

TORCH

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APRIL 15-MAY 14, 1982

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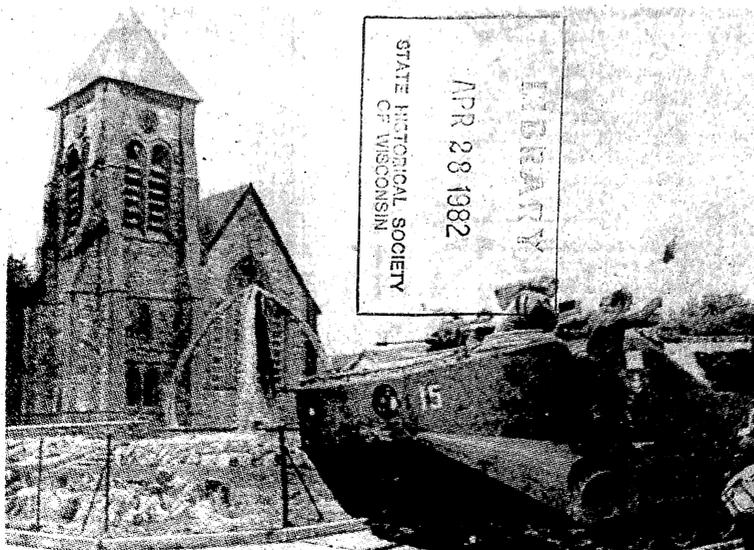
UNEMPLOYMENT NEARS RECORD LEVELS

- **Over 10 Million People Out of Work**
- **Blacks and Youth Hurt the Worst**

—See page 9

Clash Highlights Growing Danger of World War

Argentina Reclaims Malvinas Islands



Argentine armored vehicle in Malvinas' capital following takeover.

— AS WE GO TO PRESS, the conflict between the governments of Argentina and Britain over control of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands has not yet broken out into open war. But war between the two countries is nevertheless a serious possibility.

Under orders from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, British nuclear submarines are enforcing a blockade of the Malvinas, while a formidable British

Argentine coast. From our point of view, these islands rightfully belong to the Argentine people. The British government, over 8,000 miles away, has no right to them at all. British occupation of the islands, which dates back to 1833, is simply an outdated and illegitimate relic of European colonialism in the Western Hemisphere.

In the 18th century the Malvinas were a bone of contention among various European powers, including Spain, whose empire then included Argentina. The Argentine people won independence from Spain in 1816, claimed the Malvinas in 1820, and established settlements there in 1826.

But the U.S. and British governments combined to steal the islands from Argentina. In 1831 a U.S. expedition sacked the Argentine settlements, imprisoned local Argentine officials, and declared the Malvinas "free of all government." Two years later—with tacit U.S. backing—the British seized the

(Continued on page 3)

EDITORIAL

fleet is sailing toward the islands. Meanwhile, the Argentine military government led by President Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri is insisting that Argentine troops, who landed on the Malvinas on April 2, will resist any British efforts to expel them.

At issue in the conflict is the question of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, which lie some 375 miles off the

**SECCION
EN
ESPAÑOL**

**Ultra-Right Victory in Salvadorean
Elections Creates Dilemma
for Reagan Administration**

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**Anti-Racist Demonstrators
Break Up Nazi
Rally in Ann Arbor**

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**our
readers
write...**

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Report on Portugal one-day general strike

The following letter was sent to the Torch/La Antorcha by a friend of the RSL who has spent the past several months in Portugal. She describes the current situation in Portugal in light of the anti-fascist coup that took place eight years ago on April 25.

Dear Friends,

...Portugal is in bad shape these days. In 1974, the armed forces overthrew one of the most brutal fascist regimes in history. The regime was on its last legs. Portugal had been fighting a losing battle to maintain its rule over Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Mozambique, Cabo-Verde and other African nations. Portugal had been impoverished by the war, the people were violently opposed to the government in power and several coup attempts had occurred in 1973 and 1974.

ON the night of April 25, a leftist branch of the armed forces imprisoned Portugal's political leaders and announced on the radio that they were returning Portugal to the people. They instructed everyone to stay calm and stay at home in order to avoid bloodshed. The Portuguese people took to the streets by the millions, demanding the death of the secret police and an end to the colonial wars.

The next five years or so were marked by optimism. A new constitution written with a great deal of Marxist terminology was enacted, granting equal rights to women and declaring Portugal a state belonging to the workers. Major industries were nationalized and Portugal withdrew its troops from Africa. Groups sprang up in communities and, with materials supplied by the government, tore down slum housing and built new homes and schools. The unions grew and the government seemed honestly to support the workers.

The picture of Portugal is no longer so optimistic. Starvation has been eliminated, but most

people work 10 hour days to earn just enough to pay for food and rent. Unemployment is rampant, and many thousands of Portuguese men leave the country every year to look for work in France and Switzerland.

General Ramalho Eanes is president and generally respected as a firm supporter of democracy. Congress is controlled by the Democratic Alliance (AD), an alliance of democratic parties which has shown itself to be a friend of big business and American imperialism, and an enemy of the Portuguese workers.

Recently a bill has been passed giving the bosses the right to fire workers at any time during a contract. Workers are still obligated to complete all contracts or suffer heavy penalties. The AD is calling for a "revision" of the constitution which would effectively obliterate all the legal gains of the 1974 revolution, including agrarian reform, nationalized industry, women's rights, etc.

THE largest confederation of unions called a general strike for February 12 to protest the government's increasingly anti-worker stance, and the deteriorating living conditions of the Portuguese people. The strike was also supported by the Communist Party of Portugal, smaller parties of the left and unions not belonging to the confederation.

The government did everything in its power to break the strike. Both television channels belong to the state and the AD monopolized the news time before the strike with anti-strike commentary.

The night of February 11 President Eanes spoke for 10 minutes on television, urging Portuguese workers not to strike and to resist those who were "trying to destabilize the democracy."

February 12, Lisbon was barely recognizable. There were only a few buses running, many

Health care cutbacks: patients, workers suffer

Dear Torch/La Antorcha:

My wife and I both work in hospitals in Chicago, and every day there are more signs of their deterioration. This year the Department of Public Aid announced that it is cutting by 14 percent the amount of money it pays to Chicago-area hospitals for patients on public assistance. This comes out to a deficit of \$91 a day for every day someone on aid stays in the hospital.

HOW is this deficit being made up? Some hospitals are using emergency reserve funds or are taking out bank loans. Other hospitals will increase the cost of services to paying patients. There will be some reduction in buying new equipment. But the most important moves are the cutting down of services to poor people and the loss of jobs and reduction of wages of health care workers.

There is already a reduction of the number of people receiving public aid. Also, health services are being made more difficult for those still on welfare to obtain.

of which the government had hired from private companies or driven in from Spain. The subways and trains were immobilized. Some parts of the city experienced losses of electricity and water.

The strike was most successful in industry. Despite government reports to the contrary (it claimed the strike had "no effect"), most major factories were closed or operated with less than 50 percent of their usual workforce. The union confederation reported that more than 90 percent of its members failed to report to work February 12.

I WENT down to the city's central square on the afternoon of the strike. Thousands of people gathered there. All was quiet, but tense. No chanting, no singing, no fighting; people from both sides stood and talked. The plaza was filled with policemen armed with pistols and billyclubs. They walked in lines and individually, approaching only those supporting the strike, saying, "Come on, let's get moving."

All of a sudden, a car with members of the AD in it drove into the square shouting, "Down with the strike!" The police surrounded them to protect them. The strikers began to chant, "Long live the general strike!"

The police began pushing into the crowd, threatening to use their clubs. Then four busloads of riot police emptied onto the

The impact on health workers is also great. Here are some official figures:

Children's Memorial Hospital has eliminated 89 positions. Michael Reese laid off 225 employees last fall. The employees of St. Bernard Hospital took a 50-cent-an-hour cut in order to save their jobs.

HERE are some figures that have not yet appeared in print but have been verified by different sources. Northwest Hospital has laid off employees—no exact number known. Hentrotin Hospital laid off all employees with less than five years' seniority. The employees at Columbus Hospital were given a choice of either a wage freeze or layoffs. They chose a wage freeze. Then Columbus Hospital began laying off employees anyway. Roosevelt Memorial Hospital has increased the patient load per employee. St. Joseph Hospital banned all overtime—meaning if somebody is ill or on vacation, the same amount of work has to be done with fewer employees.

Some hospitals are doing layoffs by attrition. But at the same time, they are tightening the rules. For example, mothers whose children are critically ill and have to miss a lot of days are given disciplinary action. Before, only a lecture was given. People who are now late by five minutes or less are given disciplinary action.

These cuts are part of the Reagan program. They affect both poor and working class patients and health workers. We all must unite to defend our living standards. We should not have to live in fear for our health and our jobs.

THERE is no real lack of money as the ruling class claims. Look at U.S. Steel buying Marathon Oil, while it laid off thousands of workers. In our case, we can look at the income of the doctors and companies that supply hospitals. The health care industry should be nationalized under the control of the oppressed and the health workers.

**AS
Chicago**

square, armed with clubs, helmets, shields and rifles. They began hitting wildly at everyone, and we all ran in panic.

Three Portuguese journalists were injured by the police. I saw a young man led away, his head dripping with blood. Later I found out that he was a Canadian journalist. A couple of Dutch tourists had the bad luck to be getting out of a bus in the square at that very moment. They both had to be taken to the hospital with head injuries.

People here fear the return of fascism. If they can't gather in public, if the press lies, if they

are beaten by policemen for striking, then what has been gained by the Revolution of 1974?

THIS is only the beginning. With repression, inflation, unemployment, the Portuguese people will rise up. They have nothing to lose but...

So, that's what things are like here. Jumping. I'll try to stay out of the reach of billyclubs and if anything else of major importance goes on I'll let you know.

**Yours in struggle and hope,
Name withheld
Lisbon, Portugal**

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Argentina Reclaims Malvinas Islands

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Malvinas, drove out the Argentines altogether, and imported British settlers.

Since then, succeeding Argentine governments have demanded the return of the Malvinas.

The British government has in fact recognized the legitimacy of Argentine claims to the islands by proposing to recognize Argentine sovereignty over them if the Argentinean government would lease them back, or to "freeze" the sovereignty question for 25 years. But it has refused to turn over real control of the Malvinas to Argentina.

Precisely because its claim to the Malvinas is groundless, the British government argues that it is only seeking to protect the rights of the 1,800 settlers on the islands, who call themselves "Kelpers." Most of them are shepherders and their families who have lived there all their lives, oppress no one, and want to remain British.

But the Kelpers do not own the land of the Malvinas. Instead, the land and economy of the islands are controlled by British corporations like the Coalite Group Ltd., which alone owns 43 percent of the land and half the sheep on the Malvinas. Moreover, the only reason all the inhabitants of the Malvinas are pro-British is that the British government expelled the Argentine population when it seized the islands.

Under these conditions, claims for "self-determination" for the people of the Malvinas are little more than a cover for maintaining British rule. We believe that the fairest solution to the current crisis would be for Argentina to regain control of the islands from British imperialism, while granting a high degree of local autonomy to the people of the Malvinas, including both the English-speaking population and any Argentines who choose to live there.

Invasion deflects domestic opposition

While Argentine claims to the Malvinas are legitimate, the actual motives behind the Argentine government's takeover of the islands are more than a little



Kelpers live on island and oppress no one—but British corporations own all the land.

suspect. In fact, there is ample evidence that the right-wing military junta that runs Argentina moved into the Malvinas in a desperate effort to deflect rising popular resistance to its rule.

The takeover of the Malvinas occurred just as the Argentine military junta, established in 1976 in a bloody coup and known as one of the most ruthless on the continent, was approaching total collapse. Argentina's economy is sinking under the weight of a 130 percent inflation rate—the highest in the world—16 percent unemployment, and a 50 percent decline in industrial production. The military itself is divided over how to deal with the crisis, with a former member of the junta and the head of a previous military regime both in detention for publicly opposing the government.

Above all, a massive popular movement had been growing against military rule. On March 30 over 2,000 people were jailed after the largest anti-government protests since the military took power in 1976. Argentine trade unions and opposition parties had called for a full-scale general strike against the government on April 7.

It's hardly coincidental that the Galtieri regime took over the Malvinas just as the opposition movement was gathering force. It clearly hoped to deflect people's attention from the foundering economy, and its own repressive policies, by whipping up nationalist fervor over the recovery of the Malvinas.

