encontrar niños que puso temporario en el cuidado de familias.

"Lo que yo dije en privado es la misma cosa que le dije desde esta tarima," McBride anda diciendo en su campaña. McBride, un abogado de Tampa, era un desconocido y ahora tiene respaldo de la AFL-CIO de Florida, el sindicato de maestros y otras organizaciones populares.

En un debate televisado el 22 de octubre, McBride atacó a Bush fuertemente por sus fallos en la educación pública. "Por los últimos tres años y medio, Ud. ha tenido la oportunidad de reducir el número de estudiantes por clase. Son se han reducido. En un instante, Ud. dijo que el número de estudiante no importaba, como si nunca hubiera visto una clase."

NUESTRO MUNDO

SEMANA DEL 26 DE OCTUBRE DE 2002

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Sacar el voto es clave

Por Susan Webb

Por un voto la derecha no controla todas las ramas de estado, advierte en anuncios televisados People for the American Way (PFAW). Los anuncios se ven en estados donde las contiendas electorales para el Senado están parejas.

La extrema derecha está un voto de cerca en poner gente como Trent Lott y Orrin Hatch en cargos del Senado, dice PFAW.

"Las consecuencias del control total de derecha sería devastador para los derechos de reproducción y la privacidad, para la protección ambiental, derechos civiles, Seguro Social y Medicare, responsabilidad empresaria, servicios médicos, educación pública, derechos laborales y más."

El noreste de Minnesota, donde hay una concentración de votantes afiliados a uniones laborales, jugará un papel crítico para enviar de nuevo a Paul Wellstone al Senado. La administración Bush está tratando de derrotar a este senador pro laboral.

Alan Netland, presidente del Concilio Central del Trabajo de Duluth en esa región, le dijo a Nuestro Mundo que ellos tienen una "muy bien coordinada" campaña de miembro a miembro para sacar el voto. Esta campaña incluye a 65 sindicatos afiliados con 15 mil trabajadores. Cada sindicalista

recibirá una pieza por correo del dirigente de su unión laboral y llamadas telefónicas individuales.

La AFL-CIO nacional y varios sindicatos incluyendo los de los sectores públicos, industrias de la aguja, acero, y las minas han enviado trabajadores de campaña a niveles "sin precedencia" según Netland, al estado.

A través de Minnesota el movimiento sindical está haciendo énfasis en contacto de trabajador a trabajador en los sitios de trabajo con volantes y llamadas en St. Paul, St. Cloud, Rochester y Mankato igual que Duluth dijo Tom Beer, coordinador laboral del Partido Demócrata Granjero Laboral, le dijo a Nuestro Mundo. Hay mucho que perder en esta elección y como Wellstone es blanco de los "intereses especiales conservadores," esta campaña ha inspirado actividad de parte de gente de clase trabajadora de Minnesota, él dijo. "Wellstone es un senador laboral y no lo calla," comentó Beer. "El pueblo lucha por esos que luchan por ellos."

En Dakota del Sur, donde la ultraderecha busca derrotar al senador demócrata Tim Johnson, el presidente de la AFL-CIO estatal, Gil Koetzle, dijo que su federación está haciendo cosas que jamás habían hecho para sacar el voto para Johnson, que vota 92 por ciento con los intereses del movimiento sindical. Su contrincante republicano, el congresista Jim Thune,



En la carretera entre Dallas y Fort Worth en Tejas, un letrero con la imagen del muy conocido actor mejicano, James Edward Olmos, hace y contesta la pregunta, "¿Qué cambia cuando los latinos votan? Todo!"

vota solo 13 por ciento con las necesidades del movimiento laboral y según la Liga de Votantes para la Conservación tiene un cero en votos sobre el ambiente.

La federación laboral de Dakota del Sur ha asignado a seis personas para trabajar a tiempo completo para sacar el voto. Ellos dividieron el estado en tres zonas con como 65 coordinadores y con una persona de contacto en cada sindicato. Ellos esperan comunicarse con 15 mil a 16 mil familias antes del sábado antes de las elecciones.

Los sindicatos han hecho un esfuerzo que jamás se ha visto para sacar el voto en las reservaciones indígenas. Los indios muchas veces son ignorados por las encuestas porque no tienen teléfonos o un his-

torial como votante, dijo Koetzle, pero ellos entienden las cuestiones que se debaten.

En St Louis, Missouri, unos 3.000 a 4.000 sindicalistas se esperan que participen en la movilización del Concilio Central del Trabajo para los días 26 y 27 de octubre en respaldo a la senadora Jean Carnahan. Su contrincante republicano, el congresista Jim Talent, que tiene mucho apoyo de la administración Bush, tiene un récord de votos anti laboral y es uno de los peores en votos para el ambiente.

