Herrnstein Stopped from Speaking at M.I.T.

BOSTON, Mass., Feb. 11—Exactly a week after monitoring the PLP and BAFL at a break in the organizational meeting of a racist "Non-Black Student Union" at M.I.T. (see Challenge-Desafio, Feb. 10), Professor Herrnstein tried to speak. Herrnstein is the creep who introduced the idea of class into immigration. He agrees with Jensen that blacks are less intelligent than whites, and that they are not "genetically inferior to whites in "intelligence," but he adds that workers in general, white or black, are "genetically inferior" to bosses.

This was the first time in a long time that Herrnstein had dared to come out in public, as far as we know, so some members and friends of PLP went to the event to help chase him back into hiding. Admitance to his speech was restricted to faculty members who had made arrangements in advance to attend, but about 40 students also showed up to see if they could get in. A number of us were all set to disrupt the talk, but it turned out that we didn't have to. One of the faculty members now raised his hand and suggested that a vote be taken on whether or not to allow the students to come in. On hearing this, Herrnstein just stood up and left. He was so scared of the military that students all over the country have shown in attacking his racist neo-Nazi theories that Herrnstein didn't bring himself to even discuss letting the students into the room.

The creep that Herrnstein seems to live in terror of is his own shadow. The more the racist ideologues have got to be shown that workers and students will not stand up for a repetition of the atrocities of their Nazi predecessors. The task of driving Herrnstein's worst fears into a reality. We have to continue building the PLP to guarantee the growth of a mass strata of people who will really want to drive him and his racist "colleagues" off the face of the earth forever.

Some of the highlights of the VSA as it actually developed during the strike included:

(1) The Community Coalition, which was organized to support the strike mushroomed among black and Latin workers and their families, large contingents were organized to come out to the campus. On Thursday, December 5, nearly 150 black working-class strike supporters arrived in three buses and joined the noon rally. Many of these were the parents of student strikers. They received thunderous applause as they joined the students. Words cannot describe the effect this act of solidarity had on those of us who were striking. The ruling class was terrified of this anti-racist worker-student alliance.

Hayakawa went on TW and read a state law prohibiting non-students, etc., workers, from being present on campus. He pledged to arrest any working-class supporters of the strike who came on campus again. In response to his threat we called for Third World Community Day on Monday, December 16. Hundreds from the black and Latin working-class communities were planning to defy the ruling class' threats and come to State to help shut it down. Also, the high schools were let out for Xmas on Dec 13 and hundreds promised to join the Strike. Now, Hayakawa had sworn daily he would never admit defeat, that the campus would be kept open for business at all costs. But the threat of several hundred and possibly thousands of minority workers and working-class youth joining the several thousand strikers forced him and his ruling class masters to eat their words. At noon on Friday, Dec. 13, Hayakawa announced over the loudspeakers he was closing the school a week early. The solid strength of the strikers plus tremendous working-class support proved to be more than the state apparatus could handle. It should be noted here that there was a struggle within the TWU in between a nationalist line and a class line on the question of who to work alliance with in the black and Latin communities. The right-wingers wanted to rely on black bureaucrats and politicians like Carthol Goodlet and Willie Brown. PLP and some other forces pointed out how Goodlet et al would be used to sell out the strike and that the only road to victory was an alliance with minority workers and their families.

(2) Several community support rallies were held at GY Hall at the end of the picket line. 2,500 people, about half workers, came out to express solidarity. Similar rallies were held throughout the strike.