Unfortunately, this strategy appears to

have temporarily succeeded. Opposition leaders not only canceled the strike scheduled for April 7, but some helped mobilize over 50,000 people for a demonstration in support of the military government on April 9.

U.S. on the spot

The conflicting ambitions of the Argentine and British governments are causing a major headache for the Reagan administration. It hardly relishes the prospect of two conservative, pro-U.S., staunchly anti-communist governments going to war with each other.

The administration also fears that the Malvinas crisis will end with the fall of one or another of its closest allies. The Thatcher government is the administration's most loyal supporter in Western Europe. But it is under fire for failing to prevent the Argentine takeover, and could collapse if it does not succeed in regaining control over the Malvinas.

On the other hand, the Reagan administration's efforts to maintain good relations with the Argentine junta are a key element in its strategy for preventing U.S. domination in Central and South America. For instance, the Argentine government is reportedly training paramilitary forces to intervene in Nicaragua in cooperation with U.S. efforts to destabilize the leftist Nicaraguan regime. But if the junta fails to secure its hold on the Malvinas, it will face a popular backlash that is almost certain to drive it out of power.

Both the Thatcher government and other Western European rulers who support British actions against Argentina are making the Malvinas conflict a test of U.S. willingness to defend their imperialist interests around the world. If the administration tilts too far toward supporting Argentina, it risks a major crisis with its European allies. But if it leans too much toward supporting Britain, it risks condemnation as an accomplice of British imperialism, the emergence of an anti-U.S. regime in Argentina itself, and a major defeat for its Latin American policy.

While the administration is attempting to act as an impartial mediator between the British and Argentine governments, it is tilting toward the Thatcher regime. In the United Nations it voted in favor of a resolution demanding the withdrawal of Argentine troops from the Malvinas, the fundamental condition Thatcher says must precede any

settlement. And just after the takeover, U.S. reconnaissance planes flew over the islands and relayed information on the Argentine forces there to the British government.

Break-up of world capitalist order

More broadly, the Malvinas crisis demonstrates the declining power of U.S. imperialism internationally. The Reagan administration was unable to prevent either the Argentine takeover of the Malvinas, or the dispatch of a British fleet to recapture the islands. Similarly, it has not been able to check the imperialist actions of its other allies, such as the Israeli landgrab of the Golan Heights in December, nor contain revolts against U.S. imperialism like those underway in Central America.

The weakening of U.S. imperialism is mirrored in a decline in the strength of the Russian state-capitalist ruling class. Among other things, the Russian rulers have their hands full trying to maintain their domination over Poland and crush the tribal rebellion against their client regime in Afghanistan.

Thus, political power is increasingly less concentrated in the hands of the superpowers and is fragmenting into the hands of local rulers who battle with each other for regional supremacy. The Argentine/British conflict is only the latest example. The wars between Vietnam and Kampuchea, China and Vietnam, Iran and Iraq, Ethiopia and Somalia, all reflect this break-up of the world capitalist order.

What underlies this explosion of local wars is the impending collapse of the world capitalist economy. In the countries of Asia and Africa millions of people are literally starving. The U.S. and Western European economies are suffering from industrial stagnation and never-ending recessions. The example of Poland alone should make clear how the state-capitalist countries are faring. In fact the economies of other Eastern European countries, including Russia itself, are hardly in better shape.

Capitalist rulers throughout the world, threatened by internal revolts and rivals in neighboring countries, are being driven to fortify their power by grabbing whatever territory and resources they can. This dynamic, sooner or later, will lead to a third catastrophic world war.

Such a war need not begin as a direct confrontation between the two superpowers. Instead, it could be provoked by some local dispute that draws the major imperialist powers into a direct collision. In other words, it could start over something like the crisis concerning the Malvinas Islands.

While this particular conflict may not be the spark that sets off World War III, it should serve as a warning to us. Working people around the world face the choice of following their capitalist rulers into a world conflagration that could end in nuclear holocaust and destruction. Or we can overthrow these rulers and work together to build a socialist world community that will wipe out the hunger, oppression and national rivalries that threaten to engulf us all.

—PB



Argentine generals hold post-invasion rally. Junta has used Malvinas takeover to divert growing opposition to its repressive policies.

Jamaican Police Attack Anti-Reagan Demonstrators

On Wednesday, April 7, over 100 people demonstrated in Kingston, Jamaica, against the visit by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to that country.

The protesters marched in Half Way Tree, a major park and bus depot in central Kingston. They carried signs denouncing Reagan's military buildup and his policies in the Caribbean, Central America and South Africa, and linking up the vicious assaults against workers and poor people in Jamaica by the reactionary Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) regime of Edward Seaga with the attacks against Blacks and working people being carried out by the Reagan administration in the United States.

Although the protesters had originally planned to march to Kings House for the demonstration itself, the police did not allow them to do so. After about an hour and a half, the special riot police, popularly known as the Eradication Squad, charged the protesters and ran almost everybody out of the square. They arrested one person they took to be the leader of the demonstration and brutally beat up a newspaper reporter/photographer and smashed his camera.

As far as we know, however, there were no serious injuries.

RML takes the initiative

Although the demonstration did not make the news in the United States, it did receive ample coverage in the Jamaican news media, thus exposing the myth, carefully cultivated by the JLP government, that the Jamaican people welcomed Reagan to their country.

In fact, there was considerable popular opposition to Reagan's visit, as expressed in conversations among working and oppressed people in Jamaica.

Yet, neither the opposition party, the supposedly socialist People's National Party (PNP), its youth group—the PNP Youth Organization, nor the local Stalinist group—the Workers Party of Jamaica, did anything to organize a popular protest.

The only left organization that had the courage of its anti-imperialist convictions was the Revolutionary Marxist League, which organized the demonstration at Half Way Tree. In the weeks before Reagan's visit, the RML contacted many left and progressive organizations in an effort to build a united front protest against Reagan. Yet virtually all these groups either failed to respond or refused to participate in the demonstration, calling such action "adventurist."

As a result, the RML and its supporters bravely carried the anti-Reagan / anti-imperialist / anti-capitalist banner themselves.

The JLP and its stooges made some effort to prevent the demonstration, including having a chief cop and private thugs call up the RML office during the day of the demonstration and threaten RML supporters with bodily harm if they went through with the action. But the RML also received calls from workers and other individuals informing the group that they planned to join the protest against the racist and reactionary head of U.S. imperialism, thus reinforcing the RML's resolve to march.

In light of the weak-kneed response of the rest of the left and the threat from the police and the JLP, that any demonstration at all was held was significant. It was also significant



Prime Minister Edward Seaga welcomes his close friend and ally, Ronald Reagan, to Jamaica.

since Jamaica, along with Great Britain and the United States, is a key laboratory for the reactionary "supply-side" policies espoused by Reagan. As in these other countries, the Jamaican capitalist class, under the lead-

ership of the JLP, is waging a brutal campaign against workers, small traders, the unemployed and other oppressed people.

Jamaican unions under the gun

A major target has been the trade unions, which the JLP would like to cripple if not actually smash, in the interests of lowering wages, speeding up production, raising the rate of profit and enticing foreign investors into the country.

Despite layoffs, firings and brutal police actions against striking workers, this campaign is not proceeding as well as the capitalists would like. Most important, many sectors of the Jamaican "workers" have been fighting back in a militant way to hold onto the gains won in past struggles. Workers have struck or organized other actions in the bauxite industry, at

the Jamaica Public Services, Jamaica Milk Products, at the airport, on the docks and elsewhere.

Unfortunately, up to now, the workers' militancy has not taken the form of an explicit political opposition to the JLP regime, largely because of the cowardly policies of the PNP and WPJ. Apparently, these organizations are prepared to let the workers fight the capitalists and suffer their casualties, while the so-called leftists step onto the scene and pimp off the struggles at a later date. On the other hand, the RML, as the anti-Reagan demonstration shows, is attempting to support the workers' struggles, link up the strikes and give the developing fightback as much of a political character as possible. They are also trying to recruit the most militant workers and train and organize themselves into a Bolshevik cadre that can provide truly revolutionary leadership for the future struggles of the Jamaican workers. □



Torchphoto/W. E. Schweitzer

'U.S. Out of El Salvador!'

Tens of thousands of people marched through the streets of Washington, D.C., on March 27 to demand "U.S. Out of El Salvador." The large protest (estimates ranged from 30,000 to 50,000), organized primarily by the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), underlined the growing opposition within the U.S. to the Reagan administration's support of the reactionary Salvadorean junta.

Members and friends of the RSL from Boston, New York, Detroit, Chicago and Cincinnati marched together in a spirited contingent that stressed opposition to the policies of U.S. imperialism throughout the world.

An RSL leaflet distributed at the demonstration said: "The struggle in El Salvador must be seen as a just struggle for national liberation. The people of El Salvador, like the people of many countries around the world, are being bled to death in the interests of U.S. imperialism. The U.S. has no business being in El Salvador."

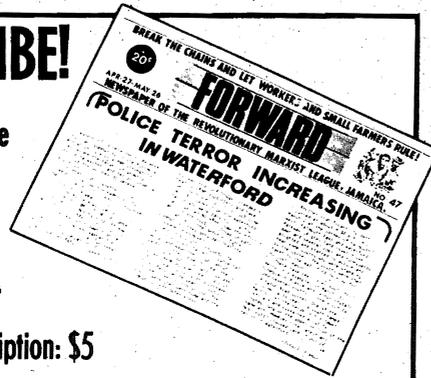
The leaflet went on to say: "We in the RSL think that socialist revolution must be the answer to bringing true freedom and liberation to the masses of working and oppressed people in Central America."

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'The Injection' Can Kill You; Away With It!

We are reprinting the article below on the deadly contraceptive Depo Provera from the February 27-March 26 issue of Forward, newspaper of the Revolutionary Marxist League of Jamaica. The RML is the sister organization of the RSL.

By SICKIE

At Family Planning Clinics throughout Jamaica thousands of women are regularly being fed the deadly contraceptive popularly known as "the injection."

This contraceptive, officially called Depo Provera or DMPA, was first produced in the United States by the multinational corporation, Upjohn Company. In 1978, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration banned the drug from being manufactured in the U.S. on the ground that it was unsafe. This was because animal studies had linked it with causing cancer of the lining of the womb, breast cancer and birth defects. However, this did not prevent the U.S. imperialists from manufacturing the drug outside of that country for use on women in other places, such as Jamaica and Africa.

The injection can kill you

So today, many Jamaican women who are on "the injection" are experiencing all kinds of painful side effects. Among these are excessive bleeding during our period, non-appearance of our period for months, back pains and headaches, marked weight gain and an inability to become pregnant after coming off "the injection." These side effects are not normal, though the personnel at the Family Planning Clinics always tell us that they are. They know better than that.

They also know that if "the injection" is given to us at the clinic six weeks after we have



had our babies, it can affect the children through breast feeding. Finally, they know that we can hemorrhage and die from "the injection." This is why they feed us with the little white tablet marked "STIL" when we start to bleed heavily during our period.

Already, in South Africa, where the capitalists and imperialists are quite happy to use Black people as guinea pigs to continue testing out Depo Provera, the possible death-dealing effects of this drug have become abundantly clear. A case history of a 29-year-old woman showed that after she was given "the injection" following the birth of her child she started to complain of a bloated feeling, enormous weight gain and non-appearance of her period. Just as we are told in Jamaica, she was told that she didn't need to see a doctor since she would get used to it. One morning she complained of severe abdominal pains, started to bleed and hemorrhaged to death 10 minutes later.

The other types of contraceptives we women are fed such as "PERLE" and the coil are also not fully healthy for us. They all cause side-effects that will harm us sooner or later.

Capitalist 'population control'

This is because the capitalists and imperialists have refused to research and provide safe and healthy contraceptives. As long as the contraceptives are working to "control the population," the capitalists couldn't care less if women are killed in the process.

The medical officer of the Family Planning Board claims that there is no need to be alarmed about the use of Depo

Provera. They also claim that women have the opportunity of choosing whichever contraceptive we want to take. But what choice do we really have? When

you go to the clinics you are lectured into taking "the injection" (at three month intervals) since "it is safer and you will not forget to take it every morning." We are not properly examined, no follow-up is done on us and, worst of all, we are not told what could happen to us while we are on these contraceptives.

For free, safe contraceptives

We of the RML Women's Committee say that women must be provided with free, safe contraceptives. We must be able to control our lives and decide whether we want to have children or not and when. The capitalists and imperialists must have no say in any of this.