La NAACP, asociación de derechos civiles, de St Louis hizo un informe sobre los candidatos que demuestra que el récord de Talent es uno de los peores en cuestión de derechos civiles de todos los

congresistas del estado de Missouri. El Sindicato de Carpinteros envió material a todos sus miembros apoyando a Carnahan, mientras que la Coalición de Sindicalistas Negros, los sindicatos de hoteles, servicios, empleados públicos y grupos de la comunidad están trabajando para sacar sus miembros y partidarios a votar.

En Maine se está haciendo un trabajo similar para regresar al senador progresista Chellie Pingree a su escaño. La campaña en Maine ha cobrado energía al postularse Michael Michaud, afiliado con el sindicato de la industria del papel. Ed Gorham presidente de la AFL-CIO del estado dijo que "tenemos más miembros de base envueltos que nunca."

Limpiadores de oficinas reciben apoyo

Por José A. Cruz

BOSTON – Partidarios de los limpiadores en huelga marcaron el fin de la tercera semana del paro con una manifestación masiva y marcha aquí el sábado, 19 de octubre. Organizaciones laborales, estudiantiles, inmigrantes y del clero además de otras estuvieron presente para expresar su solidaridad con los huelguistas, en su mayoría latinos.

La manifestación, organizada por la coalición Trabajo con Justicia (JwJ por sus siglas en inglés) y el Sindicato Internacional de Empleados del Servicio (SEIU – siglas en inglés), tuvo representantes de diferentes sectores de la comunidad haciendo uso de la palabra para expresar su apoyo.

El representante estatal, Jarrett Barrios, le recordó a la multitud que los limpiadores "solo están luchando por sus abuelos lucharon – el Sueño Americano." Barrios se está postulando para el Senado estatal y virtualmente está asegurado de ganar su distrito que tiene una gran mayoría demócrata.

Rocío Sáenz, una dirigente del Local 615/254 de la SEIU, dijo que los miembros de su sindicato "luchan por buenos trabajos aquí en Boston" y alabó a la compañías que rompieron con los Contratistas de Mantenimiento de Nueva Inglaterra y firmaron un acuerdo interino con la unión laboral que aumentaría el número de trabajadores que será elegible para seguro médico. Los Contratistas de

Mantenimiento de Nueva Inglaterra es una asociación de 30 compañías de limpieza en Massachusetts y Rhode Island que representa a las compañías negociando con el sindicato.

Félix Arroyo le dijo a Nuestro Mundo que "Es el deber de nuestra comunidad a respaldar a su hermanos y hermanas ... porque en realidad lo que se está peleando aquí es una lucha de justicia y dignidad. Nuestros trabajadores merecen nuestro respeto porque la verdad lo que ellos están haciendo requiere valor y sacrificio." Arroyo será el primer puertorriqueño en ocupar un escaño en el Concejo Municipal de Boston el próximo enero.

Tito Landaverde, un limpiador en huelga, le dijo a Nuestro Mundo que él vino a Estados Unidos desde El Salvador hace dos años para escaparse de la pobreza. Él dijo que aunque aquí gana en una semana lo que ganaba en El Salvador en un mes, todavía está en la pobreza. "Hay demasiado injusticia de parte de las compañías contratistas," él dijo.

Como 75 por ciento de los limpiadores en el sindicato en Massachusetts y Rhode Island trabajan a tiempo parcial, ganan menos de \$40 al día, y no tienen cobertura por seguro médico. La unión laboral está luchando para reducir el número de horas que los limpiadores necesitan trabajar para poder ser cubierto por el seguro médico, mejoras salariales y por la oportunidad de tener más horas de trabajo.

Mark Fernald, candidato demócrata para la guber-

nación de New Hampshire, vino con un número de empleados públicos afiliados con la Asociación de Empleados del Estado Local 1984 SEIU. Fernald le dijo a este escritor, "Nosotros estamos aquí para ayudar a los que están luchando en Massachusetts" por seguro médico. Él dijo que esta cuestión era una de índole nacional y que se estaba luchando por todo el país también como en Massachusetts y New Hampshire.

Después de la manifestación en Copley Square, los manifestantes marcharon por la calle Newbury, área de mucha boutique de lujo. Después entraron al Centro Prudential. Como la mitad de los manifestantes entró al área de restaurantes y al comedor del Centro Prudential antes de que la policía, algunos de los cuales vestían con equipo antimotín, bloquearon las puertas.

A la hora de cierra la asociación de Contratistas de Mantenimiento de Nueva Inglaterra ofreció pagar la mitad del seguro médico para limpiadores que trabajan 25 horas semanales. Jill Hurst, negociadora principal para el local de la SEIU, dijo a la prensa que eso no es asequible para los limpiadores que trabajan a tiempo parcial. Sin embargo, el sindicato dice que por lo menos ahora están ofreciendo algo y pueden regresar a la mesa de negociaciones.

Si no hay movida substancial, los limpiadores y los que lo apoyan continuarán con sus manifestaciones y desobediencia civil.

Se puede comunicar con el escritor al jacruz@attbi.com