Both the present JLP regime and the previous PNP government gave permission for the deadly injection to be used on us women, although they know that it is dangerous. The capital-

ist class of Jamaica, through the Family Planning Clinics, is carrying out a massive campaign to encourage women to use contraceptives, since poor people are supposedly having too many children, and can't take care of them. But how can we take care of our children or even one child when we are being reduced to starvation by the capitalists and their system?

Both women and men must join hands and demand that "the injection" be banned now in Jamaica and throughout the world. Women in Grenada have already come out against its use.

We must demand that a massive educational program about safe and healthy contraceptives be carried out among men and women. And we must insist that there be proper research on the other contraceptives presently being used in order to make them safe and healthy. This is critical if more working women are not to fall victim to the capitalists' cold-blooded "population control" programs. □

New Anti-Abortion Measure Hatched by Senate Committee

By PAT NELSON

Right-wing anti-abortion forces scored an important victory March 10 when the Senate Judiciary Committee voted 10 to 7 in favor of a proposed constitutional amendment to restrict abortion rights. The amendment, introduced by ultra-conservative Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), seeks to overturn the 1973 Supreme Court decision that women have a constitutional right to abortion. The Hatch amendment reads, in part, "A right to abortion is not secured by this constitution."

If it passes, the amendment would take the issue of abortion rights out of the hands of the courts and put it into the hands of the Congress and the state legislatures. It would allow the Congress to restrict or prohibit abortions altogether. It would also give each state the option of passing its own abortion laws—as long as they were more

restrictive than federal laws.

This is the first time a proposed amendment to the Constitution to ban abortions has reached the floor of the Senate. A similar measure has been introduced in the House of Representatives. It is likely, however, that backers of the House bill will wait to see what happens in the Senate. At this time it is unclear how soon the Senate amendment will be voted on.

Opposition from both sides

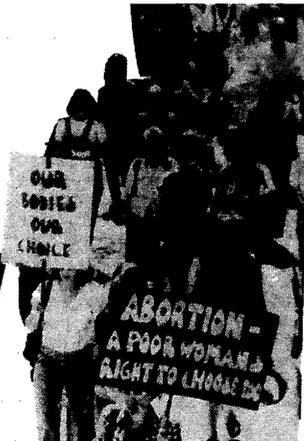
The Hatch amendment, also called the "Human Life Federalism Amendment" because it leaves the decision about abortion to the individual states, is facing strong opposition from both anti-abortion and pro-choice forces.

One wing of the anti-abortion movement is opposing Hatch's

bill because they see it as a sellout which leaves the possibility of "abortion havens" in more liberal states. These forces want nothing short of a constitutional amendment banning abortions throughout the U.S. for any reason whatsoever. This division in the right-wing camp may, in fact, prevent the passage of the Hatch amendment this year.

Pro-choice groups, on the other hand, see Hatch's bill as a maneuver on the part of anti-abortionists who have given up hope of passing a constitutional amendment banning abortions outright. Pro-choice advocates point out that if the Hatch proposal passes, the right-to-lifers and their friends could concentrate their money and organizing and lobbying efforts on state-by-state campaigns to outlaw abortions. Their recent successes in defeating the Equal Rights Amendment in various state legislatures—despite polls

(Continued on page 16)



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Defend Robert Hooks!

Seven prisoners killed in New Jersey fire

Seven men received the death penalty in the Hudson County Jail in Jersey City, New Jersey, April 14. The seven were killed in a cyanide gas filled chamber on the eighth floor of the jail.

The deceased are Felix Melvin, 45, recently convicted of disorderly conduct; Joseph Covetello, 27, convicted of disorderly conduct and assault; and Manuel Periera, 20, convicted of assault. The others killed were Michael Born, 19, arrested for disorderly conduct and awaiting trial; James Himes, 32, arrested for unlawful sexual contact and awaiting trial; Adolphus Mitchell, 24, arrested for smoking in a rapid transit station and being held pending a court appearance on aggravated assault charges; and Hong Ro Ja, 21, accused of larceny and possession of stolen property and also being held as a suspected undocumented worker.

The seven were killed while locked into their dormitory-type cell during a fire that began around 5 a.m. and was put out less than 30 minutes later. The fire apparently started in one of the mattresses: polyurethane foam mattresses that give off intense heat and gaseous cyanide smoke when burned. Prison officials say that guards trying to open the door to the cell were overcome by smoke. Prisoners at the jail have said that attempts to unlock the door were delayed because guards had to fetch the right key from another floor.

"They never had a chance," a jail chaplain said after the fire. The cell "was charred and black—the whole interior burned out," he said. The bodies of the seven victims were found huddled together in one corner. There was some evidence they attempted to put out the fire before succumbing.

Over the years many prisoners have died because they were locked in their cells as burning polyurethane produced its scorching heat and poisonous smoke. In 1977, 42 prisoners and visitors died in a Tennessee county jail after a cell padded with polyurethane foam caught fire. All the guards escaped. They claimed they lost the keys needed to release the prisoners.

Calvin Arey, once an active prisoner organizer in the state prison in Somers, Connecticut, did research on the issue of polyurethane mattress prison fires some years ago. He documented dozens of cases of death and injury, including fires at jails in Danbury, Bridgeport and New Haven, Connecticut, and Brooklyn, New York. The organizing of Arey and others led, in 1977, to a promise from Connecticut officials to remove all polyurethane mattresses from the prisons. We don't know whether that promise was kept.

In brief...

Three Black prisoners in North Carolina's Central Prison took hostages in March and traded them for signed transfer papers to the federal penitentiary at Petersburg, Virginia. Irvin Joyner, a Black civil rights attorney who acted as go-between during negotiations, said that "A couple of the guys had been in other prison systems around the country and felt the North Carolina system was the worst... because of the racism." The prisoners gave up the hostages at 4:30 a.m. on March 25, were on a bus to Petersburg at 6 a.m. and arrived there around 9 a.m. By that time North Carolina authorities had already announced they were going back on their word and the three prisoners would be returned to a North Carolina prison.

Maryland prisons are more overcrowded than ever before. The latest ploy of the keepers is a planned transfer of 160 prisoners to a special section of the state psychiatric unit where they will be double-celled. The unit, which until now was not overcrowded, is not covered in any of the federal court orders banning Maryland from double-celling.

Marvin Brockett writes from Marion that the U.S. Bureau of Prisons has issued a new rule preventing prisoners from receiving stamps in the mail. From now on, all stamps must be purchased at prison commissaries.

—WF

Monday, April 26, is the trial date for Robert E. Hooks, a Black man from upstate New York charged in the September 14 deaths of two alleged Klan members who assaulted him on the streets of his hometown of Binghamton. Binghamton, a town of 59,000 people, is only two percent Black.

Hooks, an 18-year-old student at Broome County Community College, was carrying his groceries home last September 14 when four white men in their late 30s and early 40s approached him. "One said 'I don't like the way you look; another guy called me n-----. They were drinking....'" Hooks recalled this January. The four men jumped him, knocked the groceries from his arms, and dragged him into an alley.

According to an account in the New York Amsterdam News, "Hooks said his attackers were strangling him and he feared they would kill him. He feigned death and the assailants desisted. Minutes later, Hooks ran to a diner and telephoned for help to his cousin who never showed up. Hooks then ran back to his apartment, grabbed a kitchen knife and started back in search of his groceries."

The four racists saw Hooks and again jumped him. Hooks fought back and stabbed two. The other two fled. The stabbed



Robert Hooks (left) with attorney Conrad Lynn.

men, John McClary and Charles Mandeville, both died.

"We don't deny that he killed those men. He was just fighting to survive," Hooks' attorney, Conrad Lynn, has said.

At a bail hearing soon after Hooks' arrest last September, Broome County District Attorney Patrick Monserratti said of McClary and Mandeville that Binghamton was "well rid of the two." Both were believed to be members of the Ku Klux Klan. At the time of his death, McClary was charged with killing a friend at a poker party.

A few weeks after his remark, Monserratti was unexpectedly appointed a county judge, re-

moving him from the case.

Hooks' trial is expected to be long—and expensive. Committees have been set up in the Binghamton and New York City areas to raise money and support the defense effort. At a fund raiser in February, however, Lynn said he was disappointed that "none of the numerous persons I wrote concerning the case have responded or indicated an interest, or desire, to contribute to the defense fund."

Contributions to the Robert Hooks defense can be sent care of: **Conrad Lynn, 49 South Main Street, Spring Valley, NY 10977.** □

TO OUR READERS IN PRISON

From now on, all prisoners who receive free subscriptions to the *Torch/La Antorcha* must renew their subs every year. This is the only way we can be sure that the *Torch/La Antorcha* is still reaching you and that you are still interested in receiving it. To make renewing as easy as possible, we will be printing renewal forms on the back of the wrappers that the *Torch/La Antorcha* is sent in.

The first batch of these renewal notices were sent this month to hundreds of our prisoner subscribers. Look for it. If you received one, please fill it out and send it back to us, or else we will have to stop sending you the *Torch/La Antorcha* until we hear from you again.

If your *Torch/La Antorcha* stops arriving monthly, it may be because the renewal notice never got to you, or you forgot to send it back to us. Let us know—as soon as we hear from you we will put you back on our subscription list.

Also, please send us a change of address if you are transferred or discharged. Without this, you may miss many issues of the *Torch/La Antorcha*, while we continue to waste money and time sending the paper to your old address. After you are released from prison, you can continue to receive the *Torch/La Antorcha* free of charge for three months. Just send us your new address.

And if you ever have any problems getting your paper, let us know.

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Kämpft für die Internationale Sozialistische Revolution!



Today world capitalism is sliding deeper and deeper into a massive political, social and economic crisis. From the United States to Russia, the ruling classes are turning to ever-more desperate measures to keep themselves in power and their system intact. Around the world, from Mexico to Great Britain to China, the rulers are imposing austerity measures to make working people bear the cost of the crisis. And they are increasingly using direct military repression to keep working people down: in Poland, South Africa, Iran, Chile and many other countries • May First is historically known as May Day, the holiday of the international working class. It is a time for revolutionary workers everywhere to reaffirm our commitment to the fight for a free socialist society throughout the world • We in the Revolutionary Socialist League and our sister organization in Jamaica, the Revolutionary Marxist League, believe that the only way to solve the capitalist crisis is to do away with capitalism. We believe that exploitation and oppression can only be ended once and for all by international socialist revolution • We believe that



the working class and oppressed people of the world—women and men; Latin, Asian, Black, Native and white; gay and straight; employed and unemployed; old and young—must control the whole of society and our own lives. But this can only happen if all of us unite and organize together to overthrow the crisis-ridden system that exists today • The RSL and RML are working to build an international revolutionary party capable of uniting diverse forces, fighting back against the capitalist attacks, and overthrowing the ruling elites; thus enabling the working masses to build a cooperative, humane society—real socialism—free of exploitation and oppression • We do not seek to be a new ruling elite that controls society supposedly “for” the workers and oppressed people. We are not fighting for a society like Russia, China or Cuba—state capitalism—where the economy may be nationalized, but where working people have nothing to do with running that society • As the rulers of the world rush us toward depression, fascism and possible nuclear destruction, we urge you to join us in the fight for freedom and socialism.

GM Workers Approve Concessions by Slim Margin



Autoworkers show opposition to concessions at January meeting of UAW-GM Council in Washington, D.C.

By W.E. SCHWEIZER

United Auto Workers members at General Motors narrowly approved a series of give-backs to the company April 9. The final vote was 114,468 to 105,090, or 52 percent in favor. The concessions—contained in a new contract scheduled to expire in September 1984—are similar to those given up at Ford in February.

Under the agreement, GM workers will have their base pay frozen for two years, and three cost-of-living payments will be delayed 18 months. In addition, UAW members will give up two weeks of paid leave every year. Newly hired workers would take a wage cut. And workers with

"excessive" absences would lose some benefits.

As in the Ford agreement, the "breakthroughs" which the union got in return are a sham. For example, despite much talk about increased job security, the loss of the two weeks' leave time will in itself actually eliminate over 9,000 jobs of relief workers.

In January rank and file anger and a loose organization of local leaders forced the UAW and GM to suspend talks on concessions. However, within a month, the company announced the closure of seven plants, sending waves of fear through thousands of GM workers.

"I felt it was a scare tactic to get what they wanted," said one

17-year veteran of the Fort Street trim plant in Detroit, one of the facilities on GM's hit list. "It worked."

Also, much of the dissident local leadership in January simply dried up.

"I don't intend on putting up a fight," announced Don Douglas, president of GMC Truck and Coach Local 594 in Pontiac, Michigan, and also a leader in Locals Opposed to Concessions. That organization had led the January opposition, but this time, according to Douglas, it was suspending its activities.

Much of the No vote was concentrated in GM's final assembly plants. At Linden, NJ, for example, workers rejected the contract by a 4-1 margin. In addition, assembly plants in Lordstown and Norwood, Ohio, and Kansas City, Missouri, voted down the concessions by 3-1. This is not surprising, since GM's assembly plants historically have had both the worst working conditions and the most resistance to company attacks.

At the same time the voting tended to be either overwhelmingly for or against at any one plant. In part this is a reflection of how seriously different groups of workers took GM's threats. But it also reflects an



Labor-support demonstration for TWU during 1980 strike.

TWU Abandons Policy of 'No Contract, No Work'

Ending its historic policy of "No Contract, No Work," the Transport Workers Union (TWU) sent its contract with New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to binding arbitration April 1.

"Our decision was easy," said John Lawe, president of TWU Local 100. "We were hopelessly deadlocked and we had no choice."

Two years ago the TWU shut down the New York buses and subways for 11 days to get 17 percent wage increases. That strike, however, ended in demoralization for most rank and file transit workers. This happened because their leaders in the union did nothing to organize their struggle to win nor to defend them from massive fines under New York's Taylor Law.

This year the MTA is demanding a 139-page list of give-backs from the TWU. With the union giving up its right to strike and handing its fate over to a committee of arbitrators, management seems likely to get much of what it wants.

"every plant for itself" attitude within the UAW.

This could cause serious problems in local bargaining later this year. GM has already indicated that it wants to use the concessions as a pattern to win

even bigger givebacks on the local level. Although the large No vote will make things more difficult, there is a real danger that the company will be able to pick off the local plants one by one. □

LABOR IN STRUGGLE

Farmworkers strike in southern Texas

Two rival unions are seeking to organize farmworkers in southern Texas. Since March 4 the militant Texas Farmworkers Union (TFU) has been leading strikes by onion pickers in fields near Hidalgo. Meanwhile, Cesar Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers (UFW), launched his own organizing campaign in the area with a six-day march through the San Juan Valley that ended March 21.

The onion pickers earn between \$1.20 and \$2.40 an hour, far under the \$3.35 an hour federal minimum wage. They are paid by piece rate, according to how many baskets they can fill. The standard rate is only fifty cents for each bushel (two baskets). Moreover, growers lower wages even further by simply giving workers larger baskets to fill.

After a two-hour walkout against the Victor Russel Produce Company on March 4, workers in the TFU won an additional 10 cents for each bushel, plus the right to negotiate wage rates according to conditions in local fields. The following day 300 workers in a neighboring field struck for a union contract and a rate increase up to \$1 per bushel. TFU organizers say their eventual goal is to win full union benefits, including pensions, the right to unemployment compensation and a guaranteed minimum wage.

At the same time, the UFW is trying to win the federal minimum wage for Texas farmworkers. It

claims to have 50 organizing committees in southern Texas, representing up to 3,000 workers. Over 1,800 workers turned out for the rally ending the UFW march, although this was substantially under the 5,000 originally predicted by Chavez.

The two unions are using very different strategies in their organizing efforts. Leaders of the TFU were expelled from the UFW in 1975 because they rejected Chavez' "nonviolent" strike tactics and organized workers to defend themselves against union-busting thugs. They stress using strikes as an organizing tool, rather than the marches and lawsuits favored by Chavez. The UFW leadership has not yet organized any strikes in southern Texas, claiming such actions are "premature."

Reagan subsidizes hospital union-busting

The Reagan administration proposed cutting over \$5 billion from Medicare and Medicaid programs in its 1983 budget. But it wants to subsidize one major hospital program—union-busting.

In recent years hospital workers, most of them women, have been stepping up their fight for better wages and union recognition. For example, 1,300 nurses in San Jose, California, have been on strike against four hospitals since January to win pay comparable to that of staff pharmacists, who are largely men. In Washington, D.C., nurses struck the Group Health Association to win higher pay on April 1. Earlier in February, nurses in Ashtabula, Ohio, won their first union contract after an 18-

month walkout, the longest hospital strike in U.S. history.

Hospital administrators are reacting to this wave of militancy by hiring "union avoidance" consulting firms. In March, the federal Department of Health and Human Services announced hospitals could charge the "reasonable costs" of hiring such consultants as an "operating expense" covered by Medicare funds. The National Union of Health Care and Hospital Employees, District 1199, is planning to challenge the department's decision in court.

Obstacles develop to SEIU-RWDSU merger

Unexpected major problems have developed in the merger of two of the largest unions involved in organizing health care workers. The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) were close to a merger agreement in January. The National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, District 1199, accounts for nearly half of the RWDSU's 225,000 members. About one third of the SEIU's 600,000 members are health care workers.

The RWDSU executive board voted in January to "suspend" the merger talks until after the union's May 31 convention. RWDSU President Alvin Heaps told SEIU leaders that "unresolved details," and a heavy organizing schedule made an immediate merger impossible. RWDSU executive members say Heaps gave them no reason for the delay.

—PB

Unemployment Nears Record Levels

By WILLIAM FALK

Over 9,850,000 people were out of work and looking for a job this March, putting the official unemployment rate at 9 percent. This is the highest rate recorded since 1941, and all signs point to the April jobless figure (to be announced May 5) going even higher, to levels not seen since the Great Depression.

The government also reported a large increase in March in the number of so-called "discouraged workers." These are people who have given up looking for work. There were 1.34 million "discouraged workers" in the first quarter of 1982, a record. According to the Labor Department's commissioner of statistics, if "discouraged workers" were counted as unemployed, the jobless figure for the first three months of 1982 would have averaged a whopping 12.5 percent, a number last reached during the Depression.

Also at a record level in March was the number of people—5.7 million—who have taken part-time jobs simply because they cannot find full-time work. Add up the March totals of those officially unemployed, the "discouraged workers," and the under-employed and the result is nearly 17 million: about one out of every seven people in the workforce.

Blacks and youth most affected

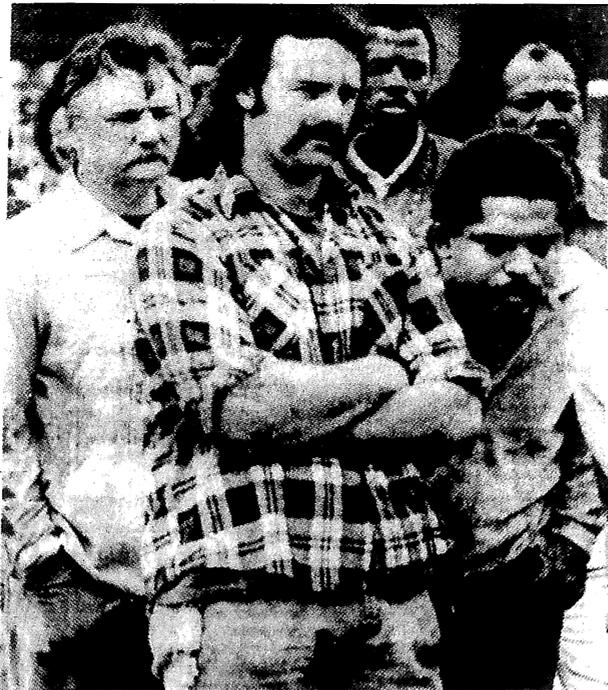
The lack of work is not spread out evenly among all sections of workers. Only 3.2 percent of professional and technical workers are unemployed, while 18 percent of non-farm laborers are jobless.

Unemployment for adult men is at a post-WW II high of 7.9 percent, while teenage unemployment (including both men and women) is 22.3 percent and Black teenage unemployment is 45 percent.

Total Black unemployment is 18 percent, while total white unemployment is 7.9 percent. Black people make up 10 percent of the U.S. population, but are currently 20 percent of the unemployed and 40 percent of the "discouraged workers."

Joblessness for Latino workers is a reported 12.7 percent. The figure for adult women is a comparatively low 7.9 percent, up from 7.6 percent in February. Most women workers are stuck in the low-paying "pink collar" ghetto of clerical work where there have been few layoffs so far.

Layoffs in manufacturing accounted for 61 percent of the March unemployment increase although only 20 percent of all workers are in those industries!



In several manufacturing and construction industries—steel, auto, textiles and lumber, for instance—there are fewer employed workers now than at the depths of the 1974-75 recession. The regions where these industries are concentrated have been hit especially hard. Michigan unemployment is 16 percent, comparable to the Great Depression there. Flint, Michigan, has an unemployment rate of 24.5 percent. Joblessness in the state of Alabama is officially 15 percent and both Arkansas and Tennessee are over 12 percent. The lumber centers of Sierra and Trinity counties in northern California record an unemployment rate of 30 percent.

All regions hard hit

Last year President Reagan advised workers from the especially hard hit areas to "vote with their feet," that is, to move to places where there are jobs. But Reagan's advice, if taken, turns out to be a macabre joke.

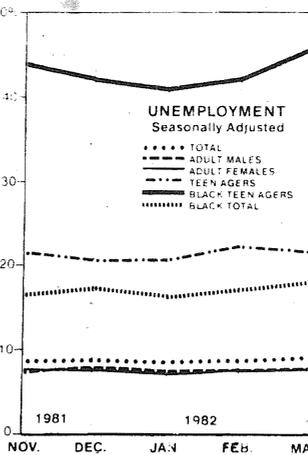
For one difference between the current economic downturn and recent recessions is that no area is exempt. California, for example, once thought to be the recession-proof land-of-opportunity, now has an unemployment rate of nearly 10 percent. Only one industrial state, Texas, has unemployment of less than 6 percent, and most of the available jobs there are for highly skilled workers only.

National Public Radio recently reported that every day 150 people arrive in Evanston, Wyoming, in the heart of the Rocky Mountains oil belt, looking for work. And, on average,

three jobs a day are available.

Soup kitchens and shelters have been set up in Salt Lake City, the only large city in the area, to provide for the refugees from the Midwest. Families have been sleeping in their cars and under bridges, in scenes reminiscent of the 1930s migrations.

As if all this were not enough, Secretary of the Treasury Don-



Unemployed workers line up for naval shipyard jobs in Long Beach, California. Nearly 1,500 people showed up to apply for 250 jobs.

Hundreds of savings and loan associations are teetering on the brink of collapse.

Government programs cut back

Meanwhile, the Reagan administration is cutting many of the programs that used to cushion the impact of layoffs. TRA payments barely exist any more. New federal regulations have made unemployment benefits beyond 26 weeks the exception at the same time that more people than ever are unemployed for longer than 26 weeks.

Some states, Illinois for instance, have reacted to the increased demand on the unemployment compensation fund by cutting the weekly amount paid to each person. The government now often denies food stamps to those on unemployment compensation, and school lunch and other nutrition programs are being cut. CETA jobs are but a memory.

M. Harvey Brenner, a professor at Johns Hopkins University, estimated in 1980 that each percentage point rise in the unemployment rate will cause 37,000 deaths in the next six years. About 20,000 of the "extra" or premature deaths are from cardiovascular problems aggravated by stress and poor diet. About 900 are from suicides and 648 from homicides. About 500 of the deaths are from cirrhosis of the liver caused by alcoholism. In addition, infant mortality shoots up because pregnant mothers are not able to get the medical care or the diet they need.

Today, with massive cuts in social services, the impact of rising unemployment will undoubtedly be far worse than Brenner's estimates.

We need a militant movement

The only way out of this mess is for working and oppressed people to unite with one another to build a militant, fighting movement that can oppose the growing attacks on people's rights and living standards. We need a working class movement that can fight for jobs, for decent wages and working conditions, for an end to the cuts in social services, and for equal rights and justice for all. And, most important, we need a movement that can fight for the elimination of this crisis-ridden capitalist system that will continue to bring untold suffering to millions and millions of people if it is not destroyed once and for all. □

Massive INS Raids in California Strawberry Fields

Over 1,000 Mexican farm-workers were arrested and deported during a week-long series of raids by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Southern California strawberry fields late in March. The raids, in Huntington Beach, Westminster, and Fountain Valley, were carried out by 60 INS agents (including eight on horseback) aided by a helicopter. The arrested workers were dragged from the fields and put on buses headed for Tijuana, with no pretense of legal process. "We'll do the paper work on them on the bus on the way to the border and then dump them," said the INS agent in charge.

Strawberry growers protested the raids, claiming they could lose millions of dollars if the ripe fruit was not quickly harvested. But INS officials warned that the raids would continue "in order to free up some jobs for American workers."

At first, hundreds of unem-

ployed workers, mostly U.S. citizens, did respond to the news of the sudden job openings. Even out-of-work painters and electricians showed up to apply after reading reports that pickers could earn as much as \$12 an hour. But at one strawberry farm where 25 U.S. workers were hired on in the morning, only two remained at the end of the day.

Strawberry picking is grueling, stoop labor. It pays the minimum wage of \$3.35 an hour or \$1 per 12-pint tray, whichever is higher. Only the most experienced pickers, working under ideal conditions, can make much above minimum wage.

If the work is so difficult and unattractive to unemployed U.S. workers, why then would anyone do it? It's simple, explained one grower. "The Mexicans are more motivated. They have kids starving back home." □

Ultra-Right Victory in Salvadorean Elections Creates Dilemma for Reagan Administration

By PAUL BENJAMIN

The elections held March 28 in El Salvador produced unwelcome results for both the Salvadorean leftist forces and the Reagan administration.

The surprisingly large turnout for the balloting was a setback for the organizations that lead the popular rebellion in El Salvador, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) and its political arm, the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR).

But the actual outcome of the elections was nothing short of a disaster for the Reagan government and its closest allies in the Salvadorean ruling class.

In the elections Salvadorean voters chose delegates to a constituent assembly that will oversee the transfer of power from the ruling military junta, led by President José Napoleón Duarte, to a civilian government. Among other duties, the assembly will select an interim government, draft a constitution and organize parliamentary elections.

Contrary to U.S. expectations, Duarte's party, the relatively moderate Christian Democrats, failed to win control of the assembly, although they emerged as the single strongest party, with 40 percent of the vote and 24 of the 60 seats. All the rest of the seats were won by



Neo-fascist leader Robert D'Aubuisson (center) emerged from Salvadorean elections in strong position.

four parties representing the most right-wing sections of the Salvadorean ruling class. The most important of these is the neo-fascist National Republican Alliance (ARENA), led by Roberto D'Aubuisson. It finished second with 29 percent of the vote and 19 seats. Another ultra-conservative group, the National Conciliation Party, won 14 seats, while the rest were won by smaller right-wing parties.

Following the elections the four rightist parties formed a coalition aimed at either excluding the Christian Democrats entirely from the government or limiting them to minor posts. Currently all five parties—and

U.S. officials—are negotiating over the exact composition of the new government.

While the precise outcome of these talks remains uncertain, it is clear that the ultra-rightists, led by D'Aubuisson, will play a dominating role in whatever regime is finally set up.

FMLN/FDR kept out of elections

Although the Reagan administration is proclaiming the elections as a "victory for democracy," they were hardly intended to provide a meaningful choice

for the Salvadorean people. On the contrary, the administration pressured the junta into holding them only to provide a "democratic" cover for a pro-U.S. government that would justify its efforts to suppress the popular rebellion.

The Duarte regime, backed by the U.S. government, effectively kept the FMLN/FDR out of the elections by insisting that the leftist forces had to give up their arms before they could run candidates. Since various right-wing death squads had published "hit-lists" that included all the leftist leaders, this amounted to an invitation to come and be killed.

More broadly, Duarte's conditions were really a demand for the left to liquidate itself as a political force by abandoning its armed struggle against the Salvadorean rulers. The FMLN/FDR, justifiably, refused to participate in the elections under these conditions, leaving only conservative, pro-U.S. parties to contend for seats in the constituent assembly.

Nevertheless, the elections did represent a test of strength between the junta and the FMLN/FDR. The Duarte and Reagan governments hoped for a large turnout that would enable them to claim popular support for a pro-U.S. government. Meanwhile, sections of the FMLN/FDR leadership called on the

Salvadorean people to boycott the elections and prepare for a general uprising.

The elections themselves provided a short-lived propaganda victory for the Salvadorean rulers and the Reagan administration. Over one million Salvadoreans went to the polls, double the expected turnout. There is little doubt that many voted because they feared death at the hands of the army if they boycotted the elections. Each voter was given a receipt, and it will be easy for the army or fascist gangs to find out who did not vote and take measures against them. But the turnout allowed the Reagan administration to claim that most Salvadoreans supported "democracy" and rejected the FMLN/FDR.

Divisions on the left

Moreover, the leftist military offensive timed to coincide with the elections met with only partial success. While the FMLN temporarily captured Usulután, the fourth largest city in El Salvador, attacked 13 other cities and towns, and blocked most voting in Morazán province, the promised "insurrection" never took place.

There were clearly divisions

Military 'Cleans House' in Guatemala

By ALBERT LARY

ON March 23, 16 days after Guatemala's fraudulent elections, a group of young army officers surrounded the National Palace with tanks and artillery and brought down the government in a bloodless coup. The outgoing president, General Romeo Lucas García, was arrested along with his brother, Army Chief of Staff Benedicto Lucas García, and the newly elected president, General Angel Aníbal Guevara.

Another general, Efraín Ríos Montt, was then called out of retirement to join a new military junta. His first declaration suspended the constitution, called for a disarming of civilians, and demanded that all political parties suspend activity. Ríos Montt, who was defeated for president in a rigged 1974 election, later promised not to take over as president himself. But his real program

remains vague. He is an evangelical "born again" Christian, and leader of a fast-growing Protestant sect called Church of the Word. Ríos Montt claims that a divine prophecy predicted his return to politics as head of the new junta.

The emergence of Ríos as Guatemala's new strongman came as a surprise to many, including the U.S. Embassy and even the young officers who led the coup. Many of them are politically closer to the ultra-right opposition party, called the National Liberation Movement. Ríos, whose politics are closer to the Christian Democratic Party, was brought into the new junta originally only to negotiate the surrender of the deposed Lucas García. Through a series of maneuvers, however, he rapidly rose to the top.

THE urban middle class and professionals, as well as many big landowners and capitalists,



New Guatemalan strongman Ríos Montt (left) says he is answering a call from God.

have welcomed the coup. Guatemala's economy is a shambles, with virtually no tourism, little foreign exchange, and low prices for the country's staple crops of coffee, cotton, sugar and bananas. A crippling level of corruption has been fostered by the military elite, with many traditional ruling class figures cut out of the action.

GOVERNMENT repression has been so extreme that U.S. military aid was cut off in 1977, and the economic crisis has led private international banks to refuse more credit or to reschedule old debts. General Aníbal Guevara's election on March 7 touched off a new wave of capital flight out of the country. About 6,000 rural guerrillas,

fighting under the banner of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union, have made dramatic recent gains. The old generals, with no popular support of their own, could neither defeat the rebels nor stabilize the economy. They had to go.

U.S. officials knew about plans for the Guatemalan coup since at least January, and gave quiet support, although the emergence of Ríos Montt was not part of the original script. The new military junta now hopes to portray itself as a progressive force, moving toward democracy, in hopes of a quick resumption of the U.S. military aid it badly needs.

The army has been doing poorly in its war against the guerrillas. Rifles, ammunition and trucks are all in short supply and the army has only five working helicopters. It is widely believed that a guerrilla victory is inevitable unless the U.S. steps in. □

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among the FMLN/FDR leaders over how to deal with the elections. Some leftist spokespersons, such as FDR head Guillermo Manuel Ungo, said the insurgents would make no efforts to interfere with the voting. Others called for "defeating" the elections through a military offensive. After they were over, FMLN/FDR leaders conceded that these divisions contributed to the appearance of a leftist defeat.

Despite the rightist victory in the elections, the FMLN/FDR is maintaining that it is ready to negotiate with the new government. But the election results have set back the hopes of at least some leftist leaders for a negotiated settlement of the Salvadorean civil war.

Some FMLN/FDR leaders clearly hoped that a Duarte election victory might open the way for a compromise peace that would enable the left to share power with at least the more moderate sections of the Salvadorean ruling class. Last year FDR spokesperson Salvador Samayoa noted: "We cannot talk to the fascists in the armed forces, but we're willing to give the Christian Democrats the benefit of the doubt if they could show that they had any real power."

In February some leftist leaders publicized a peace plan that called for formation of a "broad-based government" including not only the left and the Christian Democrats, but also the army, business leaders and the conservative parties. But as the FMLN/FDR leaders themselves must realize, the right-wing parties that control the constituent assembly are hardly likely to take up this offer.

Reagan hoped for Duarte victory

But if the election turnout was a temporary victory for U.S. imperialism, the actual results were a major blow for the Reagan administration. The administration wanted to set up a moderate-centrist Salvadorean



Soldier searches voter outside polling place in El Salvador.

regime, opposed to both right-wing "extremism" and FMLN/FDR "terrorism," that could undercut the base of both the right and the left. It hoped such a government would continue to carry out the social reforms begun by the Duarte regime and at least appear to seek a peaceful solution to the civil war. During the election campaign U.S. officials made little secret of their support for the Christian Democrats, who called for economic and social reforms and hinted they would negotiate with the FMLN/FDR if they won the elections.

The ultra-right-wing parties that won the election scarcely project the image of moderation desired by the Reagan government. During the election campaign D'Aubuisson called for "exterminating" the leftist forces in "rivers of blood." The other right-wing parties, while not quite as bloodthirsty, also opposed social reforms and negotiations with the FMLN/FDR.

The defeat of the Christian Democrats leaves the Reagan administration without any good choices for a new Salvadorean government. For in-

stance, the administration could back a rightist-only regime. But this would mean a regime dominated by D'Aubuisson, who would likely inaugurate a bloodbath in El Salvador and drive people into the arms of the left.

Or the administration could try to pressure the rightist parties into sharing power with the Christian Democrats in a "government of national unity." But it would then have to prop up a regime lacking full support from any faction within the Salvadorean ruling class. Such a regime would also have trouble implementing a coherent policy in El Salvador. In addition it would be under constant threat of a military coup, as the generals are likely to join with their natural allies among the rightist parties and seek open control of the government. Despite the problems with this option, it is the course the Reagan administration is currently following.

Finally, Reagan theoretically could decide to withhold or limit aid to an ultra-right-wing government that refused to go along with U.S. policies in El Salvador. But this is hardly likely, as it would amount to admitting that the administration's entire strategy in El Salvador had been a failure.

The Reagan administration may find some way out of its dilemma for the moment. But the election results have clearly weakened the credibility of its El Salvador policy. Within the U.S., popular opposition to U.S. intervention in El Salvador was increasing even before the elections. The victory of the Salvadorean ultra-rightists is likely to cost the government even the minimal support it now has for its support to the Salvadorean rulers.

Within El Salvador itself, the election results will surely lead to an intensification of the civil war. The ultra-rightists who dominate the government will stop at nothing to crush the leftist insurgents once and for all. And the Salvadorean people will step up their armed struggle to free their country from the grip of U.S. imperialism. □



WORLD IN REVOLUTION

Arabs protest East Jerusalem shootings

On April 11 an Israeli soldier, Alan Goodman, shot his way into the Dome of the Rock Mosque in East Jerusalem. He killed two Muslims and wounded up to 40 more before being captured by Israeli police. Goodman, a recent immigrant to Israel from the U.S., told one officer he was "taking revenge" for the killing of Israelis by Muslims.

The desecration of the mosque, one of the holiest Islamic shrines, set off mass rebellions throughout Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories. Immediately after the shooting angry Palestinians in East Jerusalem went into the streets and stoned Israeli troops at the scene. The Supreme Muslim Council, which oversees Islamic religious affairs in East Jerusalem, also called a seven-day general strike throughout Israeli-occupied territory. The following day protests continued in East Jerusalem and spread to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israeli troops have killed at least one Palestinian—an eight-year-old boy—and shot over 40 others in their efforts to suppress the demonstrators. They are also forcing some shopkeepers to open their doors at gunpoint. But as we go to press the protests are continuing. Meanwhile, governments in 15 Muslim countries declared protest strikes on April 14.

Goodman is clearly sympathetic to extremist Zionist groups that call for razing Muslim mosques in East Jerusalem and expelling all Arabs from "the land of Israel." He was carrying leaflets from one of these groups, Meir Kahane's Kach Organization, at the time of his arrest. While Kahane has denied any connection with Goodman, he is providing him with a lawyer.

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin is calling Goodman a "mentally ill man" while accusing Arab leaders of "exploiting the tragedy." Although Goodman may have acted alone, the Zionist ruling class bears the blame for his crime. It constantly whips up nationalist and religious fanaticism to justify both the Zionist conquest of Palestine and Israeli aggression against neighboring Arab peoples. Moreover, the deaths caused by the "revenge" of a single religious fanatic pale in comparison to the mass murders carried out by the Zionist regime in its own "reprisals."

Solidarity sets up Warsaw underground radio

Members of the banned Solidarity union in Poland have embarrassed General Wojciech Jaruzelski's military government by setting up an underground radio station in Warsaw. Radio Solidarity's first broadcast on April 12 called on the Polish people to maintain their resistance to Jaruzelski's martial law regime. It took place just four months after Jaruzelski imposed martial law and "suspended" Solidarity, the mass Polish workers' organization, last December 13.

The Jaruzelski government has been unable to wipe out all resistance to martial law. The Solidarity underground has not only been able to set up its radio station, but also publishes hundreds of newspapers and circulars around the country. It recently reported a growing number of brief strikes in Gdansk, Warsaw and other cities. Militants in the plants are apparently using these strikes to see how much support they have and how far they can go without facing serious reprisals from the government.

Underground spokespersons like Zbigniew Bujak, the only major Solidarity leader to escape the crackdown, are no longer calling for mass strikes against martial law. Instead they are urging people to take symbolic actions, such as wearing Solidarity buttons, shutting off their lights on the 13th of every month, and not buying newspapers on Wednesdays to show their opposition to the regime.

While the Polish state-capitalist rulers still talk vaguely about a "national reconciliation" between the government and the Polish people, they are systematically removing suspected Solidarity supporters from posts of influence. On April 7 the rector of Warsaw University was dismissed, apparently because he opposed a purge of the school's faculty. Earlier in March the Polish Journalists Association was dissolved.

These steps may be the prelude to either the outright outlawing of Solidarity, or its "reorganization" into a puppet union run by faithful supporters of the government. The government has printed up—but not yet released—thousands of posters attacking Solidarity and its "former leaders."

—PB



FMLN holds rally in Salvadorean countryside.

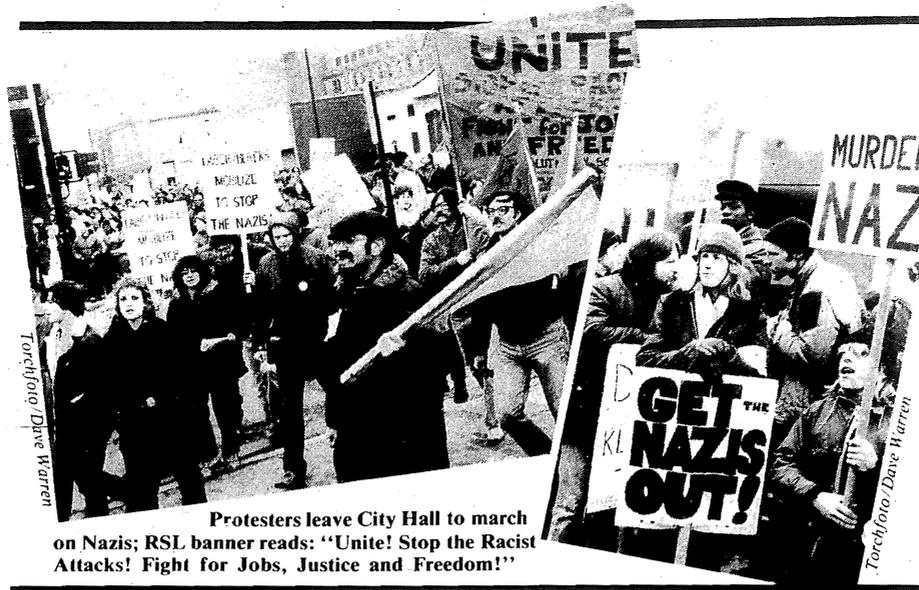
Anti-Racist Demonstrators Break Up Nazi Rally in Ann Arbor

ANN ARBOR, Michigan—Nearly 2,000 anti-racist demonstrators broke up a rally by 15 Nazis on the steps of this city's Federal Building on March 20. The Nazis, members of the Detroit-based "SS-Action Group," were pelted by the angry crowd with eggs, ice, rocks and other objects, chased for several blocks and finally hustled out of town in a police bus.

The Nazi rally in Ann Arbor was one of several mobilizations called by Klan and Nazi groups around the country on March 20 to celebrate "White Christian Solidarity Day." (For a report on other Klan and Nazi activity, see article on page 14.) In Ann Arbor, the Nazis also billed their action as a "rally against communist organizing," specifically denouncing a recent teach-in in support of the liberation forces in El Salvador held at the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus.

The day began with an anti-Nazi demonstration at Ann Arbor's City Hall, where the Nazis had announced they would rally at noon. About 800 to 1,000 people turned out an hour earlier to wait for the Nazis, responding to the organizing efforts of several anti-racist coalitions and groups. When the Nazis saw the large anti-fascist crowd, they decided to rally instead at the Federal Building a few blocks away.

As soon as word arrived that the Nazis were nearby, most of



Protesters leave City Hall to march on Nazis; RSL banner reads: "Unite! Stop the Racist Attacks! Fight for Jobs, Justice and Freedom!"

the people at City Hall marched to the Federal Building. There, they swelled the ranks of an already growing crowd. Now, well over 1,000 people pressed the Nazis against the building doors.

Face to face with the fascists, sections of the crowd grew more combative in mood. First some people began to throw eggs, then ice and, finally, others joined in with rocks and flashlight batteries, showering the Nazis and shattering the glass doors behind them.

The people immediately facing the Nazis initially hesitated

to confront them physically. This was in part because people expected to find the cops protecting them and with no cops present people were taken by surprise. Furthermore, the Nazis were equipped with helmets, shields and clubs and at first looked more formidable than they were.

All of a sudden, however, the Nazis lashed out at the crowd with their clubs. The front ranks of the counter-demonstrators clubbed them back with sticks from their red flags and others with their fists.

One militant grabbed a Nazi

and dragged him into the crowd, seizing his shield as a trophy. The Nazi only avoided a serious beating when he was shielded and hustled to safety by a group of pacifists who were present. Other Nazis were knocked down while their group was forced back to the shattered glass doors of the building.

At this point the cops arrived, cleared the counter-demonstrators from the steps and formed a protective cordon around the Nazis. But people resumed throwing ice and rocks—tossing them over the police lines and at the dazed and slightly bloodied

Nazis.

The cops and Nazis began to retreat, pursued by a crowd that the local press estimates had now grown to 2,000. The crowd, which included militant anti-fascist demonstrators and a larger number of supportive on-lookers, cornered the cops and Nazis again a couple of hundred yards behind the Federal Building. The driver of the Nazis' van had fled and the Nazis had to wait for a Washtenaw County Sheriff's bus to arrive to take them from town. As the Nazis rode off in the bus, a final barrage of rocks was thrown and the entire crowd cheered. A large contingent of demonstrators then marched through the streets back to City Hall and held a victory rally.

Important victory

Mike Everett, a member of the Revolutionary Socialist League and a leading activist in the Coalition Against the Nazis (one of the principal organizations involved in the anti-fascist mobilization), termed the events in Ann Arbor "an important victory for all anti-racist and progressive forces." Adding that "this was the first public attempt by the Nazis to build a presence in the Ann Arbor area," Everett said he thought "the fact that the Nazi effort ended in defeat will deal a serious blow to fascist organiz-

SL: Sectarians Turn to Thuggery

By ROD MILLER

In the midst of the successful March 20 anti-Nazi mobilization in Ann Arbor, the Spartacist League (SL), a group long known for its sectarianism, carried out an unprovoked, physical assault on anti-racist demonstrators. In the attack, several people were roughed up and knocked to the ground and expensive sound equipment being used by the Coalition Against the Nazis, one of the principal organizers of the anti-fascist protest, was smashed up and heavily damaged.

The SL attack at the anti-Nazi rally was the culmination of a dishonest and highly sectarian campaign by the SL to try to dominate and claim credit for all March 20-related anti-racist organizing in Ann Arbor. This campaign, which included the spending of thousands of dollars to promote the SL's own, separate anti-fascist committee, reached such extremes that the SL actually tried to physically prevent any-

one but itself from holding a rally at Ann Arbor's City Hall, the announced site of the Nazi gathering.

Worse still, after this disruptive effort failed, the SL called on demonstrators to refrain from marching on the Nazis and urged them to attend an SL-led rally instead. When the crowd of nearly 1,000 ignored this sectarian appeal, an SL goon squad moved in for its attack. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured, but the SLers did smash up an expensive sound system. (See photo.)

These actions by the Spartacist League nearly endangered the success of the entire anti-fascist effort. Moreover, a physical attack on anti-racist activists—at a confrontation with the Nazis, no less—goes well beyond the familiar efforts of the SL to promote its own, narrow organizational interests at the expense of broader struggles. Such an attack—dangerous and provocative in the extreme—was a violation of the most basic principles of

working class solidarity.

SL: 'No one can rally but us'

The SL arrived at the March 20 rally at Ann Arbor's City Hall with a very expensive sound system on a flatbed truck, huge banners and lots of printed signs. The SL wanted to make it appear (primarily to the media) that the entire demonstration was organized by the SL, even though many other anti-racist groups had done weeks of organizing for the protest. Despite this charade, no one attempted to prevent the SL from carrying out its own rally.

However, the SL did not take the same attitude toward the large number of other anti-racist forces that had gathered at City Hall. Not content to simply hold its own rally and attract whatever attention it might, SLers tried

(Continued on page 15)



Part of coalition sound system destroyed in SL attack.

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ing in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti-Detroit area." Everett noted that the Detroit City Council, which in the past has issued the Nazis permits to march and rally, has just turned down a new request, citing the Ann Arbor violence as a primary reason.

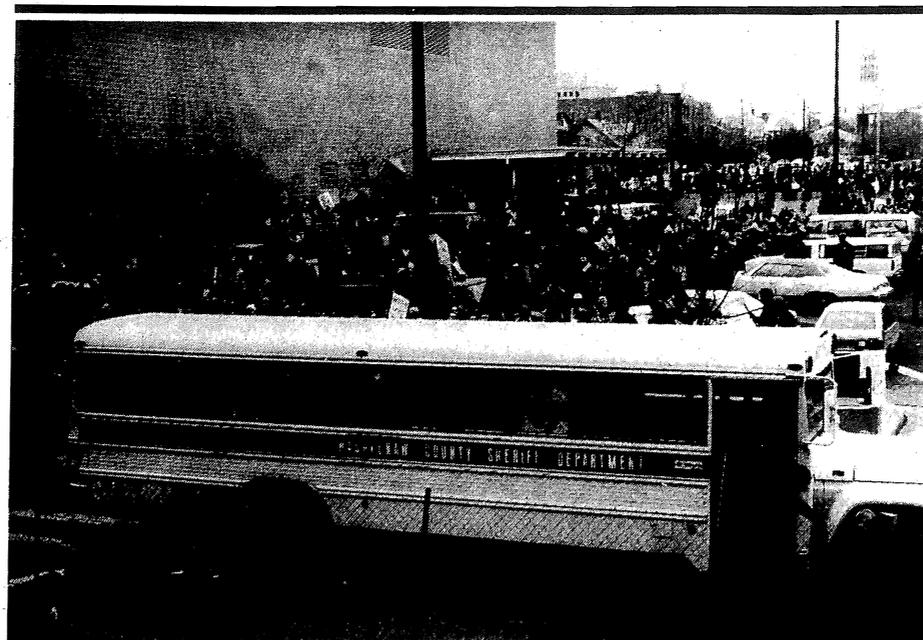
The organizing effort to stop the Nazis in Ann Arbor began shortly after the Nazis announced their March 20 rally plans. Nearly 130 people turned out for a March 2 meeting called by the Ann Arbor Coalition to Fight the Right. A large majority of those present voted to call for a "same-time, same-place" counter-demonstration, and the Coalition Against the Nazis was formed to build for the anti-fascist mobilization. A minority of those attending the March 2 meeting, including an Ann Arbor City Council member and several other liberal politicians, opposed the plan for a same-time, same-place demonstration and called instead for a rally at another location. (Ironically, this "Affirmation of Human Dignity and Freedom" rally was held at the Federal Building, the site where the Nazis eventually tried to rally.)

The Coalition Against the Nazis united a broad range of anti-racist, left and progressive groups for the successful anti-fascist effort. Participating in the coalition were: the Ann Arbor chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, the Ann Arbor Coalition to Fight the Right, Ann Arbor Lesbian and Gay Community Services, the Detroit Committee Against Klan/Nazi Terror, the Ad Hoc Committee of Jewish Students Against Genocide, the Iranian Students Association, the Muslim Student Society, Labyris, the Industrial Workers of the World, Creative Urge, the Campus Labor Support Group, the

Torchphoto/Dave Warren



Member of Coalition Against the Nazis holds aloft a captured Nazi shield.



Nazis huddle inside police bus to escape from angry crowd.

Photo courtesy of Paul Trudeau

Socialist Party USA, the Nameless Anarchist Group, the Revolutionary Workers League, the Revolutionary Socialist League and numerous independent activists.

In addition, the Coalition Against the Nazis' plans were endorsed by the Ann Arbor National Black Independent Political Party and the University of Michigan Black Students Union. The latter group organized a contingent of 80 people that marched from the campus to City Hall to join the demonstration.

Also mobilizing for the City Hall action was the Progressive Labor Party and the International Committee Against Racism. PLP/InCAR brought a busload of 40 militants from Detroit.

A separate coalition calling itself the Committee to Stop the Nazis on March 20 also called for a same-time, same-place counter-demonstration. This group, formed and dominated by the Spartacist League/Spartacus Youth League, engaged in a display of sectarianism so extreme that it nearly jeopardized the success of the day.

The SL-initiated committee was determined from the time of its formation to try to dominate and claim credit for all anti-racist organizing in Ann Arbor. This attempt became so frenzied that the SL actually called on 'people at City

Hall to ignore the Nazis and remain instead at an SL-led rally. Worse still, when the overwhelming majority of the crowd ignored the SL and marched to the Federal Building to confront the Nazis, an SL goon squad attacked the rally site of the Coalition Against the Nazis, roughed up several people and destroyed expensive sound system equipment. (See accompanying article.)

Despite the provocative actions of the Spartacist League, which should be condemned by the entire anti-racist and progressive movement, the outcome of the events in Ann Arbor was an important victory for the militant anti-racist movement. Large numbers of people ignored the city government, student government, city and campus newspapers and liberal politicians' calls to allow the Nazis to rally unchallenged and to avoid the City Hall counter-demonstration. Many people in the crowd—not just those who were members of the more militant organizations—joined in the actions that physically broke up the Nazi rally and many, many others were supportive of these actions and were glad the Nazis were badly shaken and put to flight. These people received a beginning lesson in the strength of large numbers engaged in militant, mass action.

Opportunity to explain Nazi threat

In addition, the campaign against the Nazis in Ann Arbor provided an opportunity to do extensive educational work about racism and the Klan and Nazis. A brochure distributed by the Coalition Against the

Nazis entitled "THE NAZIS: Why They Are a Threat," explained the nature of the growing danger the fascists represent:

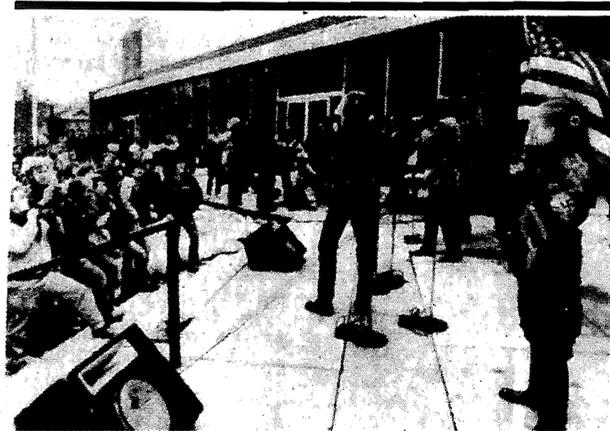
"The Nazis and the Klan are for the repression of Black people, Jews, leftists and gays. They are for the expulsion of Latinos, Asians, Iranians and

all "non-white" immigrants from the U.S. They are for physical terror to achieve these ends....

"The whole right wing is growing today because the capitalist system is in crisis. We are now in a deep recession with the entire world heading towards an even greater economic and social crisis. Groups like the Klan and Nazis can grow rapidly in such times, organizing people who are open to the ideas that Black people, Latinos, foreigners, unions, gay people, socialists and communists, etc. are the cause of society's problems.

"Increasing numbers of capitalists and politicians will turn to the racist movements for a political base and a source of extra-legal muscle to be used against progressive struggles. They will spread racist ideas to confuse and mislead white workers and youth, weakening the chances for a racially united working class struggle against the wealthy and powerful. With increased financial backing and governmental protection, groups like the KKK/Nazis will become an even deadlier threat. This is their strategy. This is what they are banking on. They recognize the turbulence of the times ahead of us. That is why we must educate and organize people against them."

The routing of the Nazis in Ann Arbor was an important step in this needed, anti-fascist campaign. □



Demonstrators arrive at site of Nazi rally (above); minutes later, Nazis are forced back against Federal Building doors as rocks, ice chunks and bottles fly.



Ann Arbor News Photos

Klan Active Around the Country

Grand Jury to Investigate Murder of Greensboro Anti-Klan Activists

A federal grand jury was impaneled March 22 to investigate the 1979 murders of five anti-Klan activists in Greensboro, North Carolina. The five victims, all supporters of the Communist Workers Party (CWP), were shot on November 3, 1979, as they participated in an anti-Klan rally. In 1980 four Klansmen and two Nazis were tried for the murders, but despite the overwhelming evidence against them—including a film of the shootings—the six were acquitted by an all-white jury.

Both the Greensboro police and the local district attorney who handled the 1980 trial aided the racists. The cops apparently gave the Klan, through a police informer inside the group, otherwise unobtainable information on the location of the anti-racist rally. Through the same source the police had information on the weapons the Klan and Nazis planned to bring, and on November 3 they monitored the racists' motorcade to the rally site. Nevertheless, the cops stayed clear of the area until the shooting was over—at which point they moved in and arrested several CWP supporters. Only later were the Klansmen and Nazis arrested.

At the trial, the Greensboro district attorney laid the basis for the racists' successful plea of self-defense by portraying the Klan and the CWP as twin evils. The DA brought charges (later dropped) against CWP members for rioting. At the same time, he declined to attempt prosecution of the racists for conspiracy.

The DA also refused to call as witnesses either Edward Dawson, the Greensboro police agent who worked with the Klan, or Bernard Butkovitch, an agent of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms who had infiltrated the Greensboro Nazi group.

The federal grand jury was called in response to protests organized by the Greensboro Justice Fund and other groups in the 16 months since the acquittals. The jury's investigation could lead to federal charges against the killers.

But it also opens the door to further harassment of Greensboro anti-Klan activists. A lawyer for the U.S. Justice Department told Greensboro Justice Fund lawyer Lewis Pitts that some of his clients—participants in the November 1979

anti-Klan rally—may have "potential criminal liability" and could be indicted by the grand jury.

In another Klan-related court action, five Black women shot by racists in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in April 1980 were awarded over \$500,000 in damages February 26 from the three racists who admitted responsibility. On April 19, 1980, the three burned a cross in a Black neighborhood in Chattanooga. When nobody paid any attention, the frustrated Klansmen drove through the Black community on a shooting spree, injuring the five women.

In July 1980 two of the racists were acquitted of all charges by an all-white jury and a third was found guilty of simple assault (and served three months in jail). After the verdicts, thousands of Black Chattanooga residents staged a rebellion that lasted six days.

In Georgia, "there's been more Klan activity in the last two months than in any comparable time," Ozell Sutton, regional director of community relations for the U.S. Justice Department, reported in early March.

But the Klan is not going unopposed. On February 20, several hundred Black demonstrators clashed with Klansmen in Social Circle and Monroe, two small towns in Walton County, Georgia. The Black demonstrators had gathered to protest a coroner's verdict of "suicide" after the discovery of the apparent lynching of Lynn Jackson, a Walton County soldier who disappeared during a visit home last August. His body was discovered in December hanging from a tree outside Social Circle.

On February 27, Klansmen rallied in Millen, Georgia, to support the judge who took away the white son of Katherine Blackburn after she gave birth to a daughter fathered by a Black man. (See the February 15 issue of the *Torch/La Antorcha*.) A crowd of angry, shouting Black people reportedly forced the police to stop the Klan rally.

Also on February 27, Klan members spoke to a group of 50 people in a field outside Darien, a town on the Atlantic coast about 75 miles north of Jacksonville, Florida. We don't have details on this rally and a demonstration held to oppose it, but



Klan spreads its poisonous message in Social Circle, Georgia.

according to police reports it involved "highly armed" groups on both sides.

The Millen and Darien Klan demonstrations were both organized by Bill Wilkinson's Invisible Empire of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Wilkinson's faction has also been continuing its organizing drive in Connecticut.

On March 20 they held a rally in Meriden to mark one year since their attempt to march in that city was stopped by a rock and bottle barrage from area anti-racists. This year's rally of 31 Klan supporters, part of an attempted nationwide "White Christian Solidarity Day," was successfully protected from a crowd of over 1,000 by 300 heavily armed police. □

Neo-Nazis Attack Gay Rally in Mexico City

By ABBY WEINSTEIN

Sixty neo-Nazis armed with metal rods, knives, brass knuckles and other weapons attacked a lesbian and gay rally in Mexico City the week of March 15, according to a press release from the rally's sponsors.

The 200-person rally, small for a Mexico City demonstration, was sponsored by the Committee of Lesbians and Gay Men in Support of Rosario Ibarra (CLHARI—Comité de Lesbianas y Homosexuales en Apoyo de Rosario Ibarra). Ibarra is the presidential candidate of the Mexican Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT—Partido Revolucionario Trabajadores), the affiliated organization of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party.

The assailants carried signs saying "Perverts and communists get out!" Ten rally participants were wounded. Only five attackers were wounded.

Never has the Mexican gay movement, in its short history, suffered a more openly organized, massive attack, than this most recent one. It is not, of course, the most serious attack the workers' or left movement has suffered.

A few days after the attack occurred, CLHARI and the PRT announced in a press release their plans to hold a massive march in two weeks. The purpose of the march was to unite gays, feminists, workers, leftists and other supporters to demand that the government punish the attackers and to clarify and investigate the events. As of this writing, we have no reports on this march.

While the attackers must be punished, attempts to force the government to give an accurate report of anti-gay and anti-leftist terrorism are fruitless. The Mexican government itself is known for terrorizing gays and leftists.

Government repression of the lesbian and gay movement in the past has targeted organizing efforts of the annual national gay pride march. During the first and second marches, police harassed leafleters on the streets, disrupted important outreach meetings and intimidated lesbian and gay activists in a variety of ways.

During the third march they used more scare tactics, increased police harassment, including arresting leafleters, and in one case an off-duty cop entered a gay fundraiser dance, shot into the crowd and beat up two people. Fortunately, no one was killed.

EVENTS

Chicago

TRIAL OF JEARL WOOD—Monday, April 19, 10:30 am, at Rm. 104, Markham Courthouse, 165th & Kedzie, Markham, IL. Jearl Wood Defense Committee urges Wood's co-workers and friends to be in court with him and his family during the entire trial. Call Chicago RSL at (312) 226-5915 for more info.

Detroit

FILM SHOWING—"Last Grave at Dimbaza," Saturday, April 17, 7:30 pm. Wayne State Univ. Student Center. Sponsored by the Detroit Coalition Against Registration and the Draft (CARD).

Los Angeles

FUNDRAISER FOR CISPES (ECHO PARK)—Saturday, April 24, 8 pm, 1522 Liberty, Echo Park. Music, food, dancing. \$3.50 donation. For more info, call (213) 660-4587 or (213) 385-6029.

RSL FILM BENEFIT FOR FDR/ FMLN—"Hearts and Minds," a film about the Vietnam War, will be shown Friday, April 30, 7:30 pm, 2936 W. 8th St. Plus speakers: Marcelo Rodriguez from El Salvadorean FDR, and David Wayne, public draft resister. Donation \$3; unemployed \$2. Proceeds to El Salvador's FDR/FMLN. Sponsored by RSL. (213) 385-6029.

MAY DAY MARCH & RALLY—Saturday, May 1, MacArthur Park bandshell. Sponsored by United May Day Coalition. For details, or to participate with the RSL, call (213) 385-6029.

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says Workers
El Salvador"

SL: Sectarians Turn to Thuggery

(Continued from page 12)

to physically prevent the Coalition Against the Nazis—a coalition of more than a score of Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti-Detroit-area groups—from holding a rally.

The SL began by threatening coalition members, telling them **"no sound system other than ours will be tolerated."** These threats were ignored. Then, an SLer was observed cutting the wires to the coalition's sound system. The equipment was quickly repaired, though the SL made several subsequent attempts to cut the wires, none successful.

At this point, the SL's petty hooliganism turned into near-disastrous sabotage of the entire anti-Nazi mobilization. The Nazis, who had seen the large crowd gathered at City Hall, decided to rally instead at Ann Arbor's Federal Building, located several blocks away. When word of the Nazis' change in plans reached organizers for the coalition, they began to organize the crowd to march to the Federal Building. Incredibly, either out of sheer sectarianism or perhaps because of a fear of a confrontation with the Nazis, the SL used its own, loud sound system to urge the crowd **not** to go to the Nazi rally. As the crowd began to move out, the SL grew increasingly hysterical. Someone tried to seize a coalition bullhorn that was being used to inform people that the Nazis were at the Federal Building. Then, the SL began using its own sound system to denounce coalition organizers as "provocateurs."

Despite these repeated efforts at disruption, the overwhelming majority of the crowd (virtually everyone but the SL's own immediate supporters) simply ignored the SL and marched to the Federal Building. There, as the accompanying article describes, they gave the Nazis a thorough trashing, breaking up

the fascist rally and sending the racists scurrying off in a police bus.

But the SL's criminal behavior hadn't reached its final conclusion. When people returned from the Federal Building for a City Hall victory rally, they discovered that the coalition's rally site had been attacked. A defense team that had been left behind to guard the equipment (members of the Michigan Knights of the Ku Klux Klan had announced they would be present for the day in street clothes and rally organizers were concerned about the danger of a sneak attack) had been overpowered by a large squad of SLers and the coalition's sound system—donated for the rally by an Ann Arbor student group—had been systematically wrecked.

SL admits attack

The behavior of the SL would be intolerable under any circumstances. But the fact that it took place in the midst of an anti-fascist counter-mobilization—where there was real danger of attack by the Nazis, the Klan or even cops looking for the slightest pretext to beat up left-wing demonstrators—puts it beyond the pale.

The latest issue of the SL's newspaper, **Workers Vanguard**, carries the SL's account of its actions in Ann Arbor as well as an account of an SL attack on a line of marshals at the CISPES-sponsored March 27 "U.S. Out of El Salvador" protest in Washington, D.C. Far from denying either attack, 11 of the paper's 12 pages are devoted to a swaggering rendition of the SL's actions.

The SL doesn't come right out and say: "We cut the wires to the Coalition Against the Nazis' sound system." Instead,

it offers its readers a "physics lesson." Writes **WV**:

"In accordance with the laws of the material universe, which dictate that two objects cannot occupy the same space at the same time, something had to give. . . . We chose not to turn off our own sound system." (**WV**, April 2, 1982, page 11.)

Nor does the SL deny that its supporters tried to prevent the anti-fascist crowd from marching on the Nazi rally, though here **WV** becomes a little less forthright:

"Some SLers, fearing that the crowd was being hustled out by some adventurists for a bash with the cops, at first urged them not to go." (**WV**, April 2, 1982, page 12.)

And, finally, the SL actually admits that it carried out the thug assault on the Coalition Against the Nazis.

Responding to a statement on the attack issued by several member groups of the coalition, **Workers Vanguard** says "tough luck!" Of course, **WV** phrases this in its own, unique way:

"Displaying a touching petty-bourgeois attitude toward property [!], the parasites care only that we did not allow them to disrupt an important anti-Nazi action [!!]. Their complaints are imbued with the consummately petty spirit of the shopkeepers of 19th century France where, as depicted in Victor Hugo's Les Miserables, a starving worker could be sentenced to ten years in prison for stealing a loaf of bread [!!!]." (**WV**, April 2, 1982, page 11.)

Lies used to defend hooliganism

The SL, though it admits its thuggery, does make a feeble attempt to justify its members' actions.

First, **WV** says: **"Their 'Coalition' was a parasitic venture**

created after it was clear that the SL-initiated Committee was gaining broad-based support. . . ." (**WV**, April 2, 1982, page 11.)

Even if this were true, it hardly provides a justification for a thug attack on anti-racist activists. Moreover, this argument is particularly strange coming from a group which has made a profession of showing up at broadly-sponsored movement activities with its own signs and its own sound equipment. After years of SL howls about "workers' democracy" any time anyone as much as got annoyed at its sectarian shenanigans, it is hard to swallow the SL's "we were there first" defense of its unprovoked assault.

But the SL's claim is not simply strange, it is an outright lie. The Coalition Against the Nazis was not a "parasitic venture"—it was made up of nearly a score of anti-racist, left and progressive organizations. Its members included Jewish groups, women's groups, lesbian and gay organizations, trade unionists, third world support committees, anti-racist organizations, socialist groups and a host of independent anti-fascist activists. In addition, the coalition had a working alliance with several Ann Arbor Black

organizations. (For a listing of coalition participants, see accompanying article.)

Despite the SL claims, the coalition was formed **before** the SL had even initiated its separate committee. In fact, the coalition was formed out of a March 2 meeting of 130 people—a meeting the SL walked out of!

At this March 2 meeting, SLers introduced a motion demanding that the coalition's main slogan be "Drive the Nazis Off the Streets." This motion was defeated because most people (including ourselves) felt that a slogan such as "Stop the Nazis" would allow for a broader, more effective mobilization—thereby increasing the chances that the fascists would actually, in action as opposed to words, be driven off the streets.

After the SL motion was rejected, it withdrew from the coalition. A few days later, SLers began to distribute leaflets from a "Committee to Stop the Nazis on March 20." **Nowhere on the leaflet did the words "Drive the Nazis off the streets" appear!** Clearly, the SL had introduced its motion at the March 2 meeting solely to give itself a pretext for walking out

(Continued on next page)

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Stars-and-stripes Coalition
goon line: Now you see it . . .

. . . now you don't

Above pictures are from April 2 issue of the SL's newspaper. "Now you see it. . . now you don't," says **Workers Vanguard**, boasting of the SL's attack on a line of marshals at March 27 "U.S. Out of El Salvador" protest.

SL Thuggery...

(Continued from previous page) and forming its own separate committee.

The SL tries to further justify its hooliganism by denouncing the Coalition Against the Nazis as an "unprincipled bloc." We must say that such a charge, coming from a group so sectarian that it usually finds it "unprincipled" to work with anyone, is less than devastating.

It is true that the coalition was made up of a broad range of anti-Nazi groups, including organizations and individuals who were at first uneasy with militant actions against the Nazis. A series of political discussions held over several weeks helped to create a deeper understanding of the Klan/Nazi threat, and won many people to the need for a more militant orientation. We are proud of our own role in uniting a broad range of political views into an effective anti-Nazi coalition.

And we must note that it was

the SL's "principled" committee that held people back from the Nazis, while the "unprincipled" coalition helped people deal the Nazis one of the more significant defeats they have suffered recently. The SL's talk about "principles" reveals far more about its contempt for those who work in genuine united fronts that include a diversity of opinion than it does about the SL's "right" to go around acting like a bunch of gangsters.

Trade union fetishists

The SL's final justification for its thuggery is that the SL-led committee was "labor-backed." *Workers Vanguard* goes so far as to quote one of the speakers at its rally as saying:

"Labor has turned out in

force to build this rally. It's the most important thing that's happened for the labor movement in this area for years." (WV, April 2, 1982, page 12.)

We certainly wish that this were true. The failure of the trade union movement to mobilize seriously against the Klan and the Nazis is one of the tragedies of the current political situation in this country. Unfortunately, the anti-Nazi demonstration in Ann Arbor was largely limited to a left, anti-racist, "movement organized" mobilization that lacked significant support from the Detroit area's powerful labor movement, in particular, the United Auto Workers union.

A few trade union endorsements do not a labor mobilization make. Such bluster may impress the SL's predominantly student cadre, but it doesn't change the character of the Ann Arbor demonstration.

Finally, even if the SL's committee had been 100 percent trade unionists, this would not give it a magical right to attack anti-racist activists. Only the worst sort of trade union fetishists could make such an argument.

(The SL said the two groups could merge—under the discipline of the SL!) so that *Workers Vanguard* could print a letter suggesting that everyone but the SL was being sectarian; and, finally, it literally tried to buy the right to tout itself as the sole anti-racist fighters in Ann Arbor.

Despite all this, we doubt the SL planned its final goon squad thuggery in advance. Our guess is that as its charade collapsed on the day of the demonstration, things got out of hand for the SL and the SL simply went over the edge.

Having said this, however, we must note that the SL chose to defend and justify, rather than to condemn and apologize for, the treacherous acts of its supporters. This says a great deal about where the SL is at today.

In our view, there is an important connection between the SL's actions in Ann Arbor (and one week later in Washington, D.C.) and the increasingly anti-working class nature of its politics. The SL has long been a group characterized by its snotty elitism, its racial insensitivity (the SL still refers to the country of Jamaica as the "lumpen capital of the world"), its hostility to real people in struggle, and its middle class, technocratic identification with "planning" and "property forms."

The fervor with which the SL

called for the defeat of the Polish workers—gleefully demanding that they be "drowned in blood" by the Polish ruling class and its Russian masters—went well beyond mere "faulty analysis." It revealed a thorough lack of identification with the basic needs and aspirations of real, live working people.

In fact, we must say that the SL's most recent actions—along with its "we did it, so there" follow-up—are all-too-reminiscent of Lyndon Larouche's National Caucus of Labor Committees in the days of "Operation Mop-Up." (Operation Mop-Up was the series of attacks on left groups carried out by the Larouche organization as it evolved on its fascist path.) While the SL marches to a different drummer, we wonder just where the SL is heading.

But the most important point, in our view—far more important than what the SL did or didn't do in Ann Arbor on March 20—is that the left really must learn to work together, despite its differences. Times are getting bad and, as the capitalist crisis intensifies, things will get far worse. Petty sectarianism and organizational maneuvers will only aid our enemies. Either we all learn to hang together or we will surely all hang separately. □

Anti-Abortion Measure...

(Continued from page 5)

showing that the vast majority of people support passage of the ERA—demonstrates the seriousness of the threat.

Pro-choice groups plan demonstration

As a result, the vote in the Judiciary Committee has been met with an increase in activity by organizations that support reproductive rights. In particular, many pro-choice groups have joined forces to organize a large demonstration outside the convention of the National Right-to-Life Party, scheduled for July 15-18 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The coalition includes the Reproductive Rights National Network (representing 80 organizations nationwide), the National Organization for Women and the National Women's Health Network. The

main demand is for women to have the right to "abortions not limited by age, race or economic status." Many local affiliates of the coalition groups have already begun to organize for the march and rally, which will be held on Saturday, July 17.

The New York branch of the Revolutionary Socialist League is planning to participate in the march and will be building for it throughout the spring. We will be leafleting in communities, workplaces and at left and movement events, encouraging people to join us in Cherry Hill to show the right-to-lifers, their friends in Congress and the whole right wing that there is a movement determined to fight their sexist, anti-people program. Anyone interested in working with us to build the Cherry Hill demonstration can contact us at: PO Box 1288, New York, NY 10116 or by calling (212) 695-6802. □

Where is the SL heading?

As best as we can figure out, the SL's actions in Ann Arbor were in part planned and in part unplanned. Certainly, the SL felt a pressing need to "make a big splash" in Ann Arbor. Just as certainly, the SL's national leadership decided to throw enormous resources into building the SL-initiated committee.

This led to a frenzied campaign to promote the SL's committee and to deny the role of all other anti-racist forces. In this campaign, the SL was not above using all sorts of cheap maneuvers to achieve its ends: It raised its "drive the Nazis off the streets" motion at the initial anti-Nazi organizing meeting for purely sectarian reasons; it widely misrepresented its own, separate committee as the anti-Nazi coalition in Ann Arbor; it made a phony offer of "unity" just prior to the demonstration

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